

NCERT Solutions:

Q1- What does Horace Danby like to collect?

Ans- Horace Danby likes to collect rare and expensive books.

Q2- Why does he steal every year?

Ans- Horace Danby stole every year to buy rare, expensive books. Each year he planned carefully just what he would do. Stole enough to last for twelve months, and secretly bought the books he loved to collect through an agent.

Q3- Who is speaking to Horace Danby?

Ans- A lady standing in the doorway was speaking to Horace Danby. She was young and pretty and was dressed in red. She pretended to be a member of the family living at Shotover.

Q4- Who is the real culprit in the story?

Ans- The culprit in the story is the young lady. She too was a thief like Horace but was clever enough to use Horace to her advantage. She fooled him into thinking that she was the lady of the house and got him to take out the jewels from the safe, thus leaving his fingerprints all over the safe and the room.

Q5- What did Horace Danby hear from the doorway?

Ans- Horace Danby heard a voice from the doorway. It was the voice of a lady. As Horace Danby sneezed loudly, therefore, the lady asked what it was and he replied that it was due to hay fever.

Q6- Was Horace Danby a typical thief?

Ans- Horace Danby was not a typical thief. He made locks and was successful in his business. He loved rare and expensive books. To purchase these books he used to rob only one safe every year.

Q7- Why was it not difficult for Horace to open the safe?

Ans- It was not difficult for Horace Danby to open the safe because he had lived with locks

and safes all his life. The burglar alarm was poorly built. He cut the wire without any difficulty.

Q8- How did the lady in red convince Horace Danby to open the lock?

Ans- The lady told Horace Danby that she had promised her husband to take her jewels to the bank but she left them in the safe. She had forgotten the numbers to open the safe and wanted to wear the jewels to a party. Horace Danby believed her and opened the safe for her.

Short Answer Questions:-

Q1- How did Horace know all the details of the house?

Ans- Horace knew all the details of the house as he had been studying the house for the past two weeks. Even a magazine article had described this house, giving a plan of all the rooms and a picture of the room along with the details of the safe hidden behind the safe.

Q2- How did Horace fulfil his desire of reading books after he was arrested?

Ans- After Horace was arrested, he became the assistant librarian in the prison and fulfilled his desire of reading books.

Q3- Though Horace planned everything meticulously, why did he fail?

Ans- Though he planned everything meticulously, he failed because of the smart lady. She posed herself to be the owner of the house and convinced him to open the shelf as she had not the password of the shelf. In this way Horace got trapped in her plot.

Q4- How did Horace enter Shotover Grange?

Ans- Horace had seen the housekeeper key in the hook outside the kitchen door. He came out from behind the garden wall. Then, he put on his gloves, took the key and opened the door of the kitchen and entered Shotover Grange.

Q5- What story did Horace tell the police when he was arrested?

Ans- He told the police that he had not stolen any jewels. He said that he broke open the safe for the young wife of the owner of the house. But the wife was herself an old lady of about sixty with grey-hair.

Long Answer questions :-

Q1. Write down the character sketch of Horace Danby?

Ans- Horace Danby was unmarried. He was about fifty years old. He was a good-natured man. Therefore, everyone liked him. He was fairly successful in his profession of lock-making. He always. He was considered a good and respectable citizen, however, he was not completely honest. He needed a great deal of money to buy his desired books. He started committing thefts with a view to meeting his expenses on books. Nevertheless, Horace Danby was a typical thief. He robbed just one safe every year. Moreover, he stole only from those who had a lot of money. He never thought of hurting anybody. Therefore, he did not carry any weapons. The lady outwitted him only because he trusted her. He feared prison. Therefore, he was submissive, rather than aggressive, He was always successful at robbery except on two occasions.

Q2. 'The lady in The red was a more professional thief than Horace Danby Explain?

Ans- Horace Danby was going to rob the safe at Shotover Grange. He had cut the wires of the burglar alarm. But his nose was tickled due to the essence of flowers on the table. She introduced herself as the owner's wife who had come there to take the jewels from the safe. But unfortunately she forgot the number of safe. As she had to be at the party tonight. So, she told him to open the safe then only she will let her go. Danby opened the safe without gloves and gave all the jewels but Danby was arrested for the jewels robbery and sent to prison.

Comprehension Questions:-

Read the following passage and answer the questions follow:

Everyone thought that Horace Danby was a good, honest citizen. He was about fifty years old and unmarried, and he lived with a housekeeper who worried over his health. In fact, he was usually very well and happy except for attacks of hay fever in summer. He made locks and was successful enough at his business to have two helpers. Yes, Horace Danby was good and respectable-but not completely honest.

Q1- From which lesson this passage has been taken?

Ans- A Question of Trust.

Q2- Who is the author of 'A Question of Trust'?

Ans- Victor Canning

Q3- Who was Horace Danby?

Ans- Horace Danby was a thief.

Q4- How old was he?

Ans- He was about fifty year old and unmarried.

Q5- What did he make?

Ans- He made locks.

MCQ

Q1. What does Horace do in jail?

- a. Clean floor b. Assistant Librarian
- c. Typist d. Accountant

Q2. Why did the woman want him to break the lock of the safe?

- a. She wanted him to steal
- b. She had forgotten the numbers
- c. She wanted to see if he could break it.
- d. None of these

Q3. What colour dress was the woman wearing?

- a. Red b. Black
- c. Green d. White

Q4. Where had the servants gone?

- a. Doctor b. Movie
- c. Shopping d. To meet relatives

- Q5. What was Horace allergic to?**
a. Dust b. Smell of flowers
c. Pollen d. Milk
- Q6. What did the lady say about his story?**
a. It was nonsense b. It was true
c. It was a joke d. None of the above
- Q7. What was the piece of evidence against him?**
a. His lighter b. His gloves
c. His fingerprints d. All of the above
- Q8. Who is talking to Horace?**
a. Servant b. Sherry
c. Horace himself d. None of the above
- Q9. Horace Danby_____.**
a. was unmarried
b. was going to be married
c. had one son
d. had two sons and a daughter
- Q10. Sherry was the name of_____.**
a. a servant
b. dog at shotover Grange
c. a safe in the Grange
d. the lady in red

Answer Key

- 1 (b). Assistant Librarian
- 2 (b). she had forgotten the numbers.
- 3 (a). red
- 4 (b). movie
- 5 (b). smell of flowers
- 6 (a). it was nonsense
- 7 (c). his fingerprints
- 8 (b). Sherry
- 9 (a). was unmarried
- 10 (b). dog at Shotover Grange.