

PROSE-1(Two Gentlemen of Verona)

I. Answer the following questions in one or two sentences each based on your understanding of the story.

a. Who did the narrator meet at the outskirts of Verona?

The narrator met Jacopo and Nicola at the outskirts of Verona.

b. Why did the driver not approve of the narrator buying fruits from the boys?

Luigi, the cautious driver did not approve of the two boys because of their untidy and ragged appearance. Moreover, he felt that better quality of strawberry would be found at Verona.

c. The boys did not spend much on clothes and food. Why?

The boys did not wish to spend any money on themselves. They just ate the minimum required for survival. Lucia's treatment was expensive so they willingly gave away all the money they earned for her recuperation (recover). Their own misery or poverty did not mean anything to the boys.

d. Why did the author avoid going to Lucia's room?

The nurse asked the author to go inside to meet Lucia as it would make her happy. He shook his head and turned away as he did not want to disturb the happy family union.

e. What was Lucia suffering from?

Lucia was the twenty years old sister of Nicola and Jacopo. She was suffering from spinal tuberculosis and was being treated at a hospital.

f. What made the boys join the resistance movement against the Germans?

The boys showed resistance towards the Germans because their house had been bombed by the Germans and their parents had been killed in the war. They had not only been orphaned but their sister had also taken ill because of the starvation and extreme situations during the War.

g. What made the boys work so hard?

The boys were working hard to help their sister, Lucia, who was suffering from tuberculosis of the spine. The two boys worked day in and day out, took every possible job, starved themselves to provide for their sister's treatment

h. Why didn't the boys disclose their problem to the author?

Despite leading a poor life, the boys didn't disclose their problems to the author because they did not want their private suffering be made public. They would like to live with self-respect and had strong will power to accept responsibility for their own lives.

II. Answer the following questions in three or four sentences each.

a) Describe the appearance of Nicola and Jacopo.

The two boys were dressed in rags and had a shabby appearance. Nicola wore a worn jersey and cut-off khaki pants, the other (Jacopo) wore a shortened army tunic gathered in loose folds about his skinny frame with tangled hair, dark earnest eyes, and brown skin. They appeared to be pathetic.

b) What were the various jobs undertaken by the little boys?

They did different things like selling newspapers, fruits, polishing shoes, delivering messages, showing the tourists around the city, etc., They worked very hard to pay the bills of the hospital so that their sister could lead a normal life again.

a) How did the narrator help the boys on Sunday?

The narrator is very impressed by the hard work and zest exhibited by the two brothers. His visit was coming to an end, so the narrator offered help as the last sign of goodwill. Jacopo requested the narrator to take them to Poleta, which was 30 km away. Since the narrator had already given the day off to his driver, he volunteered to drive the boys, himself.

b) Who took the author to the cubicle?

The nurse led the author through a cool, tiled hall into the villa which was more of a hospital. At the door of a little cubicle the nurse paused, put her finger to her lips, and with a smile gestured him to look through the glass partition.

c) Describe the girl with whom the boys were talking to in the cubicle.

The girl with whom the boys were talking to in the cubicle was Lucia, the twenty years old sister of Nicola and Jacopo. Who was suffering from spinal tuberculosis and was being treated at a hospital. The boys used to do odd jobs to earn enough money to pay for the hospital expenses.