



THE RATTRAP

Multiple Choice Questions based on an extract	
A	<p><i>"Since you have been so nice to me all day long, as if I was a captain, I want to be nice to you, in return, as if I was a real captain — for I do not want you to be embarrassed at this Christmas season by a thief; but you can give back the money to the old man on the roadside, who has the money pouch hanging on the window frame as a bait for poor wanderers. The rattrap is a Christmas present from a rat who would have been caught in this world's rattrap if he had not been raised to captain, because in that way he got power to clear himself.</i></p> <p><i>"Written with friendship and high regard, "Captain von Stahle."</i></p>
1	<p>Which of the following CANNOT be attributed to the peddler, according to the above extract?</p> <p>a) indebtedness b) reform c) self-pity d) self-awareness</p>
2	<p>Why did the peddler give a rattrap as a Christmas present?</p> <p>a) It was all the peddler had that he could give away, and represented his turn to honesty. b) It symbolised his successful escape from entrapment as he returned the stolen money. c) It served as a reminder for Edla to be wary of the dangerous temptations of the world. d) It was a practical and convenient present that the lady of the house could effectively use.</p>
3	<p>This communication includes</p> <p>1) a promise</p>



	<p>2) regret 3) an apology 4) shame</p> <p>a) only 4 b) only 1 c) 1 & 3 d) 2 & 4</p>
B	<p><i>...it was a big and confusing forest which he had gotten into. He tried, to be sure, to walk in a definite direction, but the paths twisted back and forth so strangely! He walked and walked without coming to the end of the wood, and finally he realised that he had only been walking around in the same part of the forest. All at once he recalled his thoughts about the world and the rattrap. Now his own turn had come. He had let himself be fooled by a bait and had been caught. The whole forest, with its trunks and branches, its thickets and fallen logs, closed in upon him like an impenetrable prison from which he could never escape.</i></p>
1	<p>How would you characterise the mood of the above extract?</p> <p>a) mysterious, restful b) ominous, despairing c) thoughtful, whimsical d) philosophical, anguished</p>
2	<p>By what bait had the peddler been fooled?</p> <p>a) He had chosen to take the 'safe' forest route. b) He had decided to avoid the public highway. c) He had stolen money from the trusting crofter. d) He didn't realise the power of his rattrap analogy.</p>
3	<p>The consequence of 'his own turn' having come was that the peddler had _____</p> <p>a) got irreversibly lost in the thick, warped forest. b) been fooled and imprisoned in a hopeless prison. c) been walking around the same part of the forest. d) walked the whole forest without finding the end.</p>



<p>4</p>	<p>The above extract richly employs literary devices. Look at the table below. Choose the option that correctly matches the instances/ examples in Column A with the literary devices in Column B:</p> <p><u>Column A</u></p> <p>1. <i>The forest closed in upon the peddler like an impenetrable prison.</i></p> <p>2. <i>The big and confusing forest with its twisted paths, trunks, branches,</i></p>
	<p><i>thickets and fallen logs.</i></p> <p>3. <i>The lost peddler was reminded of the world and the rattrap.</i></p> <p>4. <i>It was a big and confusing forest which he had gotten into. The peddler had been fooled and was trapped in the forest.</i></p> <p><u>Column B</u></p> <p>(i) Imagery (ii) Allegory (iii) Metaphor (iv) Simile</p> <p>a) 1 - (i) ; 2 - (ii) ; 3 - (iii) ; 4 - (iv) b) 1 - (iv) ; 2 - (i) ; 3 - (ii) ; 4 - (iii) c) 1 - (iii) ; 2 - (iv) ; 3 - (i) ; 4 - (ii) d) 1 - (ii) ; 2 - (iii) ; 3 - (iv) ; 4 - (i)</p>
<p>5</p>	<p>"Left to his own meditations", one day the peddler fell into "a line of thought, which really seemed to him entertaining". What does the peddler's conception of the world as a rattrap, signify about him?</p> <p>a) The peddler had a lot of time on his hands, with nothing much to do.</p> <p>b) The peddler was a reflective man whose wisdom did not depend on his status.</p> <p>c) The peddler was a lonely vagrant trying to make sense of his</p>



	fortunes. d) The peddler was a rattrap seller, and his work deeply inspired him.
C	<i>"Yes, that was a fine fellow you let into the house," said her father.</i>

1	<p>What light does the given line throw on the ironmaster as a father?</p> <p>a) The ironmaster was disapproving of Edla's decision to let the peddler stay. b) The ironmaster blamed his daughter for harbouring a criminal at home. c) The ironmaster was being playful with Edla, and supported her decisions. d) The ironmaster loved Edla but thought her to be too naïve and idealistic.</p>
2	<p>Though the reader does not meet Captain von Stahle in person, they encounter the captain symbolically. How?</p> <p>a) The ironmaster misidentifies the peddler as his old friend, the Captain and invites him home. b) The reader realizes the peddler is actually Captain von Stahle when he signs off the letter. c) Edla attends to the peddler as respectfully, caringly and kindly, as she would have the Captain. d) The peddler accepts the error of his ways, and displays the qualities expected of a Captain.</p>
	Answer in 30-40 words
1	If the world is "nothing but a big rattrap" as the tramp stated in the story 'The Rattrap', who might the rattrap peddler be? Discuss.
2	Despite his philosophical insights, the vagabond fails to resist temptations. What would you attribute this to? Explain with reference to any instance from the text.
3	Do you think the story reinforces a stereotype that women are more trusting, forgiving and less practical than men? Comment with reference to Edla's actions in the story.
4	What might be the significance of setting the story's events during Christmas? Justify your opinion.
	Answer in 120-150 words



<p>1</p>	<p>How would you compare the peddler's actions in relation to the crofter and Edla? Would you say kindness does not always beget kindness, and that the conditions for receiving kindness are important for it to truly transform people? Elaborate. Provide relevant textual details to support the analysis.</p>
<p>2</p>	<p>Imagine that you overheard the following snippet of an interaction between the valet and the housekeeper at the ironmaster's mansion at the end of the story.</p> <p><i>Speaker 1 - Trust is a difficult choice, which may or may not be rewarded.</i></p> <p><i>Speaker 2 – Yes, indeed. Ms. Willmansson really believed in that fellow, didn't she? And he didn't disappoint. She was so happy reading his letter, oh her tears of joy filled my heart with so much admiration for her. Such a kind,</i></p>

	<p><i>wonderful young lady.</i></p> <p><i>Speaker 1 – Absolutely. But I wonder, what if that vagabond had run away with the silver spoons? Would you speak so glowingly of Ms. Willmansson then? Our master's daughter was a bit too gullible. Wouldn't you say?</i></p> <p><i>Speaker 2 – But she did what was right. That must count for something. It's Christmas, and she helped that poor man. It didn't matter what he did. Surely the choice of right and wrong does not depend on the outcome.</i></p> <p><i>Speaker 1 – Wouldn't it? I should jolly well think so.</i></p> <p>How would you respond to the questions raised in this conversation in relation to the story? Write your response in the form of an entry in your daily journal.</p>
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