



ATTINGAL EDUCATIONAL DISTRICT
STANDARD X
ENGLISH - WS-12
THE BEST INVESTMENT I EVER MADE

Read the following excerpt from the story 'The Best Investment I Ever Made' and answer the questions that follow.

A long bar of silence throbbled in the little attic when he concluded this halting confession. Then, gruffly, the Sergeant asked how much he had stolen. Seven pounds ten shillings-the answer sounded pitiful. For this paltry sum he had almost thrown away his life. There was a pause. The three of us, the sergeant, the landlady and me, as the sole witnesses of the near tragedy, had the same unspoken thought in our minds. We decided to give the young man a fresh start. The sergeant, at considerable risk to his job, resolved to make no report upon the case, so that no court proceedings would result. The landlady offered a month's free board until he should get upon his feet again. While I, making perhaps the least contribution, came forward with seven pounds ten shillings for him to put back in the office safe.

1. Who is the 'he' mentioned in the passage?
2. How much money did he steal from the office safe?
3. '...the answer sounded pitiful'. What does the writer mean by this?
4. Pick out word from the passage that means 'deep, rough and unfriendly'.
5. Who were the sole witnesses of the near tragedy?
6. What do you think is the risk taken by the sergeant?
7. Read the following dialogue and complete the sentences.

The sergeant: How much money did you steal from the office safe?

The young man: I stole seven pounds ten shillings.

The sergeant asked the young man _____(a)_____.

The young replied _____(b)_____.

8. Getting a fresh start from the trios, Mr. John in the story 'The Best Investment I ever Made' started working for the derelict adolescents. Prepare the **character sketch** of Mr. John.(You may make use of the following hints.)

- Name of the character.
- How old is Mr. John?
- Describe his physical appearance.
- What kind of person was Mr. John during his early life?
- What was the turning point in Mr. John's life?
- Do you find any change in attitude when Mr. John got a second chance in his life? Prove your point citing instances from the story.
- What is your opinion about Mr. John?

9. Supply the missing words in the passage.

As the young man regained his strength, he told me his story. He was a clerk in /(a) office. Lost in bad company /(b) pleasures, he had wasted all /(c) wealth. In an effort to recoup, he had taken a sum of money /(d) the office safe /(e) a final gamble.

[and, for, from, the, his]