

Chapter-4

The Rattrap

SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

1. **How did the peddler earn his livelihood? What kind of life did he live?**

Ans. The peddler earned his livelihood by selling small rattraps of wire, which he used to make himself from the material got by begging in the stores or at big farms. But this was not so profitable, so he had to beg or even steal. He roamed about like a vagabond all alone. He lived a sad and monotonous life with no one to welcome him.

2. **How did the crofter treat peddler and why?**

Ans. The crofter was a lonely man without wife or child. He craved and desired human company to share his loneliness. He welcomed the peddler and offered him porridge, supper and even tobacco. He played cards with him. He even showed him his earnings and let him know where it was kept.

3. **Did the peddler respect the confidence reposed in him by the crofter?**

Ans. No, the peddler did not respect the confidence reposed in him by the crofter. He broke his trust as the very next morning he picked the thirty kronors. The evil in him forced him to do so.

4. **What made the peddler accept Edla Willmanson's invitation?**

Ans. Edla started by sympathising with the vagabond that he was going through a hard time. She was compassionate and benevolent. Her manner was friendly that the vagabond felt confident. She insisted that he could leave at his will after spending Christmas with them. Because of her friendly request, the peddler accepted her invitation.

LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

1. **What rattrap was the peddler trapped in? How did he come out of it?**

Ans. Key points

- The whole world a rattrap
- World full of temptations
- shelter food, joy and riches – are the baits.

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- The bait that he fell for was at the crofter's house
 - blamed the crofter for having tempted with his bait.
 - initially refused the offer of iron master thinking it to be another bait.
 - After meeting with Edla, he got reformed and returned the thirty kronors in a rattrap.

2. **Describe how the story, "The Rattrap" shows that basic human goodness can be brought out by understanding and love.**

Ans. The story 'The Rattrap' highlights the fact that compassion and concern can awaken the essential goodness in a man.

- The peddler, who had been resorting to begging and thievery all the time, never bothered to clear his identity befuddled the ironmaster too.
- But, Edla gave him a royal treatment, served him delicious supper, gifted her father's dress to him.
- This kind of unconditioned love and compassion from Edla made him realise his mistake and further, he confessed his guilt too.
- This way, she made a lot of difference in his life and he got transformed into a much better person.
- He left the stolen money behind, even a letter and a gift for Edla.