

### L\_3. A question of trust

#### 1. Describe Ausable's reaction after finding Max in his room.

Initially, when Ausable saw Max in his room he got a shock. but he remained calm. Max also had a pistol with him, so Ausable didn't try anything disputable. He just kept himself cool and fooled Max by using his brain to invent stories.

#### 2. Why did Ausable frame the story of the balcony?

Ausable framed the story of the balcony to save himself and Fowler by the rival secret agent, Max. The rival would have been able to get the important report about the new missiles if Ausable had not. created this story.

#### 3. Why did Max's face turn black with anger? What did he want Ausable to do?

Max's face turned black with anger because he felt that his plan of extracting the important document from Ausable was in danger. He knew his plan could fail due to the knocking on the door, which Ausable identified as the police. He wanted Ausable to send the police away.

#### 4. Who actually had knocked at the door of Ausable's room? Why did he come there?

The waiter (Henry) in the hotel where Ausable stayed knocked at the door of Ausable's room. He had brought the drinks which Ausable had ordered when Fowler arrived in the hotel. He came there because he was doing his duty of serving a customer office hotel.

#### 5. Max was unprepared for his mission. Discuss with reference to the chapter 'The Midnight Visitor'.

It is truly said that Max was unprepared for his mission. Even though Max was a clever man with a gun in his hand, he did prepare himself to match the cleverness of Ausable. He does not make sure that he knows the place where Ausable was staying and thus was easily convinced about the balcony.

As a result, he fell to his death.

#### 6. Who is Fowler and what is his authentic thrill of the day?

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

Long question-answer

#### 1. Ausable was a clever secret agent. Do you agree with the statement? Justify your answer.

Yes, I agree with the statement that Ausable was a clever secret agent. Initially, when Fowler met him, Ausable did not look at all like a conventional secret agent. He was fat and had an American accent. He was unlike the usual secret agents. However, just like spies and secret agents he was very sharp and active. d botal videdong

He saved himself as well as Fowler from a dangerous situation by using his intelligence. He cleverly created two stories, one about the balcony outside the window of his room and the other about calling the police for extra protection.

In the face of eminent danger, he remained calm and composed. His composure also saved the important documents from going into the wrong hands of Max.

Ausable's intelligence fooled Max into believing a false story and made him jump out of the window. His presence of mind, tactfulness and calmness, all point towards his cleverness and wisdom

2. Max was a cunning spy but his carelessness and foolishness proved fatal for him. Do you agree that it were these characteristics that led to his downfall?

Yes, I agree that carelessness and foolishness led to the downfall of Max. Though Max was a cunning secret agent, he was indeed careless and foolish. He was overconfident and proud which failed his mission. As a clever spy, Max was sent on an important mission of procuring a vital document on the new missiles from his rival, Ausable. But, he was deceived.

Max's pride and foolishness led to his downfall. He, in his carelessness, did not take any pains to inspect the hotel as well as Ausable's room in advance.

Consequently, when Ausable tells him about a balcony outside his window and the police knocking at the door, Max believes him without any doubt. He trusted his rival blindly without applying his mind and as a result, failed himself as well as his mission.

Unlike him, Ausable's calmness and presence of mind saved him, his guest Fowler and the important papers he was about to receive.

He set up a successful trap by putting up very little efforts. Max foolishly fell into this trap. This carelessness and foolishness rendered him to be a little spy before Ausable and also cost him his life.

#### L\_4. A question of trust

1. Describe Horace Danby.

Horace Danby was a good and respectable man

He was a 50 year old unmarried man who lived

with a caretaker. He was a successful locksmith with two helpers. He was a healthy man who sometimes suffered from attacks of hay fever.

Horace Danby, however, was also a thief who robbed to satisfy his love of collecting rare and expensive books.

2. How were flowers hindering Horace Danby in his work?

Flowers hindered Horace in his work because he suffered from attack of a hay fever, a disorder affecting the nose and throat, caused by an allergy to pollen or dust. Due to this problem whenever he came close to flowers he began to sneeze and could be caught.

3. Why was Horace Danby sure that his robbery at Shot over Grange would be a successful one?

Danby always planned his robberies meticulously.

He prepared for robbery at Shot over Grange by

studying the house, its rooms, the electric wiring, path and garden. He knew that the family was in London. He also knew that the servants were going out to watch a movie that afternoon. It could be open only through a specific code and had a poorly built burglar alarm attached to it.

4. How can you see that Horace Danby was good and respectful but not completely honest?

Horace Danby was a lock maker. He had a flourishing business of locks. He lived a happy life as he earned well. Everyone thought he was a good and respectable person. However, Horace was not completely honest. He used to rob a safe every year to buy expensive books. This proves that he was not completely honest.

5. How did Horace get entry into the house?

Horace had seen the housekeeper hang the key to the kitchen door on a hook outside before going out. He put on a pair of gloves, took the key and opened the door. In this way, he got entry into the house.

Long question

1. Horace Danby was a meticulous planner but still he faltered. Where did he go wrong and why?

Ans. Horace Danby was rightly a meticulous planner. He planned carefully each year before stealing. But he faltered. He couldn't see through the intentions of the lady thief at the house. He was so scared of being caught and sent to prison that he blindly believed what the lady said to him. His fear made him blindly trust the lady and was the reason behind the failure of his plan.

No, negative values, like dishonesty, do cause long-term pain, even if they offer short-term gains. The story "A Question of Trust" illustrates this by showing how Horace Danby's deceptive actions, though seemingly successful in the moment, lead to a loss of trust and ultimately, a negative outcome for him. While dishonesty might offer immediate benefits, it erodes trust and creates lasting negative consequences.

2. Did you begin to suspect before the end of the story that the lady was not the person Horace Danby took her to be? If so at what point did you realise this and how will you appreciate the act of the lady?

Yes, a reader could begin to suspect the lady wasn't who she claimed to be before the end of the story. The first hint might be her unusual calmness when encountering Horace. Later, her request for him to open the safe and her lack of alarm at his presence, combined with her fabricated story about being locked out, would solidify this suspicion. Appreciating her actions depends on one's perspective; while she deceived Horace, she also cleverly used his own skills for her gain.