

Lesson: The Rattrap

9. What did the peddler say in his defence when it was clear that he was not the person the ironmaster had thought he was?
Ans When the ironmaster realized his mistake, the stranger made no attempt to hide or pretend. He said that it was not his fault as he had never pretended to be anything but a poor trader. He had pleaded and begged to be allowed to stay in the forge and said that he had not done any harm and would put on his rags again and go away.

10. Why was Edla happy to see the gift left by the peddler?
Ans Edla was happy to see the gift left by the peddler — a small rattrap with three wrinkled ten kronor notes and a letter for her explaining his conduct and gratitude. The peddler did not want her to be embarrassed in the Christmas season because of a thief. He said that the rattrap was a Christmas gift from a rat who would have been caught in the world's rattrap, had he not received kindness and honour for her. Edla felt quite satisfied with this.

11. Why did the peddler sign himself as Captain Von Stahle?
Ans The peddler signed himself as Captain Von Stahle because Edla had treated him as if he were a captain. In this way, the peddler got a chance to raise himself and get above the petty temptations of the world. So, he signed himself as Captain Von Stahle.

H.W. (1) Did the peddler expect the kind of hospitality he received from the crofter?
 (2) Why was the crofter so talkative and friendly with the peddler?
 (3) Did the peddler respect the confidence reposed in him by the crofter?
 (4) What doubts did Edla have about the peddler?
 (5) When did the ironmaster realise his mistake?
 (6) Why did Edla still entertain the peddler even after she knew the truth about him?
 (7) Why didn't the stranger tell the ironmaster that he was not Nils Olof?