

St. Andrews Scots Sr. Sec. School
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Session 2024-2025 Notes

Class: IX

Subject: English

Topic: Best Seller

Q1) Reference To Context:

I. *And then I told her why I had come, as respectful and earnest as I could. And I told her*

Everything about myself, and what I was making, and how that all I asked was just to get acquainted with her and try to get her to like me.

A) What did Pescud tell the girl?

Ans) Pescud told the girl that he had come only to meet her.

B) Give the detailed description of Pescud's discussion with her.

Ans) Pescud told her everything about himself and what he had been making.

C) Find out a word from the passage similar in meaning to ' fervent'.

Ans) 'earnest'

D) What was the main intention of Pescud?

Ans) The main intention of Pescud was to get acquainted with her. He also wanted that he would be liked by her.

II. *"Think of a Chicago man packing a sword, and talking about freeing anything that sounded as much like canned sardiness".*

A) Who is the speaker of this line?

Ans) The speaker of this line is Pescud, a travelling salesman in the plate-glass business.

B) Why does he refer to a Chicago man carrying a sword?

Ans) He refers to a Chicago man as a reference point for an ordinary person who is wooing a lady and is behaving like a knight carrying a sword to free a kingdom under siege in Europe.

C) What does 'canned sardines' symbolise in this line?

Ans) The term 'canned sardines' is used to bring out the bizarre and commonplace side of the situation as also its absurd side.

D) What is the character of a city like Chicago?

Ans) It is a huge business centre and an entertainment centre and thus has all the requirements of a posh urban space.

Q2) What did the author and his friend exchange when they first met after two years ?

Ans) The two men had exchanged notes on destination. He also convinced the author about the superiority of his plate glass and his company. He also told him that a man in his hometown should be decent and law-abiding.

Q3) What perplexed Pescud about the readers of best sellers?

Ans) Pescud was perplexed about the fact that people bought hundreds and thousands of books, turning them into best sellers where the hero indulged in implausible capers such as being from a humble background and marrying a wife who is a princess.

Q4) What did Pescud disclose about his family to the Colonel?

Ans) Pescud told the Colonel that his family had always lived in and around Pittsburgh and had an uncle in the real-estate business. Another was a shady character in the Kansas penitentiary, but on the whole the family were decent folk.

Q5) How do we know that the lady had watched Pescud right through her journey?

Ans) The lady knew Pescud's movements intimately and had noticed that he had nearly missed the train at Shelbyville while asleep on a bench and had woken up at the last minute. She had also noticed that he had nearly missed the train at Powhatan Junction.

Q6) The story 'Best Seller brings out the fact that lasting relationships are not built on class or social differences. Comment.

Ans) Pescud and Jessie were happily married. When Pescud met Jessie's father, the elder gentleman wanted to hear stories garnered from his travels as a plate-glass salesman and not about his social status. Jessie did not miss her mansion-like home and was ready to create a home at her humble lodgings at East End. Pescud went out of his way to make her happy. He stopped by a run-down ironworks town like Coketown for Petunia cuttings because Jessie had admired them when she had spotted them growing in a window box in the town. Though Pescud was a firm believer that differences among couples were successful only in best seller fiction accounts, his own life had proved otherwise.

