

Handout - II

Honeycomb: Textbook in English for class VII

Fiction 6: Expert Detectives –Part II

Introduction: The fiction “Expert Detectives” – Part II by Sharda Dwivedi continues with a debate between brilliant siblings Maya and Nishad about Mr.Nath’s true identity. Nishad and Maya could not go along. Their struggle to convince each other’s views are really praiseworthy. Finally Maya’s theories had no effect on Nishad.

Characters: Part II

1. **Maya** – Maya is a girls of 10 years old who seems dominant in asserting her views about Mr Nath.She is keen observer. She went on guessing Mr Nath has had an accomplice. Her irritation towards Nishad and her deep rooted idea about Mr Nath as criminal is in vain.
2. **Nishad** – Nishad pays least attention to Maya’s list of facts about Mr Nath. He strongly protested her and walked on his path of making friendship with Mr Nath.

Summary cum analysis:

- The second part of the story opens with the study room scene in which Nishad was reading a comics. And Maya wanted him to listen her list of collected information about Mr. Nath. She has written in block letters – **CATCHING A CROOK, Expert detectives: Nishad and Maya Pandit.** Here Maya’s calling themselves as Expert detectives is a matter of pride for her. **(PPT Slide 3: Maya’s Systematic Plan)**

- She read out the points, total 09 in number. These were the facts for Maya. Again Maya and Nishad continued with their verbal debate. Maya was speaking for the motion and Nishad was speaking against the motion of the topic: whether Mr. Nath was a crook or not. This time Maya's intensity was deeper.

Some important points in her list are:

- Mr. Nath might not be his real name. He should have **alias**. Therefore she put question mark in front of his name.
- Mr. Nath doesn't talk to anyone.
- Mr. Nath doesn't receive any letter. **(PPT Slide 6:**

Bullet points about Mr. Nath from Maya's List (?)

- As the story progresses, Nishad tried to counter Maya but he was silenced by Maya who just wanted to prove Mr. Nath was a criminal. Maya went to the extent to guess that the Sunday visitor, a tall, fat and spectacled man might be Mr. Nath's accomplice in crime. (**PPT Slide 7 : Accomplice And Slide 8: Partner, Helper , Companion**) Maya's wild speculation says there are chances that the man (Sunday Visitor) keeps all the loot and pays visit to give a part of loot to Mr. Nath for his expenses. That was indeed the height of Maya's speculations!
- Nishad didn't like this attitude of Maya. He didn't support Mya's views. Nishad finally told her he would not cooperate with her if she would continue with her own idea of calling Mr. Nath as an escaped crook.

- The **falling action** in the story started with their cursing of each other. The language and look they exchanged show they would end up talking to each other. Maya called him stupid oaf! And she asked him what is the idea of bothering about Mr. Nath if he is neither crook nor anybody. Nishad expressed his concern that he wanted to know why Mr. Nath is friendless and lives alone in room no 10 of Shankar House. Maya promptly replied that Nath could not make friends throughout a year's stay in Shanker house. It means he had fear of getting recognized. He was living incognito in Shanker house to save himself from the cops. Nishad replied that perhaps no one has tried to make friendship with him. He defeated Maya. It was Nishad's resolve to make friendship with Mr. Nath. **(PPT Slide 9: Nishad's Resolve)**
(He had already given a bar of chocolate to him in part -1)
- The story ended with Maya's failure, Maya's could not prove whether Mr. Nath was a crook on run or not. Ultimately Maya and Nishad had different views to look at Mr. Nath. Maya's theories about Mr. Nath had no effect on Nishad. Nishad took very firm stand to be friendly with Mr. Nath. He didn't care of Maya's warning to be sent to jail if he would be friends with Mr. Nath, a crook on run.

- On the surface the story 'Expert Detectives' seems inconclusive. But, we could visualize the siblings' mental images of Mr. Nath. Maya's Nath as a crook and Nishad's Nath as lonely figure. We say Maya and Nishad were unique in certain sense, they had their own perspectives.

(PPT Slide 10: Conclusion!)

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