



INDIAN SCHOOL DARSAIT

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH



Subject : English

Topic : Keeping It From
Harold

Date of Worksheet : November 2017

Resource Person: Shobha Krishnan

Date : _____

Name of the Student : _____

Class & Division : IX

Roll Number : ____

I Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow:- Marks

1. *“You do study so hard, dearie, you’ll give yourself a headache. Why don’t you take a nice walk by the river for half an hour, and come back nice and fresh?”* **4**
 (a) Who is the speaker of these lines?
 (b) What does this extract show about the characters of the speaker and the listener?
 (c) When does this conversation take place?
 (d) Name the lesson and the author.
2. *“How about money?” repeated Mrs. Bramble. “Goodness knows I’ve never like your profession, but there is this to be for it, that it’s earned you good money”* **4**
 (a) What Money is Mrs. Bramble talking about?
 (b) Why doesn’t Mrs. Bramble like Bill’s profession?
 (c) How has Bill’s profession been useful in a particular way?
 (d) What has the listener just decided to do?
3. *“In private life he was the mildest and most obliging of men, and always yielded to everybody.”* **4**
 (a) Whom does ‘he’ refer to and what was his profession?
 (b) What was his profession?
 (c) What does ‘most obliging of men’ mean?
 (d) What aspect of his character does this line reveal?

II. Short Answers in 30 -40 words:-

1. What was strange about the manner in which Mrs. Bramble addressed her son? What did he feel about it? **2**

Mrs. Bramble always referred to herself in the third person and treated ten-year-old Harold as a baby. He would feel irritated and wished that his mother would give him due credit of being a grown-up boy who had won prizes in spellings and dictation.

2. Why was it necessary to keep Harold’s father’s profession a secret from him? **2**

3. How was Harold a constant source of amazement to his mother? **2**

Harold was a perfect model of goodness and intelligence. He was devoted to books and could compose poems. He had an admirable behavior and had won prizes in spelling and dictation. His parents found him superior and belonging to an upper class. Thus he was a constant source of amazement to his parents.

4. Describe Mr. Bramble as he has been described in the story. 2

Mr. Bramble was thirty one years old, of athletic built and weighed eight stone four. There was no one whom he could not defeat in the twenty round contest of boxing. He was very famous and his feats in the ring were well known. But by nature he was too timid and could never have his way with his wife. He was a very devoted and an overprotective father.

5. Why was Mrs. Bramble upset when she came to hear that Bill had decided not to fight?

Although Mrs. Bramble did not like her husband's profession as a boxer, she didn't want him to quit because it earned them good money and made it possible for them to educate Harold. If he beat Murphy at the final match, he would win prize money of five hundred pounds. Even if he lost, he would still get a hundred and twenty, and this money would have been a blessing because it was enough to give Harold a better start in life.

6. How did Harold come to know that his father was a boxer? 8

Just when Jerry Fisher was trying to convince Bill not to give up the idea of boxing, Harold came in. He wanted to know what they were talking about. Then Jerry Fisher told him the truth that his father was not a commercial traveller but a professional boxer, who was popularly known as the "Young porky".

7. Why was Harold upset that his father had not told him about his true identity? Give two reasons. 8

Harold was very upset with his father for not telling him his true identity for two reasons.

(i) Harold was very hurt to know that his parents kept such a secret from him. Harold was deeply interested in boxing. He had betted Dicky Saunders that Jimmy Murphy would not stand ten rounds against Young Porky. If his father did not fight he was sure to lose the bet.

(ii) Boys at school had nicknamed him 'Goggles'. If they knew he was the son of 'Young Porky' they would have held him in awe. Harold felt that he had missed the golden chance of winning respect and being the subject of envy of his classmates if they had known that his father was the famous boxer, 'Young Porky'.

Answers to Long Answer Questions

1. Who was Jerry Fisher? What did he say to try and convince Bill to change his mind? 2

Jerry Fisher was Bill's trainer and he had been working hard at White Hart to train Bill for the boxing match against Murphy, scheduled next week. Jerry tried to tempt Bill with the prize money and when he failed then he tried to emotionally blackmail him. Fisher told him if Bill withdrew he would lose a lot of money, the spectators would also be disappointed and even the media would not be kind to him. On the other hand, a win against Murphy would bring him not only money but also a huge popularity. If Bill withdrew, even Jerry's career and reputation as a trainer would suffer. All the hard work they had put in together would go down the gutter.

2. Do you agree with Harold's parents' decision of hiding from him the fact that his father was a boxer? Why/why not? 2