

# **THE BEST INVESTMENT I EVER MADE**

**AJ CRONIN**

## **GLOSSARY**

Abruptly- quickly, immediately

Adolescent- not grown-up

Agitated- worried, tensed

Awkwardness- a situation that is difficult

Bang- to hit something noisily

Bugle-a horn

Casual-accidental

Charitable-give help to the poor and needy

Contribution-to give/ help something successful

Convulsive-impossible to control

Dazedly-shocked, surprised, wondered

Delinquent-showing a tendency to commit crime

Derelect- in a bad condition

Devoted-dedicated, committed

Diffidence- shyness, lack of confidence

Disarming –making people feel less anger or doubt,

Disposition- the natural qualities of a person's character

Disastrous- causing great harm

Earnestly- seriously

Enthusiasm- eagerness, excessive zeal, interest

Entirely-completely

Exertion-physical or mental effort

Exhausted- tired

Frustration- tension, discouragement

Gamble- to play risky game for a desired result

Gasp- deep breath

Gaze- look strangely

Genuine- honest/real

Gruffly- deep, rough and unfriendly

Heal-cure

Hurriedly- very quickly

Immensely- to a very great extent

Importunate- asking for things many times in a way that is annoying

Importunate-making repeated requests

Instinctively- in a natural way

Maladjusted- having mental and emotional problems

Muffled- made less clear

Obviously- evidently

Odour- smell

On the contrary- adversely

Paltry- very small

Promenade- a public space for walking

Prosecution – the process of conducting legal proceedings against someone

Recede- to go or move back

Recreation- any activity done for enjoyment

Sergeant- a police officer

Slum- a dirty place where many people live in state of poverty

Sober- plain and not bright in colour

Solicitor- lawyer

Speculation- investment in stocks property etc. in the hope of making profit.

Strenuous- needing or great effort and energy

Stir- a commotion, disturbance

Tedium- boredom

Tragedy- mishap, a disastrous event

Urge- strongly persuaded

Vacant- empty/not occupied

Vivid- very clear

Whisper- to say something in a low voice

## **CHARACTER SKETCH**

Character sketch is an analysis of a character in a text (story/play) on his/her physical and mental features. A character sketch also describes the role played by the character in the development of the plot of a story/a play.

**The following points are important while writing a character sketch.**

- Title: Title may be the character's name or the name along with a complementary expression.
- Character's personality: How the character is presented in the given story or play.
- Character's physique : Physical features of the character mentioned throughout the story/play must be written.
- Role: significance of the character in the story/play.
- Organization: Logical Sequencing of ideas.
- Expression: Use variety of words and expressions.

**FEATURES OF CHARACTER SKETCH**

- ✓ Appropriate Title.
- ✓ Character's personality
- ✓ Character's physique/appearance.
- ✓ Significance of character in the story/play
- ✓ Use of variety of words or expression.

**Write the character sketch of john**

**JOHN**

Mr. John is the central character of the story; 'The Best Investment I Ever Made'. He is described as a person of forties. He was a short and fair with blue eyes. He had thin hair behind his forehead. His dark suit, sober tie and rimless glasses

showed that he was a serious minded and reserved disposition Mr. John was an orphan boy who had an unhappy and miserable past. His uncle found him a job as a clerk in an office but he fell victim to a loose company. He spent his money lavishly for betting and gambling. It put him in a difficult situation. He had to steal the money from the office. He was scared of being caught, he tried to commit suicide. The doctor saved his life from the suicide attempt. The doctor's great job gave him a new life and he regarded him as a hero in his life. It changed his life completely.

## **INFORMAL LETTER**

### **1. John writes a letter to the doctor expressing his gratitude and pleasure for saving his life**

Palm Villa 24

California

25<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear Doctor,

How are you? Hope you keeping are fine. You did a great job to save my life. I am thankful to you for giving me a second life. Your positive attitude and your valuable advice taught me how to lead a decent life. It was a great inspiration which brought about tremendous changes in my productive life. Now you are my guardian and mentor.

Sir, now I am working for a charitable organization in USA. I could save many people from their miserable and wretched life. I am proud of you for your kind and supportive nature. Hope to meet you soon.

My best wishes are prayers with you

Yours lovingly,

Name

## DIARY

**1. Imagine that Mr. John, after meeting the narrator for the second time, writes his diary. What would be the possible diary entry?**

**12<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2021, Monday.**

It is a great surprise in my life. I am blessed to meet the doctor today. I would cherish this memorable day in my life forever. When I looked back, I realized that I was on the verge of death. This doctor is the real God who appeared before me as a human form at that time. I owe my life to him greatly for his tremendous effort to revive my life. He couldn't recognize me when I met him in our journey. Then I revealed my identity to him. He expressed his joy and wonder at seeing me. If I could attain anything in my life, I would thank to him for his sedulous effort. May God bless him for his generous help and dedication.

## 2. The doctor writes a diary entry after meeting John

**13<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2021, Monday.**

What a fortunate meeting it was! I met the young man whom I had saved from the verge of death. I could not identify him in the beginning. But he revealed his identity. Then I recalled an event which happened 25 years before. I was a young doctor then. My simple act has made deep impact in his life. He proved that he could dedicate his life for the welfare of delinquent and maladjusted youth. Now he is a director of a charitable organization. He is doing a marvellous job. I couldn't believe myself that he would do such a fascinating endeavour. It gives me much pleasure and enthusiasm. Now I value my simple effort. It has been transformed as a great investment in my life. God's blessings are always with him.

### CONVERSATION

**Prepare a conversation between the doctor and John**

John : How are you sir?

Doctor : What happened?

John : You are a saviour of my life, aren't you?

Doctor : Really. I wanted to save your life.  
: I enjoyed your care and attention.

John : Sir, you gave me a second life. It made great changes in my life.

Doctor : Now you are a responsible person. You are doing a marvellous job

John : I learnt t a lot from you sir.

Doctor : It is quite natural.

John : You are my inspiration, you are a great human being .

Doctor : Great to see you here

John : Thanks a lot sir

## **SPEECH**

**Mr. John was accorded a warm reception for his dedicated service. He decided to prepare a speech about his turning point in his life.**

Honourable guests, respected headmaster, beloved teachers, and my dear friends, a warm good morning to all of you present here. I am delighted to be here to speak a few words about my turning point in life.

You know life is a mixture of happiness and sorrows. I struggled a lot in my life.

We should face hardships boldly and courageously. It is the success of my life.

When I was young, I fell into a bad company which spoiled my life completely. I spent my money on gambling and betting. I had to steal money for gambling from my office. I had to do a lot of wrong doings to flourish my life. Later I could realize that it was a great mistake in my life. The kindness and affection of a landlady and the doctor brought me back to life. I could survive all these strenuous periods of my life with much dedication and conviction.



The doctor is my hero and I enjoyed his kindness and generosity immeasurably. He gave me the right direction and proper guidance to lead a fruitful life. I thank him profusely for saving my life.

Let me conclude my short speech. Thank you and have a nice day.

## **NARRATIVE**

The young doctor in ‘The best investment I Ever Made’ is disturbed to hear the story of the young clerk who attempted to commit suicide, the next day he narrates the experience to his colleague. Write the likely narrative.

When the doctor was practicing as a young doctor in London, one night he was awakened by a policeman to attend a suicide attempt. The doctor went to the spot immediately to rescue the victim. It was a young man whose parents were dead. Mr. John was an orphan boy who had an unhappy and miserable past. His uncle found him a job as a clerk in a London solicitor’s office. He fell victim to a bad company and he spent his money lavishly and foolishly. He had begun to bet on horses and lost all his small savings. He was involved in stealing and gambling. He had to steal money from the office for his last pay. When he was about to be caught, he tried to commit suicide. He put the gas oven open and tried to commit suicide. The people rushed to save him. The doctor was amazed on hearing that the young man tried to commit suicide for an amount of seven pounds and ten shillings. The doctor felt sympathy and the doctor gave the money to put back to his office. So the doctor saved his life.

Later he got good education and became a lawyer. He became the director of a charitable organization which was uplifting maladjusted and delinquent youth. He

was doing a commendable job. So he decided to lead a truthful and dedicated life. He began to change himself and made remarkable changes in his life.

When the narrator happened to meet him on the deck of ship, he was impressed to see him there. He narrated his full history to him. The doctor was curious to know more about him and his life. He was impressed to hear that he was working as a director of a charitable organization devoted to the care of a people who lead wretched life. . He devoted his entire valuable life for the cause of criminal minded people who had fallen under the ban of law. It was a memorable experience to meet him there. He did not think that a small help would change a man considerably.

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