

Question1

What was the peddler's philosophy about rattrap? Why did it amuse him?

Answer

The peddler's philosophy was that the whole world is a rattrap with several baits in it. As one is tempted to bait and touches it the door is closed and everything comes to an end like in a rattrap. The thought amused him because he has so far been selling rattrap; but not fallen in this world's rattrap

Question2

What kind of host was the old crofter?

Answer

The old crofter was an affectionate and generous host. He warmly welcomed the peddler as he got someone to talk to in his loneliness. He served him porridge for his supper and offered a pipe with tobacco roll to smoke and finally played with him mjolis till bedtime.

Question3

The reader's sympathy is with the peddler right from the beginning? Is it justified? Give reasons.

Answer

The rattrap peddler draws reader's sympathy because of his poverty. The author's description of his clothes and appearance like –"his clothes are in rags, his cheeks are sunken and hunger gleams his eyes" and his resorting to begging and petty thievery to keep his body and soul together evoke reader's sympathy.

Questions4

Who do you think was at fault-the ironmaster or the peddler? Give two reasons.

Answer

I think the ironmaster was at fault because it was he who invited the tramp to his house for the Christmas thinking him to be his old acquaintance; but on knowing he was not his acquaintance he could not oppose his daughter's decision to offer him Christmas cheer.

Question5

Why was the peddler grateful to the ironmaster and his daughter?

Answer

The peddler was grateful to the ironmaster and his daughter as they empowered him to release himself from the world's rattrap through their selfless hospitality, love, sympathy, compassion, and understanding.