

K.T.S.P. Mandal's

Hutatatma Rajguru Mahavidyalaya, Rajgurunagar

Rajgurunagar, Pune- 410505

SYBA (CBCS 2019 Pattern)

SEMESTER -III

SUBJECT- COMPULSORY ENGLISH

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Topic- Prose

Sub Unit- The Verger

The Verger by Somerset Maugham summary

Maugham's "The Verger" is a simple tale about a simple man who does his duties with great joy and dedication. Foreman has been the verger of his church for sixteen years, doing all the menial and manual duties of the vicarage. He loved his job and there were no complaints about him until a new pastor arrived and made a startling discovery--Foreman cannot read. While that fact has never interfered with his duties, the new preacher is appalled and immediately fires the verger. And so, he loses his low-paying job as a verger because it is discovered that he is illiterate, but he adapts to his problem by becoming a successful shopkeeper. He finds he is better off being illiterate. Maugham likes to write about the odd diversity of human characters. In fact, he traveled the world in search of unique characters that would provide inspiration for his stories and novels. "The Verger" is more of a character study than anything else. What is true for the hero of "The Verger" is not necessarily true for everyone; however, there are a lot of men like Maugham's Albert Edward Foreman who have little book-learning but plenty of worldly wisdom obtained through intelligent observation of the real world. Albert Foreman was happy because he did not aspire to social success even after he made a lot of money. He and his wife were both content to lead simple lives. Foreman goes on to start a very practical business, opening a tobacco store where he sees a need, and is amazingly successful. Years later, when Foreman was asked to sign some papers at the bank but could not read them, the banker was astonished at what this man had accomplished without the ability to read. When he asked Foreman what he would have done if he could read, Foreman gave a quick and simple answer: he would have been a verger.

Answer the following questions in one or two words.

1. Where was St. Peter's church located?

Ans. St. Peter's Church was located in Neville Square.

2. What was the name of the vergers of St Peter's church?

Ans. The vergers of St. Peter's Church was Albert Edward Foreman.

3. Who were in the vestry besides the vergers and the vicar?

Ans. Two churchwardens were there beside the vergers and the vicar.

4. At what age did the vergers begin working?

Ans. The vergers began working from the age of twelve.

5. What did the vergers want to buy while walking in the street?

Ans. The vergers wanted to buy a packet of cigarettes while walking down the street.

6. What was the discovery that astonished the vicar?

Ans. When the vicar came to know that Albert did not know how to read or write, he got astonished.

7. What occupation did the vergers take up after resigning from church?

Ans. After resigning from the church, the vergers started his own shop selling tobacco.

8. What impression did the vergers have about the new vicar?

Ans. The vergers did not think highly about the vicar because he had insulted him.

9. How did the vergers treat his gowns?

Ans. The vergers treated his gowns with a lot of respect because they were with him for a long time.

10. What was the vergers told by the vicar in the vestry?

Ans. The vicar told the vergers to earn reading and writing skills or else leave the job.