

St. Andrews Scots Sr. Sec. School

9th Avenue, I.P. Extension, Patparganj, Delhi – 110092

Session: 2026-2027 Notes

Class: X

Subject: English

Topic: Two Gentlemen of Verona

Answer the following questions briefly :

Q1. The narrator asks the boys, "Must you work so hard? You both look rather tired." The boys replied, "We are not complaining, sir." What do you learn about the boys from their reply?

Ans. The reply of the boys shows that they were working hard out of their own will. Nothing was forced upon them. The boys were brave, courageous and had a strong will power to face the challenges which life threw upon them. They did not feel sad and dejected, which indicates that they faced challenges in life with confidence.

Q2. The story is full of surprises. Briefly mention any two such instances.

Ans. Firstly, the narrator was surprised to see the boys who sold strawberries the previous day bending over shoeshine boxes beside the fountain in the public square, doing brisk business. Secondly, he was surprised to see the two boys seated at the bedside of a girl of twenty who resembled the little boys. He was taken aback on hearing about the life of these children from the nurse attending on the girl at the hospital.

Q3. What led the boys to dislike the Germans?

Ans. The boys disliked the Germans, because their beloved father was killed during the war, leaving them all alone in the world. Besides, a bomb had destroyed their home depriving them of a comfortable and cultured life. The 3 siblings were thrown out onto the streets to face the misfortunes of life. Their hatred was further aggravated, when the war took its toll on their sister's health. Though they were steadfast in their determination to tide over, the hatred towards the Germans was to stay.

Q4. Do you think the boys looked after Lucia willingly? Why/Why not?

Answer. The boys looked after Lucia willingly. They worked at various jobs and performed errands for people cheerfully. They spent frugally on themselves. They neither looked to others for help nor for sympathy as they earned to pay for Lucia's treatment. They did not correct the narrator even when he judged their motives for working so hard wrongly as they did not want him to pity them or their sister.

Q5. Although Nicola and Jacopo are young boys, the author refers to them as gentlemen Why did he do so?

Answer. The boys' home had been destroyed, and their father had been slain in the conflict. They had been taken to the streets as a result of the fighting. Their sister was suffering from spinal tuberculosis. They put in a lot of effort to pay for her therapy. Their spirits were not broken. They remained committed and selfless throughout. They'd rather work hard and earn money than have someone feel sorry for them and offer assistance.



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Answer the following questions in detail:

Q1. Appearances are deceptive. Discuss with reference to the two boys.

Answer. Appearances are deceptive because a person may not be as good or as bad as he appears to be. This has been very well portrayed by A.J. Cronin in the lesson, 'Two Gentlemen of Verona'. The protagonists, Nicola and Jacopo, are presented as two urchins with a shabby and unkempt physical appearance. However, the writer who is discouraged from interacting or purchasing strawberries from them by his driver, is impressed with the boys and their demeanour when he interacts with them. Cronin felt that the boys had a certain maturity and culture that was extraordinary, and eventually learns that his conclusions were not baseless. It was true in their case that their appearances were indeed deceptive.

Q2. The story of the two boys, as revealed by the nurse, deeply impacts the narrator. He decides to write a diary entry, recording how he feels inspired by the grit, determination and selfless actions of the two gentlemen of Verona. As the narrator writes the entry.

Answer.

9 March, 2025

Saturday

10:00 p.m.

Dear Diary

I had gone to Poleta along with the two boys I had met at Verona. They got dropped off at a Villa, which was a hospital, and told me to go to the cafe in the village for a drink, saying that they will not take a long time inside. I followed them, and spoke to a nurse. I was now a man inspired. They were only 13 and 12 years, yet they looked and behaved wonderfully. They were childish and innocent, yet they were wise, responsible and mature. The responsibility they were holding was far beyond their ages. The boys helped me in several ways. There is no doubt that the boys loved their sister. She was the only family member left after the war was over. When they realised that their sister had tuberculosis of the spine, they got her admitted to a hospital. The boys wanted their sister to be all right. Day and night, they slogged and starved only to provide for the medical expenses of their sister. This couldn't have been done without their will power, grit, determination and selfless love. Their devotion and hard work would make everything possible. I feel now, that there is still hope for our society.

Good night!

A.J. Cronin



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