

Class - XII Subject - English Assignment
Lesson: The Rattrap

1. From where did the peddler get the idea of the world being a rattrap?

Ans The peddler was a vagabond, who went around selling rattraps. One day, as he was thinking about his own rattraps, he was struck by the idea that the whole world was nothing but a big rattrap. It existed only to set baits for people. It offered riches and joys, shelter and food, heat and clothing exactly as the rattrap offered cheese and pork. As soon as someone let himself be tempted to touch the bait, it closed on him and then everything came to an end.

2. Why was the crofter so talkative and friendly with the peddler?

Ans The crofter was so talkative and friendly with the peddler because he was an old man without family. He lived there all alone and was happy to get someone to talk to in his loneliness.

3. Why was he amused by the idea of the rattrap?

Ans The peddler was amused by the idea of the rattrap because the world had been unkind to him. No one helped him; on the contrary, everyone ignored him. Hence, the peddler got joy in thinking ill of others. It became a cherished pastime of his, thinking of people caught in the trap.

4. Why did he show the thirty kroner to the peddler?

Ans The old man was generous with his confidences. He told the peddler that he was no longer able to work and it was his cow which supported him. Since the peddler seemed incredulous, the old man showed him the thirty kroner to prove his point.