

Class VIII

The Best Christmas Present in the World (part1)

1. What did the author find in a junk shop?

Ans. The author found a nineteenth century roll-top desk in the junk shop. It was made of oak. It was in a very bad condition. The roll-top was broken into several pieces. One of the legs was clumsily mended and there were scorch marks down one side. The author bought it in order to restore it.

2. What did he find in a secret drawer? Who do you think had put it in there?

Ans. The author found a small black tin box in the secret drawer. There was a paper sello-taped to its top. It said, 'Jim's last letter, received January 25, 1915. To be buried with me when the time comes.'

Most likely, it was put there by Mrs. Jim Macpherson, who was Jim's wife. Her name and address were on the envelope inside the box.

3. Why did the author think buying the roll-top was a risk?

Ans: - The author bought the roll-top desk from a junk shop. And when the author bought the roll top desk, it was in a bad condition with water and fire damage. The author considered buying it a risk because if he could not restore the roll-top desk properly, it would be a loss for him.

4. How did the author open the last drawer?

Ans: - While opening the drawers, the author found the last drawer stuck fast. He put all his efforts to ease it out gently. But all his efforts were futile. At last the author used brute force to open the drawer. He struck the last drawer sharply with the side of his fist and the drawer flew open.

6. Explain critically – “Curiosity got better of my scruples.”

Ans: - This line reflects how curiosity of us defeats our scruples i.e. the morality which makes us reluctant to do something that may be wrong. Here the poet talks about the box which aroused his curiosity to open it. .Though his morality made him

feel that opening the box of someone is incorrect, he could not contain himself and opened the box.

7. What was inside the box?

Ans: - Opening the box, the author found an envelope. On the envelope there was an address: "Mrs. Jim Macpherson, 12, Copper Beeches, Birdport, Dorset. ". And on the top written with pencil, the date reflected "December 26, 1914."