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Evans Tries An O-Level

Class – XII – English - CBSE

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About the Author:

Norman Colin Dexter,(29 Sept'1930 in Stamford, Lincolnshire) is an English crime writer, and his inspector was Morse.

Dexter was educated at Stamford School , and later and went on to teach at Kings School, Peterborough.

After completing his National service he joined Christ's Collage, Cambridge to be a reader.

He graduated in 1953 and completed an honorary Masters Degree in 1958.

In 1954, he taught as a teacher in the East Midlands,became an assistant classics master at Wyggston School, Leicester.

In 1959 he joined as a teacher at Corby Grammar School, Northamptonshire.

Due to deafness he retired from teaching in 1966.Till his retirement in 1988 he was the Senior Assistant Secretary at the University of Oxford Delegacy of Local Examinations .

Dexter was recipient of many awards for his several crime novels.

In 1996 Dexter received a Macavity Award for his short story *Evans Tries an O-Level*.

In 2000 Dexter was awarded the OBE.



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• Introduction:

This short story Evans Tries an O-Level fetched a Macavity Award for Dexter in 1996.

This is a story about a thief who wants to learn and pass an O-Level in German.

This clearly tells how the police department is eager to refine the prisoners who are in jail.

We should understand that from this story that a new reform was introduced in UK for the well being of the prisoners.

Here the author has very cleverly portraits how a petty thief is able to hoodwink the policemen and other government officials and escapes from the prison.



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Summary:

James Roderick Evans was a kleptomaniac and was a prisoner at Oxford Prison.

He wanted to write the O-level German exam, hence the jail authorities arranged for him to attend German classes in jail and his last class ended on June 7 Monday at 8.30 pm.

The Secretary of examination board agreed and informed The Governor of Oxford prison that the examination would be conducted at the jail

Reverent Stuart Mcleery a parson was to be the invigilator.

To ensure that Evan should not escape the governor him self came to supervise the security arrangements as the prisoner was very cunning and had escaped three times earlier.

With all precautions it was discovered that Evans had escaped in the guise of a parson but actually he was in the prison and had baffled the entire prison staff.

Evan with the help of his friends staged an escape . With the clues available Evan was caught in a hotel room and handcuffed and was sent to prison in a van along with prison officers. As all the prison officers were his friends he escaped and he was a free man once was rightly called 'Evans the Break'



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Recap:

Evan is a petty thief who goes and comes out of jail frequently.

He wanted to acquire an academic qualification and wanted to complete an O-level in German.

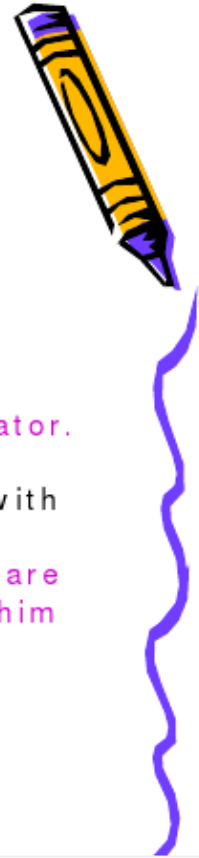
He is coached for 10 months by a German teacher.

Evan plans to escape after finishing his exam.

He impersonates as a parson who comes as an invigilator, and escapes under the nose of the governor.

He gets caught at the hotel and is put in a van along with prison officers.

But this time also he escapes as all the police officers are his friends and the governor will not be able to catch him again



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Recap: Evan is a petty thief who goes and comes out of jail frequently. He wanted to acquire an academic qualification and wanted to complete an O-level in German. He is coached for 10 months by a German teacher. Evan plans to escape after finishing his exam. He impersonates as a parson who comes as an invigilator, and escapes under the nose of the governor. He gets caught at the hotel and is put in a van along with prison officers. But this time also he escapes as all the police officers are his friends and

the governor will not be able to catch him again

Questions:



1. What does Evan want to do?

2. How many times does he escape?



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1. What does Evan want to do?

2. How many times does he escape?

Answers:

1. Evan wants to write an O-level exam.

2. Three times he tried to escape.



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1. Evan wants to write an O-level exam.

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