

# St. Andrews Scots Sr. Sec. School

9th Avenue, I.P. Extension, Patparganj, Delhi – 110092

Session: 2025- 2026

## NOTES

Class – IX

Subject – English

Topic - Best Seller

### RTC

**Read the given extracts and answer the following question –**

1. “When people in real life marry, they generally hunt up Somebody in their own station. A fellow usually picks out a girl who went to the same high - school and belonged to the same singing - society that he did.”
  - a. Who is the speaker here?  
Ans. John A. Pescud is the speaker.
  - b. What does the phrase ‘their own station’ mean here?  
Ans. Of the same background.
  - c. What do you know about the social status of the speaker’s wife?  
Ans. The speaker’s wife was far above his background and status.
2. “Bully, said Pescud, brightening abrighten”, I have had my salary raised twice since I saw you, and I get a Commission, too. I have bought a neat slice of real estate. Next year the firm is going to sell me some shares of stock. Oh, I am in on the line of General Prosperity.
  - a. What does the word **bully** here mean?  
Ans. Doing very well at the job.
  - b. Who does **you** refer to here?  
Ans. Narrator is referred to here.
  - c. Why is basket happy with the company?  
Ans. Pescud is happy with the company because they raised his salary twice in 2 years.
3. “I married a year ago” said John, I told you I built a house in the East End. The belted- I mean the Colonel -is there, too. I find him waiting at the gate whenever I get back from a trip to hear any new story, I might have picked up on the road.”
  - a. Who did John marry?  
Ans. John married Jessie Allyn.
  - b. What does the word ‘belted’ here mean?  
Ans. A man given a sword and a belt by the king.
  - c. Who was so fond of stories?  
Ans. Colonel Allyn was fond of stories.

**Q/Ans –**

a. Describe the people in the chair car by which the narrator was going to Pittsburgh on the business.

Ans. One day last summer, the narrator was travelling to Pittsburgh on business. The chair car was well-filled with people. They were typical people one usually finds on chair cars. Most of them were ladies. They were in brown - silk dresses cut with square yokes, laces and dotted veils. They refused to have the windows raised. There were men with business like attitudes and behaviour.

b. Who was the passenger of chair number 9 and how did he attract the attention of the narrator?

Ans. The narrator leaned back idly in chair number 7 and looked at the small bald-spotted head with curiosity. He was just visible above the back of seat number 9. Suddenly the man in seat number 9 hurled "The Rose lady and Trevelyan", one of the best-selling novels of the present day to the floor. The man was John A. Pescud of Pittsburgh. He was a travelling salesman for a plate glass company. He was an old acquaintance of the narrator whom he had not seen in 2 years.

c. What does John A. Pescud tell about himself or his career? Give 2 examples to prove that he was doing well in life.

Ans. John A. Pescud was a travelling salesman of a plate glass company. He was doing quite well in life. He had a salary raised twice since he met the narrator last time. He got a Commission too. He had bought some piece of good real estate. The firm was going to sell him some shares of stock. In briefs, he was in "on the line of General Prosperity."

d. Why is John A. Pescud so critical of best sellers of the present day?

Ans. John A. Pescud tries to give an impression that he believes in middle class values and pragmatism. He is quite critical of the modern best sellers because they are far removed from reality and real life full they present a highly idealistic, exaggerated and romantic version of life. They describe an American hero falling in love with the royal Princess from Europe and following her to her father's Kingdom or principality. In real life, when people marry they choose their life partners who belong to the same background or status.

e. How did John A. Pescud made his future wife Jessie for the first time?

Ans. John A. Pescud saw his future wife Jessie Allyn for the first time in a train. He was going to Cincinnati on business about 18 months ago. There he saw "the finest looking girl" he had ever laid his eyes on. "Nothing spectacular" but the kind of girl one would like to have as a life partner. She changed cars at Cincinnati and took a sleeper to Louisville. John followed her all along but never losing track of her. He followed her to her grand mansion which was as big as the Capitol at Washington.

f. Describe the huge White House of the Allynns on top of the hill as John A. Pescud saw it.

Ans. The huge White House of the Allynns was about 1000 feet high. The yard was full of rose bushes, box bushes and lilacs. The mansion was as big as the Capitol at Washington. Colonel Allyn and his daughter Jessie lived there in their ancestral house. It had 50 rooms and the ceilings were 28 feet high.

g. Describe the first meeting of John A. Pescud with Jessie Allyn in the front yard of her ancestral mansion.

Ans. On the third day of his arrival, John A. Pescud caught the young lady walking in the front yard. John was as respectful and earnest as he could and told her why he followed her there. He wanted to get acquainted with her and hoped her to like him. The young lady replied that she was aware of all his activities throughout the journey. She replied that her father was a descendant of belted earls and would not allow his meeting with her. She affected as if she had no interest in him.

h. Describe John A. Pescud meeting with Colonel Allyn. What was its outcome?

Ans. The next morning at 11:00 John rang the doorbell of the Colonel's mansion. An old man showed him in. For a few seconds John was nervous in the presence of the Colonel but soon got his nerve back. He told the old man everything, the purpose of his visit, his job and prospects and his little conduct of life. He clearly told that he wanted to make a hit with the young lady. The Colonel made him comfortable and they talked for 2 hours. The old man narrated anecdotes, humorous occurrences and a fox hunting story. John appeared to be satisfied meeting with the Colonel.