

**ANNUAL PREPARATORY PROGRAMME FOR ENHANCEMENT IN
ACADEMICS AND REVISION (APPEAR)
CLASS XII, ENGLISH CORE - 301
MODULE – XIV THE RATTRAP (PART-II)**

Module Detail	
Subject Name	English Core
Course Name	Annual Preparatory Programme for Enhancement in Academics and Revision (APPEAR) in English for Class XII
Module Name/Title	The Rattrap (Part II)
Module Id	lefl_10402
Pre-requisite	Students should have learnt the first part of the lesson The Rattrap.
Objectives	<p>After carefully reading this chapter and doing the suggested activities, you will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain the story The Rattrap, • Relate the themes like – Kindness; Compassion; Second chances and Empathy, • Analyse whether compassion work well than negative reinforcement.
Keywords	Persuasion, Compassion, Embarrassment, Dissimulate, Intention, Splendour, Dejected.

2. Development Team

Role	Name	Affiliation
National MOOC Coordinator	Prof. Amarendra P. Behera	CIET, NCERT, New Delhi
Program Coordinator	Dr. Rejaul Karim Barbhuiya	CIET, NCERT, New Delhi
Course Coordinator	Dr. Ganga Mahto	NCERT, RIE, Bhopal

Course Co-Coordinator	Ms. Heman Mehlawat	CIET, NCERT, New Delhi
Subject Matter Expert	Ms. T. Uma Maheswari	KVS, ZIET, Gwalior
Content Reviewer	Dr. Meenakshi Khar	DEL, NCERT, New Delhi

CONTENTS

1. Introduction
2. Listening activity
3. Reading and understanding the text
 - Section – 1
 - Section – 2
 - Section – 3
 - Section – 4
 - Section – 5
4. Let us sum up
5. Answers
6. References

INTRODUCTION

Synopsis of The Rattrap (Part I)

This story is about a poor rattrap seller who often has to resort to stealing or begging in order to survive. He thought that the whole world is a rattrap. The world offers us various types of bait in the form of comforts of life and leads us to various types of miseries. One night, the peddler knocked on a cottage asking for shelter and an old crofter invited him into his home. The next morning, the peddler stole this crofter's money and ran away. He tried to hide in the forest, but he got lost. The exhausted peddler thought he was going to die. He found that there was a forge nearby and he went in for warmth. The ironmaster invited him home thinking him to be an old acquaintance but the peddler refused.

[*The Rattrap* – NCERT, p.32-37]

1. Watch the following TED Talk on Kindness by Cindy Grimes:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pg3P1U37Avs>

The speaker talks about an incident at a drive-through restaurant where one person paid for the one standing next in line. This inspired the second person to do the same. This went on for 45 minutes. Do you think this could happen and that kindness is contagious?

- a) Yes
- b) No

2. When was the last time someone did something nice for you? Did that inspire you to be nice to other people? Recollect your experience and jot down in your journal.

[Not for evaluation]

LISTEN TO THE AUDIO AND ANSWER THE QUESTION THAT FOLLOWS:

It was not more than ...will never get out of it.

[*The Rattrap* – NCERT, p.37-38]



Chapter 4- The Rattrap.mp3

Audio Book <https://ciet.nic.in/pages.php?id=flamingo&ln=en>

1. Complete the table below:

How the value of kindness, compassion and hospitality towards Peddler has been brought out through Crofter, Ironmaster and Edla? How peddler does interpret it?

Content	Crofter	Ironmaster	Edla Willmansson
Individual Reasons	Loneliness - without wife or child, needed company	-	-
Individual Intention	-	Companionship	Kindness
Consequences of their action	Lost thirty kronor	-	-

Peddler's Interpretation of their actions	-	Selfishness and apathy	Empathy and hospitality
---	---	------------------------	-------------------------

2. Pick out the instances from the story, instances of unexpected reactions from the characters to other's behaviour. One has been done as an example.

a) Crofter's behaviour towards Peddler. Peddler expected that he will not be welcomed but on the contrary he was entertained and shown hospitality.

b) _____

[Not for evaluation]

READING AND UNDERSTANDING THE TEXT

Text Book PDF <https://ncert.nic.in/textbook.php?lefl1=4-14>

Section 1

It was not more than ...never get out of it.

[*The Rattrap* – NCERT, p.37-38]

A while after the ironmaster left, his daughter Edla Willmansson came and offered the peddler a fur coat. Looking at the fear in his eyes, she suspected that he had either stolen something or had escaped from jail. She invited him to her house for the Christmas Eve dinner while assuring him that he can leave anytime he wants to. She was very friendly and the peddler agreed to go with her. On the way to the manor house, the peddler had a bad feeling about how things were going to turn out. He regretted stealing the money and felt that he would never get out of the rattrap.

1. Which of the following words describe Edla Willmansson?

- a) Modest
- b) Shy
- c) Beautiful
- d) a) and b)

2. What does the phrase 'sleeping with one eye open' mean?

- a) A sleep disorder
 - b) Being a light sleeper
 - c) Unable to close both eyes at the same time
 - d) None of the above
3. Despite her suspicions, why did Edla invite the peddler home?
- a) She felt bad for him and wanted him to feel safe
 - b) She liked to help people escape from jail
 - c) She planned to call the police once they reached home
 - d) All of the above
4. What does the phrase 'evil forebodings' mean?
- a) A tingling feeling in his stomach
 - b) A suspicion that Edla was in fact evil
 - c) A feeling that something bad was about to happen
 - d) Feeling of nausea

Section 2

The next day...he thundered.

[*The Rattrap* – NCERT, p.38-39]

The next morning was Christmas Eve. The ironmaster felt bad that his friend had become so skinny and said that they should first get some flesh in him. Edla thought that it was weird and strange to believe him to be an old Captain as the stranger was in such a bad state. Her father assured her that once he gets cleaned up, he would look like his old self. After the peddler got a haircut, shaved his beard and wore some clean clothes, the ironmaster realized that he wasn't his old friend.

1. What does the phrase 'get some flesh on his bones' mean?
- a) Fatten him up
 - b) Get him new clothes
 - c) Both a) and b)
 - d) Neither a) nor b)
2. Pick out the word(s) which has the same meaning as 'dissimulate'

- a) Pretend
 - b) Masquerade
 - c) Feign
 - d) All of the above
3. Edla's statement, '...I did not think... once been an educated man.' Is a hint to his father that peddler is
- a) An escaped convict
 - b) Not Captain von Stahle
 - c) A thief
 - d) None of the above
4. Ironmaster realised his mistake in recognizing his old regimental comrade when he saw the peddler
- a) In broad daylight
 - b) Truly cleaned and well dressed
 - c) Both a) and b)
 - d) Uncertain reflection from the furnace

Section 3

The stranger made...as fast as you can.

[*The Rattrap* – NCERT, p.39-40]

The ironmaster was furious that he got tricked and demanded an explanation. The peddler said that he never claimed to be anyone and that he even refused to come to the manor house. The ironmaster wasn't satisfied with the explanation and hinted that he might inform the local sheriff. At this, the peddler got angry, started explaining his rattrap metaphor to the ironmaster and said that one day he would fall into the trap as well. The ironmaster laughed, decided that he wouldn't trouble the sheriff and asked the peddler to get out of his house.

1. The splendour peddler enjoyed came to an end when
- a) he was well groomed
 - b) he was recognized by the Ironmaster
 - c) his disguise was exposed

- d) none of the above
2. When Ironmaster realised his mistake and thundered against him, Peddler defended that
 - a) he did not pretend to be his friend
 - b) he pleaded to be allowed to stay at forge
 - c) he can put on his rags and walk away
 - d) all of the above
 3. Peddler angrily utters his rattrap metaphor and Ironmaster laughs which indicates that he
 - a) enjoyed the metaphor
 - b) appreciated the creativity
 - c) acknowledged his comparison
 - d) admired the humour
 4. Select the suitable option which do not describes Ironmaster best
 - a) Man of principles and hardworking
 - b) Humane, sympathetic and friendly in nature
 - c) Neither a) nor b)
 - d) Judgmental and short-tempered

Section 4

But just as the man...boundless amazement.

[*The Rattrap* – NCERT, p.40-41]

Edla interrupted her father and said that she wanted the peddler to stay. She said that she felt bad for the tramp who was always on the run. She wanted the peddler to have a safe home-like environment at least on Christmas Eve. The ironmaster reluctantly agreed. The peddler slept through the whole day and woke up only for meals. During dinner, Edla told him that he's free to keep his clean clothes and that if he wanted a safe place to rest next Christmas Eve, he was welcome here. The peddler was stumped by the young girl's kindness.

1. Edla's spontaneous reaction of closing the door and not letting the peddler to go away reflects her _____ towards peddler.
 - a) sympathy
 - b) concern

- c) empathy
 - d) pity
2. Does Edla's act of pleading to her father for tramp is in agreement with her character?
- a) Yes
 - b) No
 - c) May be
 - d) May be not
3. What was in peddler's mind when he was looking at Edla *time after time* and debating in his mind?
- a) Uncertainty and mistrust
 - b) Speculation and trust
 - c) Doubt and hesitation
 - d) Suspicion and belief
4. Peddler spent Christmas Eve with
- a) Fun and frolic
 - b) Joy and cheer
 - c) Savouring the delicacies
 - d) Sleeping except for food

Section 5

The next morning... "Captain von Stahle".

[*The Rattrap* – NCERT, p.41-42]

The next day the ironmaster and his daughter get up early to attend the Christmas service. The peddler was sleeping when they left and they did not disturb him. At church they learned that one of the old crofters had been robbed by a man selling rattraps. They realized that it was the same stranger they had let inside their house. They reached home to learn that the peddler had already left. He did not steal anything from the house on the contrary he had left a Christmas present for Edla. It was a rattrap with the thirty kronor inside. It had a note thanking her for her kindness and rescuing him from falling in to the world's rattrap. He asked to return the money to the crofter because he did not want her to be embarrassed about a thief on Christmas.

1. Miss Willmansson hung her head dejectedly while returning back from church because
 - a) Church service got over soon
 - b) she did not want to go home
 - c) she learned the man she had sheltered in her house is a thief
 - d) she wanted to spend more time with her friends
2. Hardly wagon stopped, Ironmaster hurriedly asked the valet about the stranger. Why?
 - a) He wanted to serve the stranger breakfast
 - b) He was worried if the stranger had robbed anything from the house
 - c) He wanted to spend time with the stranger
 - d) He enjoyed the stranger's company
3. Edla's expression of joy seeing the gift from the peddler indicates that
 - a) she was eagerly waiting for the gift in return from the peddler for her service
 - b) she was overjoyed by the unexpected behaviour of the peddler
 - c) she was happy to receive a rattrap as she wanted to buy one for her
 - d) she was thrilled by the beauty of the rattrap
4. Peddler signing as *Captain von Stahle* reveals that he
 - a) has become a changed man due to the impact of Edla's treatment
 - b) assumes himself to be the Captain
 - c) wants to be the Captain for Edla
 - d) has changed his old ways of thievery

LET US SUM UP

The ironmaster sent his daughter, Edla Willmansson to invite peddler home when he could not persuade him. Looking at the fear in his eyes, she suspected that he had either stolen something or had escaped from jail. She invited him in a friendly way for the Christmas Eve dinner while assuring him that he can leave anytime he wants to. He agreed to go with her.

The ironmaster felt bad for his friend and told his daughter first to get flesh on his body. Edla doubted him to be a Captain because of his behaviour. To his dismay, ironmaster realised that he was not his old friend Nils Olof, when Peddler came out of his room wearing clean clothes and clean shaven. The ironmaster was furious and asked him to get out of his house. The peddler

angrily said that it was not his fault. He only pleaded to stay in the forge. Then he told his metaphor of world as a rattrap which made the ironmaster laugh.

Edla pleaded for his stay to have a safe home-like environment at least on Christmas Eve and the ironmaster agreed. Peddler slept and slept throughout except for the food. The next day the ironmaster and his daughter went to Church they came to know about the theft of thirty kronor and a rattrap seller is a suspect. They reached home to find that the peddler had already left without taking anything but leaving a present for Edla with a note and thirty kronor to return to the crofter. He had signed as a Captain von Stahle to assure her that he is now a changed man because of her kindness.

ANSWERS

Listening Activity

1. Complete the table below:

Content	Crofter	Ironmaster	Edla Willmansson
Individual Reasons	Loneliness - without wife or child, needed company	Regimental acquaintance - wanted to help, need to bond with others	Hungry, poor Man – wanted to give comfort, sheer compassion
Individual Intention	Overcome loneliness	Companionship	Kindness
Consequences of their action	Lost thirty kronor	Wrong identity, lost temper	Concern, serve the vagabond
Peddler's Interpretation of their actions	Selfishness	Selfishness and apathy	Empathy and hospitality

2. b) Edla Willmansson's behaviour towards peddler. Even when she comes to know that he is a tramp, she goes against her father's wish and entertains him.

Question No.	Section - 1	Section - 2	Section - 3	Section - 4	Section - 5
1	d	a	b	c	C
2	b	d	d	a	B
3	a	b	c	b	B
4	c	c	d	d	a

REFERENCES

- Flamingo, NCERT <https://ncert.nic.in/textbook.php?lefl1=4-14>
- CIET audio book <https://ciet.nic.in/pages.php?id=flamingo&ln=en>
- TED TALK on Kindness by Cindy Grimes
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pg3P1U37Avs>

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

1. Do you know someone like Edla in real life? Draw a pen portrait of that person.
2. Write a diary entry as the rattrap peddler on Christmas a year after he left the manor house, describing everything you've done since then.
3. The ironmaster had sympathy for the peddler but Edla displayed empathy as well. Compare and contrast their behavior highlighting the difference between sympathy and empathy.
4. Do you believe people are capable of change? Second chances?
5. What kind of employment opportunities can be provided to the felons?