

THE BEST INVESTMENT I EVER MADE

Archibald Joseph Cronin

Theme: will power, drug impact on youth, humanity, moral values.

Characters: A.J. Cronin, Mr. John and His wife, Landlady, sergeant of police,

Story in a nutshell: A.J. Cronin the renowned physician and writer is on board a ship to America. He was intrigued by the constant stare of a young man. Later, he came to know that the man was once reached from death by him. The man seemed thankful and was waiting all these years to meet Cronin. The young man confessed to him that Cronin had instilled in him courage and hope for a new life and he has changed himself drastically. Not only did he amend his life, he also took a mission to rehabilitate delinquent young children. An overjoyed Cronin thinks about the investment he had done in him. He places the reward as the best one in his life which has given him a life time of opportunities to see a huge social transformation.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

Paragraphs(1,2,3)

Why did the narrator give no sign of having noticed the man?

What did he suddenly become aware of?

Describe the young man.

How did the narrator conclude that the man was serious in his disposition?

Why did he feel intrigued?

How did he come to know that the man was John-S ?

Pick out a sentence that tells us that Mr. John S was urged by his wife.

What was actually the real intention of Mr. John, behind the prolonged staring ?

Pick out word which means a small district of a city.

Paragraphs(4,5,6)

How does he introduce himself?

When did he continue speaking?

Why did he feel awkward?

Where were they going to?

What was their mission?

Why did the author find himself liking him instinctively?

What was the young man's profession?

What other works are the young man interested in?

Paragraphs(7,8,9)

What were the couple doing to uplift the derelict adolescents?

What was referred to as 'work of redemption' ?

What strange effect did the author's question generate in the young man?

What made A.J Cronin's thought to speed back a quarter of a century?

What does the expression 'the veils parted' mean?

'I remembered the sole occasion when I had seen this an before.' Which sole occasion was referred here?

Paragraphs (10,11,12_13)

Pick out a line which tells that the doctor has just started his practice.

Why were the footsteps muffled?

Why did the sergeant of police bang on the door?

Find a word equivalent to 'uttered so soon,'

We walked the short distance. Who were the 'we' referred here?

Why was the landlady agitated?

On what conclusion does the doctor reach when he saw the young man?

How did the doctor bring the young man to life?

What story did the young man reveal? How much had he stolen?

How did the young man fall prey to bad company?

What serious mistake did he do to recoup?

What led him to think about suicide?

Pick up a word for legal procedure against an accused.

Paragraphs(14,15,16,17).

Why did the author describe the sergeant's words as gruffly?

The paltry sum refers to

The three of us had the same unspoken thought. What was the thought?

How did the sergeant help the young man?

How did the landlady help him?

Who made the least contribution? What was it?

What made the author reflect about the best investment?

How had the least contribution turned out to be the best investment?

DISCOURSES

Write a paragraph on the appropriateness of the title.

Prepare a Character sketch of the young man.

A .J Cronin hates casual and importunate ship board contacts.Prepare his character sketch.

The landlady vividly narrates the story to her son about the young man.Attempt the same.

Prepare a write up on drug abuse

Prepare a write up on the importance of family based on the lesson The best investment.

Bad company ultimately leads one to his eternal doom.How far is this true?Prepare a write up on the same.

A.J. Cronin was completely taken aback at the sudden revelation of the young man.He was overwhelmed with joy. He writes in his diary his thoughts.Prepare the same.

Mr.John was extremely overjoyed at seeing the man who saved his life.He pours out his thoughts in his diary.Attempt the same.

Mrs.John feels proud of her husband's achievements and writes down her thoughts in her diary.Prepare her diary.

The Sergeant of police , at the fateful night , was one among the trio to help out the young man.He realized the gravity of the situation and offers his help. Later he write in his diary his mind.Prepare his diary.

A.J Cronin ,writes to his wife ,the strange meeting with the young man.Draft the letter.

Your school health club has decided to conduct an anti drug rally to sensitise the public.Draft a notice.

Your school English club has decided to invite A.J Cronin to inaugurate a talk show on youth and drugs.Prepare a notice.

A.J Cronin has been invited to speak on the topic 'Declining moral values .'Prepare his speech.

Your school has decided to congratulate Mr.John.Prepare n introductory speech.

The success story of the young man appears in the next day's easily .Draft the newspaper report.

You happened to visit one of the correctional homes that runs under Mr.John.Prepare a conversation between you and one of the inmates.

Prepare slogans against drug abuse.

Prepare a conversation between the sergeant of police and the young man.

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