

The Boy who Broke the Bank.

Answer these questions:

1) Why was Nathan, the sweeper annoyed?

A) Nathan, the sweeper boy was annoyed because he had not received his regular pay for 2 months. Govind Ram owned a small local bank and Nathan could not understand how he could hold up a poor man's salary.

2) How did news about the bank change from Mrs Prakash telling to Mrs Bhushan?

A) Mrs Prakash told Mrs Bhushan that Seth Govind Ram's bank was being not able to pay his employees for 2 months. Mrs Bhushan understood that is the bank was selling to pay sweeper that it must have gone bankrupt. She then told her husband and others that the bank had not paid his employees for 3 months.

3) How did the barber and his customer react to the news about the bank? What words in para 17 tell you that the customer was more worried about his money than his injury?

The barber, Faiz Hussain was so shocked to hear the news of the bank going bankrupt that his hands shook and he poked his customer's right ear. The customer, an elderly gentleman, screamed with pain and distress. He was pained because of the cut and distressed because of the news he had just heard.

"With one side of neck unshaved he ran out of the shop to a general store where there was a telephone". This line shows that the customer was more worried about his money than injury.

4) Seth Govind Ram was known in town as a man of wealth whose haphazard business dealings has often brought him to the verge of ruin. Answer these questions about him.

a) What made the townspeople think that the Seth had run away because of the bank's collapse?

A) The elderly customer of Faiz Hussain went to a general store which had a telephone and dialed Govind Ram's number. He was informed that Seth was not at home. He was holidaying in Kashmir. The elderly gentleman speculated that Govind Ram had left town when everyone got to know about this information they were convinced that Seth had run away.

b) What were the absurd rumours that were spreading about Seth Govind?

A) Among the absent remarks that was spreading about Govind Ram. One was that he had fled the state. Others insisted that he had fled the country. Some believed that he was hiding somewhere close by possible within the town.

c) Do you think the Seth's reputation made the rumours easier to believe? Why?

A) Yes, I think Seth's reputation made the rumours easier to believe. This is because the Seth was known for his pleasure-loving attitude and careless business dealings. His frivolous ways made it difficult for the simple townfolk to trust him entirely. Hence, a lot of them withdrew their money from the bank, way ahead of

Speculated crash:

5) "Everyone seems to have gone mad"

a) Who said these words and why?

A) A clerk at the bank said these words over the telephone to a relative. The relative had called him to get facts about the bank's collapse.

The clerk said these words because he did not know anything about the alleged bankruptcy. He could not even understand why half the town was at the bank, trying to take their money out.

b) According to you, what incident reflected the madness of the town at its peak?

A) The incident of the entire town gathering at the bank and demanding their money treating to break in reflects the "madness of the town at its peak". Mischief-makers who had no investment in the bank, had also joined the crowd.

c) Read paras 29 and 30 again and answer these questions.

a) Do you think the town residents show any concern for workers like Nathan the Sweeper-boy? How do you say so?

A) NO, I don't think the town people have any concern of Nathan the Sweeper Boy.

I think so because while the entire town protected against the bank from going bankrupt, everyone forget about Nathan whose delayed pay had led to the speculation in the first place. The clerk also admitted that they have had third

salaries. This is a few of the part time workers.

Nathan who were

b) Who do you think
Businessman (M)

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Seth Gro
Shut down.

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A) In my
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Nathu who were getting payed late

Who do you think will be more affected by the collapse of the bank?
Businessman like Seth Govind Ram or workers like Nathu?

I think part time workers like Nathu will get more affected by the collapse of the bank.

Seth Govind Ram is a rich business man. collapse of the Bank shut down, workers like Nathu will never get their dues or salary.

In your opinion, who was truly responsible for 'breaking' the bank?
Was it Nathu, Sitanam, the bank clerks, Seth Govind Ram or the town? Give reasons for your answer.

In my opinion, it was Nathu who was responsible for 'breaking' the bank. Nathu had complained to Sitanam, the washerman's son, about his irregular payment. Sitanam mention this to Mrs Prakash and Mrs Prakash informed her friend Mrs Bhushan. Mrs Bhushan concluded from that information that the bank had gone insolvent. The rumours spread across the town like wild fire.