

THE NIGHT WE WON THE BUICK

STUDY-NOTE

Message of the story

The lesson 'The Night We Won the Buick' emphasizes on the fact that money doesn't make a person rich, but his moral conduct and ethical decisions make him rich. The narrator suffered inferiority complex as his family was the only one in the town who didn't have a car. The family was contented in their meagre earnings and extended help to relatives also. At country fair his father won a lottery on ticket number 348. It so happened that his father asked Jim Kendrick if he wanted a lottery ticket and when he replied in positive, he wrote 'K' on the ticket number 348. Obviously, the car went to Jim. The narrator is greatly satisfied with his father's decision. He got his car only when he was grown up, but in the due process he understood the real meaning of what his mother said, 'When you have character, you have a better part of wealth.' To summarize, we should never become materialistic and lose our soul, wisdom is better than any kind of wealth. Money just catches attention but character catches heart. When a person's character is lost, everything is lost. The most expensive thing in this world is our character. Hence we should always carve our name on people's heart and not on marbles.

The narrator's family was the only one who did not own a car in New York. He was very ashamed. The family was so poor that even their house was mortgaged.

Father purchased two raffle tickets, testing his luck. Before doing the purchase he offered to buy a ticket for his boss, Jim Kendrick.

The winning number 348 was gifted with a Buick Roadmaster. However the narrator's father realised that 348 belonged to Jim Kendrick.

The father called his boss to let him know about the Buick. The chauffeurs were sent to collect the car. This disheartened the narrator but then he realised the importance of honesty and character more than possessing money.

Later the narrator purchased his own car but then he learnt a lesson of his life.