

The Old Clock Shop

Class VI

English

Hand-out

Ray, an old clock-shop owner was busy working on a clock. He was deaf and dumb. Two men, one in his twenties and the other in his fifties, entered the shop. Ray gave them a pencil and a notepad. He told them in sign language that he was deaf and dumb. He understood that they were badly in need of money. He told them that he exchanged a good sum of money with people against their watches/wall clocks.

The older man showed his old watch and asked him how much he could get for it. Ray offered him a fifty-dollar note. Both Ray and the man knew that the watch was not worth such a high price. But this made the man happy. He got the money without hurting Ray. Ray also escaped without getting hurt.

Mr Ray helped the two strangers even though he knew nothing about them. His timely help would have definitely changed their night. He also pre-empted (prevented) a potentially dangerous development that could have taken place in the old clock-shop that night. So, in a way, Mr Ray's goodwill helped the two strangers get back on their feet and could very well have saved his life.

We also learn from this story that through a combination of keen observation, tact and goodwill, coupled with an understanding of human psychology, we can tide over a difficult situation.

WHEN THE CHIPS ARE DOWN, IT IS ONLY OUR INNATE GOODNESS WHICH CAN REALLY RESCUE US!!

As students of English language and literature, we are also left with the feeling that it may have been a transformative experience for at least one of the two strangers, who left with a shame-faced expression on their faces.
