


The Thief's Story

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A young boy makes friends with Anil. Anil trusts him completely and employs him. Does the boy betray his trust?



Chapter Sketch:

The Thief's Story is about a 15 year old boy, Hari Singh, whose life changes when he meets Anil, a 25 year old writer. Anil's unspoken words and kind gestures leaves a very positive impact on Hari Singh's life. 



Think about it

1. What are Hari Singh's reactions to the prospect of receiving an education? Do they change over time? (*Hint: Compare, for example, the thought: "I knew that once I could write like an educated man there would be no limit to what I could achieve" with these later thoughts: "Whole sentences, I knew, could one day bring me more than a few hundred rupees. It was a simple matter to steal — and sometimes just as simple to be caught. But to be a really big man, a clever and respected man, was something else."*) What makes him return to Anil?

Ans. *Hari was very happy and grateful when he learned to write his name. He was very excited when Anil promised to teach him to write whole sentences as well. He knew that being an educated man will add to his abilities and he could achieve anything.*

But when he left Anil's house, he realized that stealing was simply a crime to indulge himself but being educated was an entirely different thing. He knew that respect, reputation, and possibilities that would come to him once he was educated. So his urge to receive education compelled him to return to Anil.

2. Why does not Anil hand the thief over to the police? Do you think most people would have done so? In what ways is Anil different from such employers?

Ans. *Unlike others, Anil does not handover Hari to the police on theft charges. He knew about the theft but he did not thrash him nor even mentioned it in front of Hari. He was glad that Hari had realized his mistake and the importance of education in life. Anil wanted Hari to become a literate man and lead a respectful life.*

He is different from other such employers because he is very understanding. Hari's return gave him the hope of a change in him.