

NCERT Solutions:

Q1. How is Ausable different from other secret agents?

Ans- Ausable was different from other secret agents because he lived in a small room in the musty corridor of a gloomy French hotel which was on the sixth and top floor. There was nothing thrilling or adventurous about him. On top of that he was extremely fat.

Q2. Who is Fowler and what is his first authentic thrill of the day?

Ans- Fowler is a writer and he had come to meet Ausable. His first authentic thrill of the day came when he saw a man in Ausable's room pointing a pistol towards Ausable and himself.

Q3. How has Max got in?

Ans- Max had got into the room using a passkey or master key.

Q4. How does Ausable say he got in?

Ans- Ausable says that he got into his room from the balcony. He presumes this to be the case because in that very same month somebody had entered the room before Max from the balcony.

Q5. Where and Why did Ausable take Fowler?

Ans- Ausable brought Fowler in his room which was on the sixth floor in a hotel. He wanted Fowler to have some thrill and excitement as he was expecting some important paper to be delivered there.

Q6. What story did Ausable frame about calling the Police?

Ans- As soon as there was a knock at the door, Max enquired of it. Ausable told him that he had already informed the police to check if everything was okay at intervals because of the important papers. So Ausable told Max that they were on their duty

Q7. How does Ausable manage to make Max believe that there is a balcony attached to his room?

Ans- Ausable was a very intelligent spy agent. When he found Max waiting for him in his room, he immediately thought of the plan. He told Max that there was a balcony from where people entered his room and Max must have also entered from there. He became convinced about the story, and hence when someone knocked at the door he thought it was police he ran towards the balcony to hide and died.

Short Answer Questions:-

Q1. Why did Fowler feel let down when he met Ausable?

Ans- Fowler felt let down when he met Ausable because he had a different picture of a secret agent in his mind. He thought that the secret agent must be very mysterious and romantic but he found Ausable a very fat and boring man.

Q2. Why did Fowler come to meet Ausable ?

Ans- Fowler came to meet Ausable because he was a romantic writer and had come to see Ausable to know about the life of a secret agent.

Q3. Who was in Ausable's room? What was in his hand?

Ans- A man named Max was there in Ausable's room who was another secret agent and had an automatic pistol in his hand.

Q4. How did Ausable behave to see Max in his room?

Ans- When Ausable saw Max in his room he remained cool and silent and was not afraid of Max. He showed that he is angry with the management of the hotel regarding the balcony below the window of his room.

Q5. What is the important paper that Ausable

talks of?

Ans- The important paper that Ausable talks of is regarding some new missiles under his custody. The paper may affect the course of history. It is so important that several men and women have risked their lives to get them.

Q6. Who was knocking at Ausable's living room door ?

Ans- The waiter was Knocking at Ausable's living room door who brought a bottle of wine for him.

Q7. What did the secret agent tell Max when he heard the knock ?

Ans- He said that he had called the police for the protection of such an important paper that he was going to receive that night. So, he wanted to have extra protection for the report.

Long Answer questions :-

Q1. Write down the character sketch of Ausable ?

Ans- Ausable was a smart, intelligent secret agent who was very fat and sloppy. He spoke in an American accent which he had brought from Boston twenty years ago. He could also speak French and German. He had a very important paper and Max had come to him to pinch that paper for which several men and women had risked their lives in the past.

He fabricated a story about the police to fool Max. He cooked a false story about the balcony.. The story was so convincing, that Max believed it and fell down. In this way we can say that Ausable had a great sense of humour.

Q2. Write down the character sketch of Fowler ?

Ans- Fowler is a very young and romantic writer. He writes books related to the romantic aspects of life. Shifting from this genre, he wanted to write a book on the detectives so in his mind, he had formed a picture of a detective like James Bond. According to this imagination, the detective would be an attractive personality. He also thought a detective to be surrounded by equipment related to the field. But in reality when he met Ausable he felt very devastated, that

is he finds Ausable not cracking a pistol or surrounded by dark-eyed beauties like James Bond .

Comprehension Questions:-

Read the given passage and answers the questions that follow:

AUSABLE did not fit any description of a secret agent Fowler had ever read. Following him down the musty corridor of the gloomy French hotel where Ausable had a room, Fowler felt let down. It was a small room, on the sixth and top floor, and scarcely a setting for a romantic adventure.

Q1. From which lesson this passage has been taken?

Ans- The Midnight Visitor

Q2. Who is the writer of 'The Midnight Visitor'?

Ans- Robert Arthur

Q3. Who is Ausable?

Ans- Ausable is a secret agent.

Q4. Where did he stay?

Ans- He stayed in a French hotel.

Q5. Pick out a word from the passage which means 'sad'.

Ans- Gloomy

MCQ

Q1. How did Ausable make Max believe there was a balcony?

- a. he made him see it
- b. with detailed description
- c. there was actually a balcony
- d. none of the above

Q2. Who was actually knocking on the door?

- a. police
- b. waiter
- c. Max
- d. none of the above

Q3. What did Max have in his hand

- a. an important report
- b. a knife
- c. a pistol
- d. none of the above

Q4. Ausable was going to raise the issue of

the balcony with.....

- a. government b. management
- c. Max d. Fowler

Q5. How according to Ausable did Max enter?

- a. a passkey b. balcony
- c. window d. None of the above

Q6. What did Max want?

- a. Fowler b. phone
- c. report d. None of the above

Q7. What is the meaning of the word 'Slender'?

- a. weak b. slim
- c. fat d. None of the above

Q8. Who is Fowler'?

- a. secret agent
- b. spy
- c. personal investigator
- d. writer

Q9. He had never lost his..... accent'.

- a. American b. French
- c. British d. All of the above

Q10. Where was Ausable staying?

- a. inn b. French hotel
- c. Fowler's home d. American hotel

Answer Key

- 1 (b). with detailed description
- 2 (b). waiter
- 3 (c). a pistol
- 4 (b). management.
- 5 (b). balcony
- 6 (c). report
- 7 (b). slim
- 8. (d). writer
- 9. (a). American
- 10. (b). French hotel