

SUPPLEMENTARY

STD-VIII

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

CHANGING YOUR TOMORROW

3

A Slight Misunderstanding

I recently got one of those little black cars—you know, the sort everybody else has. I do not know why it is, but whatever car I get, everybody else suddenly seems to have the same idea.

Do the first two sentences tell us what misunderstanding to expect in the story?

Anyway, I drove into my nearby shopping centre the other Saturday to get some fish and groceries and dry-cleaning and all that sort of thing. It is terrible, absolutely terrible, shopping in that town; ten thousand cars and not a space to park except the entrance to the fire station. However, on this particular morning I got through in record time and I put all the things in the boot and drove back home.

What's the problem with parking in front of the entrance to the fire station?

I was just about halfway there when a rather **startling** thing happened. I found I was being licked on the back of the neck by a dog. Of course, if you are a dog-owner, you will say what is startling about that and I quite agree. But it just so happened that I had not taken my dog with me.

So I stopped the car and had a look in the back and there was this dog—a complete stranger to me—with his tongue hanging out, all ready for another **go**. And I said, "Hello, whose doggie are you?" but he did not answer and then I saw he had got his name on his collar—'Arthur'. Pretty silly name for a dog, I must say; and there was

boot: space at the back of a car, used for carrying bags
startling: sudden and surprising
go: attempt to do something

the address of a farm on the other side of the town—you know, about seven miles back in the wrong direction.

Well, of course, I saw what had happened—it was entirely my fault for not locking the car up; but none of us does it here. It is bad enough having to stop at about fourteen different shops, without dropping the car keys each time.



And what had happened was that whoever owned the dog had got fed up with taking him around and had put him in the car to wait. Only of course, they had put him in my car and not theirs. And I could not quite decide what to do about it. For one thing, I was supposed to be back with the fish at one o'clock and if I took the dog home, he would not get on terribly well with my dog. On the other hand, if I took him back and handed him in to the police station, there would be all those forms to fill in and **affidavits** to swear and all that.

I opened the **cubbyhole** to see if I had got any chewing gum to help me think and I had not. What I had got was a rather nice, woman's handbag, that I had never seen in my life before, with all the usual objects in it—practically everything but chewing gum. By this time, I needed it worse than ever because of course, the situation had taken on a new twist. It was no longer a question of the dog being in my car. I was in the dog's.

What does 'twist' mean in this sentence?

affidavits: written statements made after officially promising to tell the truth

cubbyhole: a small storage space in the front of a car, used for keeping small things

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.

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.

Page-16 (The narrator's confusion)

The narrator got a black car and was confused because every one gets one and it was difficult to locate the car among the mass of cars. The narrator while going out to park also found it tough to park it as there was no room to park except the front of the fire station. The startling thing when the narrator about to return home occurred as he found himself being licked from behind. He was flabbergasted when looked back seeing a dog licking him as he had not taken his dog and was confused if he was in the dog's car or the dog in his. He stopped the car in order to inspect it and found that the dog was a complete stranger to him and a dilemma entered his mind about what to do with the dog. To his utter surprise, he also found a handbag after opening he cubbyhole. He asked the dog about its owner and obviously there was no answer. He found his name on the collar, 'Arthur' and the address had also found mention on the collar.

Page 17 (dilemma)

The narrator had to drive seven miles in the opposite direction to get back to the dog's owner. He realized that it was completely his fault for not having locked up his car well and the result of which the owner of the dog put the dog in his car. He was in a fix as knowing what to do because he had to reach home by one o' clock with fish for lunch. Taking the dog to its owner would spoil all his plans. On the other hand, reporting at the police would prove cumbersome with all paper work eating out all his time. Opening the cubbyhole for a chewing gum, he was rather taken aback to find a woman's handbag which fully gob smacked him. He was literally worried to think if the dog was in his car or he was in the dog's. This twist put him in fresh trouble.

VOCABULARY

- Boot- space at the back of a car, used for carrying bags
- Startling-sudden and surprising
- Go-attempt to do something
- Affidavits-written statements made after officially promising to tell the truth

- Cubbyhole-a small storage space in the front of the car, used for keeping small things

Home Assignment:

1. Write the word meaning.
2. Describe the misunderstanding the narrator got into

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