

CHAPTER - 9

"A Piece of String" by Guy de Maupassant

Key Notes

1. The Setting and Characters

The story is set in a village called Goderville on a busy market day.

ഈ കഥ നടക്കുന്നത് ഗോഡർവിൽ എന്ന ഗ്രാമത്തിലെ ഒരു ചന്ത ദിവസത്തിലാണ്.

2. Hauchecorne's Simple Action

Maitre Hauchecorne, an old man, sees a small piece of string on the ground and picks it up to save it.

മൈത്രെ ഹൗഷകോൺ എന്ന വൃദ്ധൻ വഴിയിൽ കിടന്ന ഒരു ചെറിയ ചരട് കണ്ണും ലാഭിക്കാൻ വേണ്ടി അത്ഭുതപ്പെടുന്നു.

3. The Witness of an Enemy

His enemy, Maitre Malandain, sees him picking up the string and feels suspicious.

അയാളുടെ ശത്രുവായ മലാണ്ടെയ്ൻ അയാൾ ചരട് എടുക്കുന്നത് കാണുകയും അതിൽ സംശയം തോന്നുകയും ചെയ്യുന്നു.

The False Accusation

Later, it is announced that a pocketbook (wallet) is lost, and Malandain falsely tells the police that Hauchecorne stole it.

പിന്നീട് ഒരു പങ്ക് കാണാതായതായി വാർത്ത വരുന്നു. ഹൗഷകോൺ ആണ് അത് എടുത്തതെന്ന് മലാണ്ടെയ്ൻ പോലീസിനോട് കള്ളം പറയുന്നു.

Proving Innocence

Hauchecorne is taken to the Mayor, where he shows the string to prove his innocence, but no one believes him.

ഹൗഷകോണിനെ മേയറുടെ അടുത്തേക്ക് കൊണ്ടുപോകുന്നു. താൻ എടുത്തത് ചരടാണെന്ന് അയാൾ കാണിച്ചു കൊടുത്തെങ്കിലും ആരും വിശ്വസിക്കുന്നില്ല.

The Pocketbook is Found

The next day, another person finds the pocketbook and returns it, proving that Hauchecorne did not steal it.

അടുത്ത ദിവസം മറ്റൊരാൾക്ക് ആ പങ്ക് ലഭിക്കുകയും അത് തിരികെ നൽകുകയും ചെയ്യുന്നു. ഇതോടെ ഹൗഷകോൺ അത് മോഷ്ടിച്ചതല്ലെന്ന് തെളിയുന്നു.

Society's Cruel Attitude

Even after the pocketbook is found, the villagers continue to mock him and call him a "liar."

പങ്ക് തിരികെ കിട്ടിയിട്ടും നാട്ടുകാർ അയാളെ വിശ്വസിക്കാതെ പരിഹസിക്കുകയും "കള്ളം പറയുന്നവൻ" എന്ന് വിളിക്കുകയും ചെയ്യുന്നു.

The Tragic End

Hauchecorne becomes very sad and obsessed with his innocence, and he eventually dies out of mental stress.

തന്റെ നിരപരാധിത്വം തെളിയിക്കാൻ ശ്രമിച്ചു മടുത്ത ഹൗഷകോൺ ഒടുവിൽ മാനസിക വിഷമം കാരണം മരണപ്പെടുന്നു.

Peasant — കർഷകൻ

String — ചരട്

Market — ചന്ത

Economical — ലാഭേച്ഛയുള്ള

Mud — ചെളി

Enemy — ശത്രു

Pocketbook — പ്ലേറ്റ്

Lost — കാണാതായി

Found — ലഭിച്ചു

Mayor — മേയർ

Accuse — കുറ്റപ്പെടുത്തുക

Theft — മോഷണം

Innocent — നിരപരാധി

Truth — സത്യം

Lie — കള്ളം

Witness — സാക്ഷി

Mock — പരിഹസിക്കുക

Grief — ദുഃഖം

Obsessed — ഭ്രമം പിടിച്ച

Reputation — സൽപ്പേര്

Stress — മാനസിക സമ്മർദ്ദം

Weak — ദുർബലൻ

Delirium — മാനസിക വിഭ്രാന്തി

Death — മരണം

Tragedy — ദുരന്തം

Prejudice — മുൻവിധി

Harness-maker — കുതിരക്കോപ്പുകൾ ഉണ്ടാക്കുന്നയാൾ

Announcement — അറിയിപ്പ്

Accomplice — കൂട്ടുപ്രതി

Indignation — അമർഷം

Public Square — പൊതുസ്ഥലം

Crafty — കൗശലക്കാരനായ

Search — പരിശോധിക്കുക

Poverty — ദാരിദ്ര്യം

Honest — സത്യസന്ധനായ

Rumor — കിംവദന്തി

Village — ഗ്രാമം

Injustice — അനീതി

Obsession — ഭ്രമം

Silence — നിശബ്ദത

Piece of string: ചരട് കഷണം.

Suspicious: സംശയാസ്പദമായ

Pocketbook: പണമടങ്ങിയ പാക്കറ്റ്.

Innocence: നിരപരാധിത്വം.

Obsessed: ഒന്നിനെക്കുറിച്ച് മാത്രം ചിന്തിക്കുക.

Reputation: സൽപ്പേര് .

Peasant : A small farmer or country person. ഒരു സാധാരണ കർഷകൻ അല്ലെങ്കിൽ ഗ്രാമീണൻ.

Public Square : An open area in a town where people gather. പൊതുസ്ഥലം അല്ലെങ്കിൽ ചന്തയിലെ മൈതാനം.

Indignation : Anger caused by something unfair. അനീതിക്കെതിരെയുള്ള അമർഷം അല്ലെങ്കിൽ കൗതുകം.

Exasperated : Extremely irritated or annoyed. വളരെയധികം ദേഷ്യം വന്ന അല്ലെങ്കിൽ വെറുത്ത അവസ്ഥ.

Mockery : Teasing or making fun of someone. പരിഹാസം.

Conscience : The inner sense of what is right or wrong. മനഃസാക്ഷി.

Crafty : Clever at getting what one wants by cheating. കൗശലക്കാരനായ അല്ലെങ്കിൽ ബുദ്ധിമാൻ.

Garrulous :Talking too much about unimportant things. വാചാലമായ അല്ലെങ്കിൽ ഒരുപാട് സംസാരിക്കുന്ന.

Malice :The wish to harm someone. വിദ്വേഷം അല്ലെങ്കിൽ പക.

Delirium : A disturbed state of mind due to illness. മാനസിക വിഭ്രാന്തി അല്ലെങ്കിൽ ബോധമില്ലാത്ത അവസ്ഥ.

Avarice : Extreme greed for wealth or material gain. അമിതമായ അത്യാഗ്രഹം.

Curmudgeon : A bad-tempered or surly person (often old). മുരടനായ അല്ലെങ്കിൽ മുൻശുണ്ണിയുള്ള ആൾ.

Scrupulous : Very careful to do things correctly or honestly. വളരെ സൂക്ഷ്മതയുള്ള അല്ലെങ്കിൽ സത്യസന്ധനായ.

Quiver : To shake or tremble with emotion. വിറയ്ക്കുക

1. Question: Prepare a **character sketch of Maitre Hauchecorne.**

character sketch of Maitre Hauchecorne

Maitre Hauchecorne is the main character in the story "**A Piece of String**" by Guy de Maupassant. He is an old and poor farmer. He has a habit of saving small things because he is very **economical**. One day, he picks up a small piece of string from the road. This simple act changes his life and leads to his tragedy.

Hauchecorne is a man of **truth**. He is very honest and proud of his good name. When his enemy, Malandain, calls him a thief, he feels very sad. He tries his best to show everyone the string in his pocket. He wants to prove that he is not a liar. He believes that "truth" is more important than money.

In the end, he becomes a very sad man. The people in the village laugh at him and do not believe his words. This mental pain makes him weak and sick. He dies at the end of the story, still talking about the string. His life shows us that a small lie and the cruelty of society can destroy an innocent man.

2. Question: Imagine you are Hauchecorne. After being called a "liar" by the villagers, you write your diary. Prepare the **diary entry**.

17 March 2026
Tuesday

Today was a very bad day for me. I feel so ashamed and sad. I only picked up a small piece of string from the mud. But my enemy, Malandain, told everyone that I stole a lost pocketbook. I went to the Mayor and showed him the string, but he did not believe me. Even after the pocketbook was found by another person, the people still call me a "liar." They laugh at me when I walk through the market. They think I am a crafty old man. It is very hard to live when no one believes the truth. My heart is breaking because my honor is lost. I am an innocent man, but the world is very cruel. I hope God will help me.

3. Question: **Narrate the important events that happened in the story "A Piece of String."**

The story happens on a busy market day in Goderville. An old man named Hauchecorne sees a piece of string on the road and picks it up. His enemy, Malandain, sees this and thinks he is picking up a lost pocketbook. Later, a public announcement is made about a lost wallet with money. Malandain tells the Mayor that Hauchecorne is the thief.

Hauchecorne is called to the Mayor's office. He tells the truth and shows the string, but no one believes him. The next day, a farmhand finds the pocketbook and returns it to the owner. Hauchecorne is very happy because he thinks everyone will now believe him. But the villagers still mock him and call him a "liar."

This situation makes Hauchecorne very sick. He tells his story to everyone he meets, but they only laugh. He becomes obsessed with his innocence. Because of this mental stress, his health becomes poor. At the end of the story, he dies in deep sadness. His last words were about the "piece of string."

4. Question: Prepare a **news report** about the discovery of the lost pocketbook.

LOST POCKETBOOK FOUND: HAUCHECORNE IS INNOCENT

By Staff Reporter

Goderville, March 18: The lost pocketbook of Maitre Houlbrequé has been found. It was found on the road by a farmhand named Marius. The wallet contained 500 francs and some papers. Marius gave the wallet to his master, and it was returned to the owner.

This discovery proves that Maitre Hauchecorne is completely innocent. Earlier, he was accused of stealing the wallet by his enemy, Malandain. Based on this lie, the poor old man was insulted by everyone.

Even though the wallet is found, many people are still laughing at Hauchecorne. They do not believe his story about the "piece of string." This news reminds us that we should not judge people without proof. It is a sad example of how a lie can hurt an honest man.

5. Question: Prepare a **write-up** on the theme and message of the story "A Piece of String."

THE TRAGEDY OF AN INNOCENT MAN

"**A Piece of String**" is a touching story about an old farmer named Hauchecorne written by Guy de Maupassant. The main theme is the **cruelty of society** and the danger of **false accusations**. The story shows how a small incident—picking up a piece of string—leads to the death of an innocent man. It shows that truth is sometimes harder to believe than a lie.

Hauchecorne is an honest man, but society refuses to believe him. When he is accused of theft, he tries to prove his innocence. But the villagers only mock him. This constant teasing and lack of trust break his heart. In the end, his mental stress leads to his death.

The message of the story is very clear. It teaches us that **gossip and rumors** can kill a person. We should be kind to others and avoid judging them without proof. Once a person's reputation is lost, it is very difficult to get it back. The story is a call for more kindness and justice in our world.

6. Based on the story "**A Piece of String**," prepare a **speech** to be delivered in the school assembly about the "**Importance of Truth and the Dangers of Rumors**."

"Importance of Truth and the Dangers of Rumors."

Good morning teachers and my dear friends,

Today, I want to talk about the story "**A Piece of String**." This story is a big lesson for all of us. It tells us how a small lie and a wrong rumor can destroy a person's life. In the story, an innocent man named Maitre Hauchecorne died because the villagers refused to believe his truth. They preferred to believe a juicy lie over the simple reality.

We live in a world where rumors spread very fast. Like the villagers in the story, we often judge people without proof. We must remember that a person's **reputation** is very important. Once we call someone a "thief" or a "liar" without a reason, we hurt them deeply. Hauchecorne lost his mental peace and his health because of the **mockery** of the society.

In conclusion, let us learn to be kind and fair. We should never spread rumors about others. Always remember that **truth** is sometimes hard to believe, but it is always right. Let us respect everyone and wait for the facts before judging. As students, let us promise to stand for the truth and protect the honor of our fellow human beings.

Thank you.

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