

# **SUPPLEMENTARY**

## **STD-VIII**

**SUBJECT : ENGLISH**  
**CHAPTER NUMBER: 3**  
**PERIOD NUMBER : 1**  
**CHAPTER NAME : A SLIGHT MISUNDERSTANDING**  
**BY J.B BOOTHROYD**

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**CHANGING YOUR TOMORROW**

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# EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES

## GENERAL OBJECTIVES

- Understanding the concept
- Being acquainted with prose and author's biography
- Understanding the idea
- Appreciate the language of the prose
- Developing LSRW Skills

## SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES/ EXTENDED OBJECTIVES

- Understanding the concept
- Being acquainted with prose and author's biography
- Understanding the idea
- Appreciate the language of the prose
- Developing LSRW Skills



# INTRODUCTION TO THE STORY-TELLER



Born: 4 March, 1910, England, UK Died: 27 February 1988. Nationality: British Genres: Humorous stories, Children's literature

**John Basil Boothroyd** (4 March 1910 – 27 February 1988) was an English humorous writer, best known for his long association with *Punch*. As a young man he worked for a bank, but began contributing articles to *Punch*, and became its assistant editor, a post in which he served for eighteen years. His career as a writer for *Punch* spanned the editorships of E. V. Knox to Alan Coren. Boothroyd's chief literary work outside the comic essay was an official biography of Prince Philip undertaken at the request of its subject. Boothroyd also wrote for television and radio, and was a frequent broadcaster.

Very awkward. For all I knew, the dog-and-handbag woman had already reported the car stolen—I mean, I could see myself being in the police station under quite different **circumstances** and between you and me, it took quite a bit of courage to turn round and go back, but it was the only thing to do.

So I went back and I drove very slowly up and down High Street, looking for my car, NPM 675. Nothing. Heaps of little black cars, but not mine. And it crossed my mind for a minute that perhaps I ought to go and report a stolen car. Then I thought, on the whole, perhaps not. Looks a bit **fishy**, driving up to the police station in a little black car and reporting a stolen one just like it—they would have me behind the bars. No, there was nothing for it but to drive out and try to find this farm place and **make a clean breast of it**. So that is what I did. It took a bit of finding too. It was at the end of a mud lane, just off a side road.

However, I made it and it turned out to be quite a pleasant little farmhouse, with a bit of courtyard in front and a few cows. And I got out of the car and so did the dog and I was just going to knock on the door when a man opened it and said, "Come on, darling, where have you been? I'm starving." And then, he saw me and said, "Oh, hello." And I said, "Hello, I've brought your dog, Arthur, back." And he said, "What do you mean, 'Arthur'?"  
That's Sheila. My name's Arthur."      **Is Sheila a better name for the dog?**

I said, "Oh, well. Anyway, I'm afraid your wife's driven off in my car." And he said, "But isn't this your car?" And I said, "Oh, no. Mine's NPM 675." And he said, "That's what this is."

**circumstances:** situations

**fishy:** (informal) seeming dishonest or false

**make a clean breast of it:** admit that you have done something wrong

And I went and looked at the number-plate and of course it was. You see, I had been right in the first place. I mean, no wonder I could not spot my car on High Street. Because I had been in it.

Say true or not true: Arthur's wife had got into the wrong car.

Well, I must say, the farmer took the whole thing rather well. He said, "Well, look, we'd better go in and have a cup of coffee and wait until the missus turns up."

We had two cups of coffee each and then the wife came in her little black car, saying that she had been robbed of the dog and the handbag. And her husband said, "No, you haven't, darling, you put them in Mr What's-it's car."

And she thought for a minute and then she said, "Oh, of course—it must have been when I just went back to have a word with Mabel in the fruit-shop. I remember now, thinking the car seemed to be in a different place."

So of course, we all had a good laugh and the whole thing ended on a very happy note.

There was just one slight problem so far as I was concerned, because it was twenty past two when I got home and my wife was—well, you know—a bit upset. And she was even more upset when she went down to get the fish and the groceries and the dry-cleaning out of the boot, because there was nothing in there but a rather small bale of hay. I had got the wrong car this time.

What word would you use to describe the ending?

JB Boothroyd

turns up: arrives

# THEME OF THE STORY

A Slight Misunderstanding is a light-hearted story by J B Boothroyd where he gives several instances of misunderstanding that occurs between the narrator, a farmer and his wife.

The story begins on a Saturday when the narrator just bought groceries and also there is a mention about a small black car he recently acquired but he mistakenly enters his car and finds a woman's handbag in the chair because she carelessly left it in his car.

He thinks he entered a wrong car because he attracts the attention of the farmer's dog and also the handbag he saw in the car. But eventually he sees the address of his house on the dog's collar.

He gets to the farmer's house and returns the bags and explains his confusion at first but realized he was in the right car when he checked the plate number. The farmer apologizes for his wife's carelessness and offers him a cup of coffee and they both have a good laugh about it.

Another similar case occurred after a social visit with his wife and when they go back to their car, they realized they have really gotten into the wrong car because of the different things in the car.

## Page-18 (The narrator's decision)

The narrator found himself in an awkward situation, couldn't decide whether to head home with the dog, or report at the police station or move headlong to the dog's owner. Finally, he decided. He was also nervous thinking that he was not in his car, rather in the dog's car and the woman must have reported the matter at the police station and he could find himself behind the bars in a short while. So, he came to the conclusion that he would search for his car and return the one he was driving to the woman. Heaps of black cars looked almost same and he could not spot his one without knowing that he was driving his car only and the presence of the dog and the woman's handbag made him think that he was driving the woman's car and his car was still at the parking lot. Thus, he drove headlong to the address written on the dog's collar with the desire to confess everything. He found the farmhouse pleasant and the owner of the dog welcomed him to the pleasant surrounding and they had some wonderful time among themselves.

# Page 19 (solution)

The owner of the dog reminded the narrator that the name written on the dog's collar was his name and the dog's name was Shiela. He also pointed out that the narrator was driving his car only without having seen its number plate. They had coffee together and a whole lot of conversation and joviality set in. The woman after some time drove in with perspiration confessing that she had been robbed of the dog and her handbag. Her husband clarified that she had put those in the narrator's car. The narrator was vehemently delayed because it was already twenty two when he got home and his wife was obviously upset. She had to arrange all the groceries and fish for lunch.

# VOCABULARY

- Circumstances-situations
- Fishy-seeming dishonest or false
- Make clean breast of-admit that you have done something wrong
- Turns up-arrives

## Home Assignment:

1. Word meaning, character sketch, 1 page handwriting

# Character sketch of the narrator---

The narrator or the story teller was caught in a soup when he found a dog and a woman's hand bag in his hatchback while returning from the market with the some groceries and had to reach home by 1.0' clock. He went into a tizzy to know that the dog's owner stayed seven miles in the opposite direction. He also could not report his car stolen as he was driving a same type of black car and feared the police might trap him. Of the contrary, all his apprehensions came to naught after he found the farm owner very jocular and served him two cups of coffee. The narrator returned to normalcy after he discovered that he was driving his car and his one was not stolen.

A.1.What surprised the speaker when he was on his way home?

Ans-The dog and a woman's handbag in his car rattled him when he was on his way home.

2.What did the speaker find in the cubbyhole? What did he think on seeing these items?

Ans-On seeing the woman's handbag in the cubbyhole, the narrator suspected whether the dog was in his car or he in the dog's car.

3.a.he decided to drive to the farmhouse.

b.He would narrate how he lost his car and mistakenly drove the woman's car.

c.He felt nervous when he made this decision.

4. Who was Arthur and who was Shiela?

Ans-Arthur was the farmer whose name was written on the collar of the dog and Shiela was the dog itself.

5.a)Arthur told this to his wife.

b)The narrator was Mr. What's-it. He was called so as the farmer didn't know his name.

c)Darling-the farmer's wife had put her bag and the dog in Mr. What's-it car.

Give reasons-why

1.The speaker disliked shopping in town due to space crunch to park cars and all cars of one colour leading to confusion.

2.Because it was a masculine name.

3.Because he thought that the farmer might think he had robbed the farmer's car.

4.The speaker's wife was upset with him as he couldn't reach home on time and she had to do shopping

C.1-The apt title 'A slight misunderstanding is a befitting title to the story narrating incident highlighting that a little care would have saved everyone's time. The farmer's wife while having a word with Mabel makes the first faux pas when she keeps her dog and the handbag in the narrator's car. The woman is a little scatterbrained who mistook the narrator's car as her own which hastened the acceleration of the story. The narrator was so beset with all the black cars, he started searching for his own car while already driving it. Everything becomes clear when the farmer points out the car number and the narrator is relieved.

2.The narrator should have been a little more careful in handling these responsible affairs. He should have parked his car at a strategic location and must have checked his car before having a word for the go. The woman is also equally held up for the same misunderstanding. She failed to recognise her car and kept her bag and the dog in the narrator's car which subsequently snowballed into a full fledged misunderstanding.

Using words---

1.Heavy

2.whole

3.Thin

4.Extreme

5.Sure

**THANK YOU**  
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