

THE BEGGAR

HOT QUESTION

Question 1: “Compassion and understanding can transform lives for the better.” Justify this statement with reference to The Beggar.

Answer: In The Beggar, compassion and understanding are exemplified through Sergei and Olga’s efforts to reform Lushkoff, a former advocate turned beggar. Sergei offers Lushkoff work instead of charity, showing him respect and dignity despite his initial dishonesty. However, it is Olga, Sergei’s cook, whose kindness and silent labor deeply impact Lushkoff. She cuts the wood assigned to him, teaching him the value of hard work through her selflessness. Inspired by their actions, Lushkoff reforms himself, stops drinking, and builds a respectable life. The story highlights how empathy and thoughtful actions can inspire change, emphasizing the transformative power of compassion.

Question 2 : “Kindness has the power to bring about meaningful change in others.” Justify this statement with reference to The Beggar.

Answer: In The Beggar, kindness is portrayed as a transformative force that changes Lushkoff’s life. Initially, Lushkoff is a dishonest beggar who lies about his circumstances to gain sympathy. Sergei, instead of giving him money, offers him work, treating him with dignity despite his flaws. However, it is Olga, Sergei’s cook, whose silent acts of kindness make the real difference. She cuts the wood assigned to Lushkoff without complaints, out of pure compassion. Her actions touch Lushkoff deeply, evoking a sense of guilt and inspiring him to change his ways. Gradually, he reforms, giving up drinking and finding honest work, eventually becoming a respectable man. The story demonstrates that kindness, when combined with understanding and patience, can motivate even the most despondent individuals to change, proving that the simplest acts of humanity can have profound and lasting impacts on someone’s life.

SHORT QUESTIONS

1. Question: How did Sergei initially respond to Lushkoff’s plea for money?

Answer: Sergei responded to Lushkoff’s plea by confronting him about his lies and refusing to give him money. Instead, he offered Lushkoff work, giving him an opportunity to earn an honest living. Sergei’s response showed his belief in offering help through dignity and responsibility rather than encouraging dishonesty.

2. Question: What work did Sergei assign to Lushkoff, and how did he perform?

Answer: Sergei assigned Lushkoff the task of chopping wood. However, Lushkoff was physically weak and unable to do the work effectively. Unbeknownst to Sergei, it was Olga, the cook, who completed the task for him. This silent help played a crucial role in motivating Lushkoff to reform his life.

3. Question: What role did Olga play in transforming Lushkoff’s life?

Answer: Olga, Sergei’s cook, silently cut the wood assigned to Lushkoff, showing him kindness and compassion. Her actions, combined with her scolding and emotional appeals, touched Lushkoff deeply,

inspiring him to change. Her selflessness and understanding ultimately motivated Lushkoff to give up drinking and pursue an honest life.

4. Question: How did Lushkoff change by the end of the story?

Answer: By the end of the story, Lushkoff had completely reformed his life. He gave up drinking, started working honestly, and became a respectable person earning a stable income as a notary. His transformation was a result of the kindness and understanding shown by Sergei and Olga, proving the impact of compassion.

5. Question: What does Lushkoff confess to Sergei at the end of the story?

Answer: Lushkoff confesses to Sergei that he never chopped the wood assigned to him. It was Olga, Sergei's cook, who completed the work out of kindness. He credits her silent labor and compassion for changing his life and inspiring him to reform.

6. Question: What message does the story convey about compassion and understanding?

Answer: The story conveys that compassion and understanding can inspire meaningful change in others. Through Sergei's offer of honest work and Olga's selfless actions, Lushkoff is motivated to abandon his dishonest ways, reform his life, and regain dignity. The story highlights the transformative power of kindness.

7. Question: Why does Sergei offer Lushkoff work instead of charity?

Answer: Sergei believes in offering dignity and responsibility rather than encouraging dishonesty through charity. By offering Lushkoff work, Sergei gives him an opportunity to earn an honest living and regain his self-respect, setting the stage for Lushkoff's eventual transformation.

8. Question: What is the significance of Olga's scolding of Lushkoff?

Answer: Olga's scolding reflects her deep concern for Lushkoff's well-being. While harsh, her words and actions stem from compassion. Her efforts show that tough love, combined with silent help, can inspire someone to reflect on their life and make positive changes.

9. Question: How does The Beggar depict the theme of redemption?

Answer: The Beggar depicts redemption through Lushkoff's transformation from a dishonest beggar to a respectable man. With Sergei's guidance and Olga's selfless support, Lushkoff finds the strength to reform his life. The story emphasizes that kindness, understanding, and opportunities for dignity can lead to personal growth and redemption.