

NCERT SOLUTIONS

CLASS - 12th



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Class : 12th

Subject : English

Chapter : 7

Chapter Name : Evans Tries An O-Level

Q1 Reflecting on the story, what do you feel about Evans' having the last laugh?

Answer. Evans was extraordinarily smart. He had planned so well about his escape from the prison and executed it so sharply that he left all the officers struck in wonder. He fooled them twice. Firstly at the cell of the prison and secondly at the hotel Golden Lion. His last laugh signified his utter smartness over the officers when he was successfully able to fool them and had an escape from there.

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Q2 When Stephens comes back to the cell he jumps to a conclusion and the whole machinery blindly goes by his assumption without even checking the identity of the 'Mc Leery'. Does this show how hasty conjectures can prevent one from seeing the obvious? How is the criminal able to predict such negligence?

Answer. Stephens was a new recruit. He hardly applied his mind when he saw a person injured on the table, rather he panicked so much so that he forgot to check the identity of the injured person and the one whom he escorted out of the cell.

As Evans was a clever and witty criminal, he had very well perceived the behaviours of each and every official of the jail and had made his plan of escape accordingly. This is the major reason he was able to predict such negligence by the officers.

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Q3 What could the Governor have done to securely bring back Evans to prison when he caught him at the Golden Lion? Does the final act of foolishness really prove that "he was just another good-for-a-giggle, gullible governor, that was all"?

Answer. The Governor could have supervised the encounter of Evans with more precision. He preferred to sit in a different vehicle due to his haughty nature which resisted him to sit with the lower officials. This was the biggest mistake made by him which really proves that, "he was just another good-for-a-giggle, gullible governor, that was all".

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Q4 While we condemn the crime, we are sympathetic to the criminal. Is this the reason why prison staff often develop a soft corner for those in custody?

Answer. Sympathy is a basic human tendency which can't be changed. However it's absent in some cruel figures but it's not entirely vanished in this world of wits. 'Crime' is considered to be heinous and so the criminal. But we more often generate a soft corner for them while seeing their miserable condition while they suffer their punishment. The same happened with Jackson when he allowed Evans to wear his shabby hat during the exam when he just calls that hat his 'lucky charm'.

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Q5 Do you agree that between crime and punishment it is mainly a battle of wits?

Answer. Yes, Crime and Punishment is mainly a battle of wits. This story is the biggest instance of the same. Where trained police officials fail to securely conduct the exam, Evans the criminal outsmart them with his intelligence and successfully escaped from the prison.

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