

CBSE Class 10 English Language and Literature

Revision Notes

Chapter 04

A Question of Trust

- Horace Danby, who ran a business of making locks, had a good reputation in society. But he was not totally honest.
- His hobby was collecting rare and expensive books. Horace robbed one safe every year to finance his costly hobby.
- Horace had been studying the country house at Shotover Grange, whose owners normally lived in London, as he wanted to burgle the jewellery, worth about 15000 pounds, lying in the safe in his house.
- Horace entered the house when the servants were away. But Horace started sneezing because he had an allergy to flowers called hay fever.
- Suddenly he heard a young lady's voice saying that she could cure him. He then saw her appear in the doorway.
- His first thought was to run, as the lady told him that she would telephone the police. Horace told her to let him go and forget she ever saw him.
- The lady agreed on one condition – he should open the safe for her, as she had to wear the jewels in the safe for a party the same night, but she had forgotten the combination to open the safe.
- So Horace opened the safe for her and handed her the jewels to get his freedom.
- After two days Horace was arrested for the jewel robbery at Shotover Grange. Horace's fingerprints were found, as he had opened the safe without using his gloves.
- When he told the police that the lady of the house had asked him to open the safe, he was surprised to learn that the actual lady was a 60 year old woman. Horace then realized that the young woman was also a jewel thief who had used his skill to steal the jewels.
- Horace is now in prison. He understands now that the charming and clever young lady had simply tricked him.