

Class 10

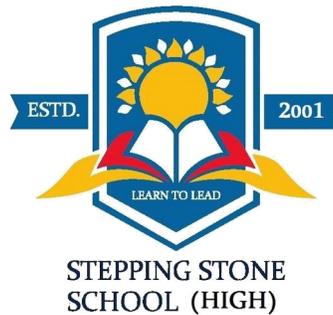
Subject-English Language

Date-06.05.20

Time-30 minutes

WorkSheet-9

Topic-Comprehension



One of the small boys was Ha'penny, and he was about twelve years old. He came from Bloemfontein and was the biggest talker of them all. His mother worked in a white person's house, and he had two brothers and two sisters. His brothers were Richard and Dickie, and his sisters Anna and Mina.

"Richard and Dickie?" I asked.

"Yes, sir."

"In English," I said, "Richard and Dickie are the same name."

When we returned to the reformatory, I sent for Ha'penny's papers; there it was plainly set down. Ha'penny was a waif, with no relatives at all. He had been taken from one home to another, but was naughty and uncontrollable, and had eventually taken to pilfering at the market.

I then sent for the Letter book, and found that Ha'penny wrote regularly, or rather that others wrote for him till he could write himself, to Mrs Better Maarman, of 48 Vlak Street, Bloemfontein. But Mrs Maarman had never once replied to him. When questioned, he had said,

perhaps, she is sick. I sat down and once again wrote to the Social Welfare Officer at Bloemfontein, asking him to investigate.

The next time I had Ha'penny out in the car I questioned him again about his family. He told me the same as before, his mother Richard and Dickie,

and Anna and Mina. But softened the the "D" of Dickie, so it now sounded like Tickie.

"I thought you said Dickie," I said.

"I said Tickie," he said.

He watched me with concealed apprehension, I came to the conclusion that the waif of Bloemfontein was a clever boy, who had told me a story that was all imagination, and had changed one single letter to make it safe from any question. And I thought that I understood it too, that he was ashamed of being without a family and had invented them all, so that no one might discover that he was motherless and fatherless and no one in the world cared whether he was dead or alive. This gave me strong feelings for him, and I went out of my way to manifest towards him that fatherly care that the State, though not in those words, had enjoined upon me by giving me this job.

Answer the following questions briefly:

- (i) How old was Ha'penny? Where was he from? [2]
 - (ii) What do you know about his family? [2]
 - (iii) What did the narrator come to know about Ha'penny when he sent for his papers? [2]
 - (iv) What did the Letter book reveal about him? [2]
 - (v) What conversation took place between the narrator and Ha'penny when he took him out in the car ? [2]
 - (vi) Write two character traits of the boy as mentioned in the passage. [2]
- (c) In 60 words, summarise how the narrator developed strong feelings for Ha'penny [8]

