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Class 11 English (Hornbill) Notes

THE BROWNING VERSION





Key Notes and Important Questions with Answers

6. The Browning Version

By Terence Rattigan

The Browning Version' presents a conversation between a lower fifth grade student, Taplow and Mr. Frank, a teacher from the school where Taplow studies. From their conversation, we come to know that Taplow is there to do extra work extra duty as punishment for his teacher, Mr. Crocker-Harris. Although we do not see Crocker-Harris in the play, we get to know a lot about him through Taplow's conversation with Mr. Frank According to Taplow, Mr. Crocker-Harris is a different kind of a teacher. He is too strict and 'hardly

human'. Unlike other teachers, he does not tell his students their results before the last day of the term. Taplow had asked Mr. Crocker-Harris about his remove and in response the teacher told him that he has given Taplow exactly what he deserves - "No less; and certainly no more".

Frank admits envying Mr. Crocker-Harris for the effect he has on his students. He asks Taplow if Mr. Crocker-Harris beat his students. However, Taplow tells Frank that unlike one or two other teachers, Mr. Crocker-Harris is not a 'sadist'. He is not the sort of a person who would beat students and vent out his frustration on students. He is hard like a nut all shriveled up. He is heartless. He possesses no feelings at all. Taplow admits that in spite of all this, he likes Mr. Crocker-Harris.

At this point, Millie, the wife of Mr. Crocker-Harris arrives there and sends Taplow to a chemist's shop with a prescription.

Short Answer Questions

Answer the following questions in not more than 30-40 words.

Q.1. Why did Gocker-Harris not disclose the results like the other teachers?

Ans. It was a rule that results would be announced by the headmaster alone. The other teachers didn't care for this rule. But Gocker-Harris was a man of principles. He never disclosed the results like the other teachers.

Q.2. Who was Millie? What did she tell Taplow?

Ans. Millie was Mr., Crocker's wife. She total Taplow that her husband was at the Bursar's's. It could take him a lot of time. Thus she told him indirectly that he could go and play.

Q.3. Why doesn't Taplow agree with Frank in calling Cracker a "Sadist"?

Ans. Frank calls cracker a radist because he gets after his students. But Taplow says after he understands he meaning of the word 'sadist' that cracker was much more than that. He was a feelingness person who was like a shrivelled-up nut. He hated to be liked and behaved in a strange manner with his students.

Q.4. Where did Taplow meet Frank?

Ans. Taplow had been asked to do some extra work by Mr. Cracker Harris. He was waiting for the teacher in the school. Frank also came there and met Taplow.

Q.5. What is Taplow's attitude towards Mr. Crocker Harris?

Ans. Taplow is respectful towards Mr. Crocker Harris and likes him even though he is afrid of him, and dare not cut the extra work even on the last day of the term.

Q.6. What do you gather about Mr. Frank from the play?

Ans. Mr. Frank is a young science teacher. He does n't like the subject the teaches. He also admits that he tells the results to the students before it is officially announced by the head master. He feels envious of cracker Harris because Taplow likes him.

Q.7. What subjects does Taplow want to opt for? Why?

Ans. Taplow feels if his grades are good, he would opt for science. He feels science is more interesting than the study of classics.,

Q.8. How does Taplow react to Millie's arrival?

Ans. Taplow is nervous. He is unable to control his emotions and whispers to Frank if he thinks she has heard their conversation. Taplow feels that if she tells Mr. Crocker Harris, he would lost his form.

1. Why was Taplow given an extra work on the last day of the session?
2. Why did Mr. Crocker-Harris not disclose Taplow's result?
3. What do you learn about Mr. Frank as a teacher from this lesson?
4. Why did Taplow laugh at Mr. Crocker-Harris's joke?
5. How is Mr. Crocker-Harris different from other masters? Give two points of difference.
6. What does Millie Crocker-Harris ask Taplow to do?
7. Why did Taplow prefer science to literature?
8. Who is Millie? Why does she send Taplow to the chemist?
9. Why did Taplow keep on waiting, even after knowing that Mr. Crocker-Harris was, ten minutes late?
10. Why does Taplow sound bitter?
11. Does Mr. Frank seem to encourage Taplow's comments on Mr. Crocker-Harris?
12. 'We get all the slackers!' Why is Frank not very enthusiastic on hearing that Toplow wishes to join Science?

13. Why does Taplow call Mr. Crocker-Harris a man of principles?
14. What does Taplow consider 'muck?' Why?
15. Why was Taplow horrified to find Mrs. Crocker Harris standing by the door screen, watching Taplow and Mr. Frank?
16. Mention two character traits of Taplow.