

Class - VIII

Ms Jaswinder

Subject - English Literature

Chapter - 20 The Hapless Ticket Collector

Students, today we are going to read the story 'The Hapless Ticket Collector' written by Anton Chekhov. This story is about a drunken ticket checker.

Summary of the story -

The story begins when a drunken ticket checker named Podtyagin convinced himself to do his duty honestly. It was around one o'clock at night Podtyagin who was drunken and he wakes the ticket collectors and with them he goes up and down to inspect the tickets. He went inside the compartment and asked for the tickets. People were sleeping still they shake their heads and showed their tickets. The Podtyagin went to a second-class passenger, who was a lean, scraggy-looking man wrapped up in a fur coat. When Podtyagin asked him for his ticket he did not reply first. He was in deep asleep. Then the ticket collector touches his shoulder and asked him for his ticket. The passenger starts opening his eyes and he was in great anger. But Podtyagin was also

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becoming louder for his ticket. The passenger started yelling at Potdyagin for disturbing his sleep. He told him that he was suffering with rheumatism and he did not sleep at night for last three nights. He told that he had to take medicine to sleep. He said that he had taken a dose of morphia to sleep. Potdyagin said that it was his duty to check the ticket. Then the passenger got outraged. He said to him "You are so cruel, you don't have human qualities."

Potdyagin told him to be calm as they were not in a tavern. The passenger said that the tavern is more ~~peas~~ peaceful than this place, because people are more humane there. Even other passengers were getting disturbed. Some of the other passengers started supporting the old man. Now the ticket collector was little scared because some other passengers were threatening him that they will complaint against him to the station master, otherwise he has to say sorry to the old man.

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Podtyagin felt sorry. Now he was in shock and he thoughtless that it was useless to do your duty honestly because people are never satisfied with you.

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