

THE BROWNING VERSION

Q 1. What attitude did Taplow show about Mr. Crocker Harris?

Answer: Taplow has mix reaction about Mr. Crocker Harris. He criticizes him for his uncertainty and his crankiness as the man has no consideration for others. But at the same time, he also praises him for his high ideals and straight forward attitude. He is harsh, impatient but sincere and dedicated to his students.

Q 2. Which course of study does Taplow prefer and why?

Answer: Taplow prefers the study of science. He believes that it is more interesting and satisfying than arts and literature. He is quite critical against the tedious/boring play 'Agamemnon' with long Greek words and phrases which are hard to learn. Mr. Frank does not like the idea and calls him a shirker.

Q 3. What opinion does Taplow have about the play 'Agamemnon'?

Answer: Taplow tells Frank that 'Agamemnon' is a muck, tedious and unpleasant play with long Greek words hard to learn. But when he notices the reaction of Frank, he modifies himself and says that the drama/book has a good plot in which a wife murders his husband. But he does not like the way it is taught to them.

Q 4. How does Taplow react to Frank's suggestion "Why don't you cut? You could still play golf before lock up?"

Answer: Taplow was astonished and frightened when Frank suggests him to cut the order of Mr. Crocker Harris and go out to play golf. He tells him that he cannot even think to over reach and cut an order of Crocker Harris. He fears his uncertainty and cranky nature. If he cuts the order now, he might not get his result next day.

Q 5. For whom Taplow is waiting and Why?

What brings Taplow to the house of Mr. Crocker Harris?

Answer: Taplow is waiting for his teacher Mr. Crocker Harris at his home. He is there to take some extra work. The boy missed a class last week due and wants to make up the loss

by doing some extra work for the teacher. It was last day for Mr. Crocker Harris at school and he does not want to annoy the man he was going to announce the result next day.

Q 6. How do Taplow and Frank React at Mrs. Millie's arrival?

Answer: Frank and Taplow, both, were waiting for Mr. Crocker Harris. They were happy and relieved to see Mille, the wife of Mr. Harris. But Taplow was a bit frightened to see her at the gate. He thought that she might have seen him when he was intimating her husband and she might report it to him. If it happens, he might not get his removal next day.

Q 7. What does Millie tell Taplow about her husband? What assignment was given to her?

Answer: Mille tells Taplow that Mr. Harris was at the bruiser's office and will be quite late. She advises him to go out and enjoy the beautiful weather. He should play with his friends. She also ensures the boy that she would take the blame if Mr. Harris returns in between. With that she gives him a prescription to bring some medicines from the market.

Q 8. Why does Taplow say that Mr. Crocker Harris is 'hardly human'?

Answer: Taplow decides to take some order from Crocker Harris to get his favour before the announcement of the final result. But he still suspects the doing some extra work for the teacher might not do any good for him. He seemed hate people liking him. It was very possible that he might be marked down for doing extra work. All this make the boy call Mr. Crocker Harris a 'hardly human'

Q 9. Who is Millie and what assignment she gives Taplow and why?

Answer: Millie is the wife of Mr. Crocker Harris. She is a thing woman in her later thirties. She is attired smartly that is unlike the general run of school teacher's wives. With a shopping bag, she enters the room to find Mr. Frank and Taplow waiting for her husband. She informs the young lad that her husband was at brusar's office would be a little late. when the boy expresses his inability to move out and play, she hands him a prescription to get the medicine. She also assures the boy to take the blame if Mr. Crocker Harris come back in between.

Q 10. What was the humorous incident that took place in the class of Mr. Crocker Harris?

Answer: The other day, Mr. Crocker Harris made one of his classical joke before the class. None of the pupil could understand the joke including Taplow. But the boy still laughed at the joke as it meant to be funny. Teacher took advantage of it and appreciated Taplow for his command on language and asked her to explain the joke to the entire class.

Q 11. What impression do you have/formed about Crocker Harris on the basis on reading the play 'The Browning Version'?

ANSWER: Mr. Crocker Harris is not presented in the story directly. We have many small remarks about him from Taplow that help us make a picture of the teacher. He is a strict middle-aged teacher who teaches the classical language Latin. He is different from other teachers of the school. Taplow praises him for his high ideals and his dedication for his students. He is not a sadist and does not beat the children like other teachers. He is very uncertain and unpredictable. He is harsh and strict sometime but polite and convivial the other time. He often makes jokes before the class.

The teacher also has some disagreeing qualities. Taplow calls him 'hardly human'. Unlike other teachers, he has not declared the result even on the last day of the academic session. The students have a deep fear of his uncertainty. Taplow is present at his house to take some special order to get his favour but it was very possible that he might be marked down for doing extra work.

Q 12. What impression of Taplow do you form after reading the story, 'Browning version'?

ANSWER: Taplow was a young student of literature. He studied in the class of Mr. Crocker Harish. In the story, he is described as an honest and hard-working student who always follows the order of his teachers. He is not interested in arts and literature and has a great liking for science. He does not like the classical play 'Agamemnon' as it is laced with long Greek words which are very hard to learn. But later he corrects/modifies himself saying that the drama/book has a good plot in which a wife murders her husband.

The boy has mix reaction for Mr. Crocker Harris. He criticizes him for his uncertainty and cranky nature. He has missed one of his classes that's why he has come to his house to get some special order. He seems to have great fear from Crocker Harris. He is shocked and afraid when Frank suggests him to go and play golf.

Q 13. A teacher is the mentor of his pupils mind. Though he can not mould a student in his stamp, a teacher should be strict enough to check the wrong doing of his pupil.' Elaborate.

ANSWER: It is true that a teacher can not mould his pupils in his own stamp. A student should be given enough space and time to follow his own mind. But at the same time, a good teacher is supposed to check the mistakes and other wrong doings of a child. Just like a potter shapes the clay when it is soft, a teacher shapes the mind of his pupil at small age. Such teacher may be a little cranky for some and is always ready to go for an extra mile with their students. He is whole heartily dedicated to his work and never shows any dereliction towards duty. Generally, a teacher who check the activities of students becomes a subject of criticism as he does not tolerate any wrong doings of students. Student make a mimicry and laughs at him. But the students realize the real worth of the teacher when they are out of their academic lives. Like a metal goes through forging process before turning into a put metal, a students also has to go through such tough experiences and criticism before they turn into a successful human being.

Crocker Harris was also a strict teacher who respect the ethics of a good teacher. Taplow was full of praise for his straight forward attitude and respected him for his principles.