

CLASS VIII

The Best Christmas Present in the World Summary of the Lesson (part 1)

The narrator went to a junk shop in Bridport looking for a roll-top desk. The junk-seller informed him that the desk he picked up was made of oak. The narrator found it cheaper than the others he had seen.

Although the desk was, not in proper shape yet he bought it and started working on it. He took out the damaged cover. He observed that water and fire took a toll. He opened the drawers easily but for the last one, he had to apply force.

He took out a tin box with a note on it with instructions to bury the letter with her. Out of curiosity, he read the letters that mention the address of the lady Macpherson. It was written in pencil. He read the letter.

Word Meanings

1. Spotted it – saw it; found it (informal)

2. Scorch marks- burn marks
3. Was going for- was selling for (informal)
4. Restore-(here) repair
5. Veneer – a thin layer of plastic or decorative wood on furniture of cheap wood
6. Taken their toll on – damaged
7. Stuck fast – shut tight
8. Scruples- feelings that make you hesitate to do something wrong
9. Brute – barbarian / brutal
10. Clumsy- shapeless