

Keeping it from Harold

Q1. Based on your reading of the story, answer the following questions by choosing the correct option: "

(a) Mrs. Bramble was a proud woman because

(i) she was the wife of a famous boxer.

(ii) she had motivated her husband.

(iii) she was a good housewife.

(iv) she was the mother of a child prodigy.

(b) "The very naming of Harold had caused a sacrifice on his part." The writer's tone here is

(i) admiring (ii) assertive

(iii) satirical (iv) gentle

(c) Harold had defied the laws of heredity by

(i) becoming a sportsperson

(ii) being good at academics

(iii) being well-built and muscular

(iv) respecting his parents

(d) Harold felt that he was deprived of the respect that his classmates would give him as

(i) they did not know his father was the famous boxer, 'Young Porky'.

(ii) his hero, Jimmy Murphy had not won the wrestling match.

(iii) he had not got Phil Scott's autograph.

(iv) Sid Simpson had lost the Lonsdale belt.

Ans: (a) (iv) she was the mother of a child prodigy.

(b) (ii) assertive.

(c) (ii) being good at academics. •

(d) (i) they did not know his father was the famous boxer, 'Young Porky'.

Q2. Answer the following questions:

(a) What was strange about the manner in which Mrs. Bramble addressed her son? What did he feel about it?

(b) Why was it necessary to keep Harold's father's profession a secret from him?

- (c) When Mr. Bramble came to know that he was to become a father what were some of the names he decided upon? Why?
- (d) Describe Mr. Bramble as he has been described in the story.
- (e) Why was Mrs. Bramble upset when she came to hear that Bill had decided not to fight?
- (f) Who was Jerry Fisher? What did he say to try and convince Bill to change his mind?
- (g) How did Harold come to know that his father was a boxer?
- (h) Why was Harold upset that his father had not told him about his true identity? Give two reasons.
- (i) Do you agree with Harold's parents decision of hiding from him the fact that his father was a boxer? Why/Why not?

Ans: a) Harold didn't like the manner in which Mrs. Bramble addressed her son. Nor did he relish the habit of his mother of referring to herself in the third person. She spoke as if she were addressing a baby. She would never use "I" but said, "Yes, mother will hear you, precious". Now Harold was a young man of ten. He had already won the spelling and dictation prize to his credit. He felt bad about it.

(b) Harold was very different from ordinary children. Harold's parents wanted to keep Mr. Bramble's profession a well-guarded secret from him. Harold was made to believe the fiction that his father was a commercial traveler. They didn't want Harold to die of 'disgrace' by knowing the truth that his father was a man of 'wrath' and a bloody boxer.

(c) Mr. Bramble was a famous boxer. When he came to know that he was to become a father he had many names in his mind for his child. All of them were related to the world of boxing. He wanted his child to be named John, if a boy, after Mr. John L. Sullivan or if a girl, Marie, after Miss Marie Lloyd. But he had to sacrifice his choice when his wife opposed him.

(d) Mr. Bramble was an 'excellent man' and nobody 'could help liking him'. He was a professional boxer better known as 'Young Porky'. There was not a boxer in London whom he could not overcome in a twenty- round contest. He was famous for his left hook. But he was a very considerate, self- sacrificing and diffident character. He could sacrifice his name, fame, and money as a boxer not to 'disgrace' Harold.

(e) Mrs. Bramble didn't like professional boxing. Nor did she want Harold to know that his father was 'Young Porky'. But she was upset when she came to hear that Bill had decided not to fight. Big money was involved in the fighting. The winner was to get 500 pounds and even the loser was to get 120 pounds. Boxing had earned good money for the family and made possible to give Harold a good education. That money could give Harold a better start in life than they had ever had.

(f) Mr. Jerry Fisher was a boxing coach or trainer at the White Hart. He was a hard trainer. Bill's fight with Jimmy Murphy was going to be a national affair. He was proud of Bill and was sure of his victory. He was shocked to know that Bill had given up the idea of fighting. He tried to convince Bill to change his mind. He reminded him of the handsome money that he would get by participating in the fight.

(g) Jerry Fisher disliked Bill now and he wanted to take revenge. The best way of taking revenge was to disclose Bill's real identity to his son Harold. He disclosed that Bill was not a commercial traveller but a professional boxer, popularly known as 'Young Porky'.

(h) When Harold came to know that his father was actually 'Young Porky', he was upset. He realised that he had been deprived of the honour of being the son of 'Young Porky'. His schoolmates wouldn't dare to call him 'goggles' if they knew that 'Young Porky' was his father. He had already betted two shillings that Jimmy Murphy would not last ten rounds against 'Young Porky.'

(i) Harold's parents' decision of hiding from him the fact that his father was a boxer was not correct. They thought that Harold would die of disgrace if he came to know that his father was a man of wrath and called 'Young Porky'. The truth was the other way around. Harold was deeply interested in boxing. He had betted two shillings that Jimmy Murphy would not last ten rounds against 'Young Porky'. It was a dramatic irony that his parents hid from him the fact of

which he could swank like anything.

Q3. The sequence of events has been jumbled up. Rearrange them and complete the given flowchart.

- (1) Major Percy and Bill come to the house.
- (2) Harold comes to know that his father is a boxer.
- (3) Bill tells his wife that he is doing it for Harold.
- (4) Jerry Fisher tries to convince Bill to reconsider.
- (5) Mrs. Bramble is amazed to think that she has brought such a prodigy as Harold into the world.
- (6) Harold wants to know what will happen to the money he had bet on Murphy losing.
- (7) Mrs. Bramble is informed that Bill had decided not to fight.
- (8) Mrs. Bramble resumes work of darning the sock.
- (9) Harold is alone with his mother in their home.

Mrs. Bramble is amazed to think that she has brought such a prodigy as Harold into the world.

- Ans: 1. Harold is alone with his mother in their home.
2. Mrs. Bramble is amazed to think that she has brought such a prodigy as Harold into the world.
3. Mrs. Bramble resumes work of darning the sock.
4. Major Percy and Bill come to the house.
5. Mrs. Bramble is informed that Bill had decided not to fight.
6. Bill tells his wife that he is doing it for Harold.
7. Jerry Fisher tries to convince Bill to reconsider.
8. Harold comes to know that his father is a boxer.
9. Harold wants to know what will happen to the money he had bet on Murphy losing.

Choose extracts from the story that illustrate the characters of these people in it.

Person	Extracts from the story	What this tells us about their characters
Mrs Bramble	(Para 12) "Bill we must keep it from Harold"	She was not honest and open with her son; concerned mother
Mr Bramble	(Para 33)	

Percy	(Para 109)	
Jerry Fisher	(Para 110)	
Ans:		
Person	Extracts from the story	What this tells us about their . characters
Mrs Bramble	(Para 12) "Bill we must keep it from Harold"	She was not honest and open with her son; concerned mother
Mr Bramble	(Para 33) "The scales have fallen from his eyes".	Mr. Bramble was confused, diffident and easily influenced.
		Concerned about Harold and Bill; talkative
Percy	(Para 109) "I'd be ashamed to be so spiteful."	
	(Para 110) "Tommy", said Mr Fisher, ignoring them all, "you think	
Jerry Fisher	Your pa's commercial . He ain't . He's a	Revengeful; adamant
	Fighting man." ignoring them ignoring them all, "you	
	ignoring them all, "you ignoring them all, "you	

Listening Task

Q4. The teacher will ask the students to answer these questions based on an interview given by the legendary WWE wrestler, Kane to Chris Carle of IGN. The students are to listen to the interview.

- 1. What were the video games that Kane liked playing earlier and which games later?**
- 2. Who was Kane's favourite wrestler when he was first getting into wrestling and who were some of the other wrestlers who influenced him into taking up wrestling?**

3. How according to Kane had the WWE changed in the past ten years?
4. Does Kane prefer performing with the mask or without the mask?
5. Why does Kane wrestle these days even though he has accomplished almost everything?
6. What is your impression of Kane as a person after you have heard this interview?

Ans: For self attempt.

Writing Task

Q5. Many people are of the opinion that violent, physical sports such as boxing, kickboxing and wrestling, to name a few should be banned while others think otherwise.

Express your opinion on the topic by either writing in favor of banning these sports or against banning them. While

writing, you should also include the rebuttal to your questions. Try not to go beyond 200 words.

Ans: BANNING VIOLENT PHYSICAL SPORTS

Many people think that violent physical sports such as boxing, kick boxing, wrestling, bull-fighting, to name a few, should be banned. And they think rightly so. What's the main aim of sports and games? Pleasure and entertainment. They provide us thrill or 'excitement'. They lift our spirits. We feel more animated and alive. And the entertainment that sports and games provide us is the healthy and wholesome entertainment. On the other hand, violent physical sports such as boxing, kick boxing and bullfighting provide us a vulgar pleasure. It is violent and sadistic in nature. When we watch hockey, badminton or cricket we enjoy them. We appreciate Gavaskar for defence, Vivian Richards for attack and Sachin Tendulkar for style. Similarly, we adore Maradona or Pele not for their foul play or hitting the opponents but for their scoring abilities. Similarly, we admire Federer for his craftsmanship and Nadal for his power play in lawn-tennis. All these sports lift us physically, mentally as well as spiritually. Watch a ten or fifteen-round boxing match. What do you like the most in a boxing match? You like the punches, hooks and the maximum damage that a boxer can do to his opponent. At every punch or hook your desire to see assault and your blood is aroused. Before the bout ends you find both the players wounded, bleeding and their faces cut at more than half a dozen places. Some players even lose their lives during boxing bouts. What is bullfighting? It shows sheer lack of decency, lack of good taste that one craves for such violent sports. Such bloody and violent sports should be banned.

Q6. A large part of the story is composed of conversation between the characters.

Can you convert it into a play and in groups, present your version of the play before the class? Before that, decide on the members of cast, minimum props required and also the costumes.

Ans: A Classroom Activity.

Q7. The teacher will ask the students to answer these questions based on an interview given by the legendary WWE wrestler, Kane to Chris Carle of IGN. The students are to listen to the interview.

1. What were the video games that Kane liked playing earlier and which games later?
2. Who was Kane's favourite wrestler when he was first getting into wrestling and who were some of the other wrestlers who influenced him into taking up wrestling?
3. How according to Kane had the WWE changed in the past ten years?
4. Does Kane prefer performing with the mask or without the mask?
5. Why does Kane wrestle these days even though he has accomplished almost everything?
6. What is your impression of Kane as a person after you have heard this interview?

Q8, Many people are of the opinion that violent, physical sports such as boxing, kickboxing

and wrestling, to name a few should be banned while others think otherwise.

Express your opinion on the topic by either writing in favour of banning these sports or against banning them. While

writing, you should also include the rebuttal to your questions. Try not to go beyond 200 words.

Ans: BANNING VIOLENT PHYSICAL SPORTS

Many people think that violent physical sports such as boxing, kick boxing, wrestling, bull-fighting, to name a few, should be banned. And they think rightly so. What's the main aim of sports and games? Pleasure and entertainment. They provide us thrill or 'excitement'. They lift our spirits. We feel more animated and alive. And the entertainment that sports and games provide us is the healthy and wholesome entertainment. On the other hand, violent physical sports such as boxing, kick boxing and bullfighting provide us a vulgar pleasure. It is violent and sadistic in nature. When we watch hockey, badminton or cricket we enjoy them. We appreciate Gavaskar for defence, Vivian Richards for attack and Sachin Tendulkar for style. Similarly, we adore Maradona or Pele not for their foul play or hitting the opponents but for their scoring abilities. Similarly, we admire Federer for his craftsmanship and Nadal for his power play in lawn-tennis. All these sports lift us physically, mentally as well as spiritually. Watch a ten or fifteen-round boxing match. What do you like the most in a boxing match? You like the punches, hooks and the maximum damage that a boxer can do to his opponent. At every punch or hook your desire to see assault and your blood is aroused. Before the bout ends you find both the players wounded, bleeding and their faces cut at more than half a dozen places. Some players even lose their lives during boxing bouts. What is bullfighting? It shows sheer lack of decency, lack of good taste that one craves for such violent sports. Such bloody and violent sports should be banned.

Q9. A large part of the story is composed of conversation between the characters. Can you convert it into a play and in groups, present your version of the play before the class? Before that, decide on the members of the cast, minimum props required and also the costumes.

Ans: A Classroom Activity.

Additional Questions Solved

I. Short Answer Type Questions (30-40 WORDS)

Q1. How was Harold Bramble at the age of ten?

Ans: Harold was a 'young man' of ten. He was far more mature and intelligent than any other child of that age. He had already won the spelling and dictation prize. The spectacled child spoke with toneless rapidity, affected by youths of his age. Mrs. Bramble was proud of giving birth to such a prodigy. He was different from ordinary children, devoted to his books and an admirable model of behaviour. Defying the laws of heredity, Harold 'had run to intellect as his father had run to muscle.'

Q2. Why was Mrs. Bramble proud of bringing such a prodigy as Harold into the world?

Ans: Harold was a constant source of amazement. He was so different from ordinary children. He was devoted to books and a perfect model of goodness and intelligence. He had already taken the spelling and dictation prize and two prizes at the Sunday-school. So his mother Mrs. Bramble was proud of giving birth to such a prodigy and genius.

Q3. Bill Bramble and his wife were To Vers of truth but they had to sacrifice truth for Harold. Give a reasoned answer.

Ans: Harold's very 'perfection' made Mrs. and Mr. Bramble resort to deliberate evasions and falsehood. They had to sacrifice truth for their child. They thought that Harold would die of dishonour if he came to know the truth. He should not know that Bill was a 'man of wrath' and a professional boxer known as 'Young Porky'. Harold had started taking notice of things and

people. He was made to believe that his father was a commercial traveller.

Q4. Why was Bill's profession kept a guarded secret not to be disclosed to Harold? Why was he made to believe the fiction that Bill was a commercial traveller?

Ans: His parents regarded Harold as being of a superior order. Mrs. Bramble was proud of giving birth to such a prodigy and 'perfect' child. His parents thought that Harold would not be able to tolerate the dishonour of being the son of a 'man of wrath'. He would be ashamed to know that his father was a professional boxer. He was known among Londoners as 'Young Porky'. Hence, Harold was fed on the fiction that Bill was a commercial traveller.

Q5. Describe two common traits of Major Percy Stokes.

Ans: Major Percy Stokes was Mrs. Bramble's brother. He had a tight grip over Bill Bramble. He was very persuasive. Mr. Bramble had fallen in with his suggestion that his real identity should not be exposed to Harold. Major Percy was instrumental in Bill's decision of withdrawing from the contest against Murphy at the eleventh hour. Mrs. Bramble didn't like his suggestion nor his company. Percy had borrowed enough money from his sister. He was very talkative and no one liked his voice except himself.

Q6. Describe Bill Bramble highlighting his obliging and self-sacrificing nature. Give two examples to prove your point.

Ans: Mr. Bill Bramble was a professional boxer and ironically called 'a man of wrath'. Actually in private life he was the mildest and most obliging of men. He always yielded to everybody. The very naming of Harold caused a sacrifice on Bill's part. He wanted to name the child John, if a boy and Marie, if a girl. However, he had to withdraw his suggestion with the utmost good humour because his wife wanted to name him Harold. He yielded to Major Percy's suggestion and withdrew from the contest against Murphy at the eleventh hour. He did this sacrifice for Harold.

Q7. Harold grew up defying the laws of heredity. How? Give two examples.

Ans: Harold Bramble grew up defying the laws of heredity. His father Bill Bramble was a professional boxer better known as 'Young Porky'. Harold was a spectacled boy. He was devoted to books excelling in intelligence and academics. He was different from ordinary boys and regarded as being of a superior order.

Q8. Describe Bill as a professional boxer.

Ans: Bill Bramble was a professional boxer. He was famous among Londoners as 'Young Porky'. There was hardly a man in London whom he could not overcome in a twenty-round contest. He had an ability to hook his fellow anywhere. He was gifted with a left hook. He was going to fight a twenty-round contest against Murphy after a week.

Q9. What made Bill withdraw from the contest against Murphy at the eleventh hour?

Ans: Harold's parents regarded him as being of a superior order. Bill didn't want that Harold should ever come to know that his father was 'a man of wrath'. He was known among Londoners as 'Young Porky'. His trainer Jerry Fisher believed in good newspaper coverage and publicity. Harold read his 'Mail' regularly. This meant that he (Harold) would come to know the real identity of his father. Hence, for the sake of Harold, he accepted Major Percy's suggestion. He withdrew from the contest at the eleventh hour.

Q10. Why did Mrs. Bramble not approve of Bill's and her brother Percy's suggestion of withdrawing from the contest against Murphy at the eleventh hour?

Ans: Mrs. Bramble didn't like her husband's profession. Nor did she want that Harold should know Bill's real identity. But she was aware of the fact that his fight with the American boxer

Murphy involved a handsome amount. The winner would get 500 pounds and the loser 120. The money earned from boxing made it possible for them to give Harold a good education. Hence, she didn't like Bill's withdrawing from the contest.

Q11. Why was Jerry Fisher's anger directed against Bill Bramble and Major Percy?

Ans: Jerry Fisher was Bill's trainer at the White Hart. He was a hard-taskmaster. He was proud of Bill but was infuriated when he came to know that he was withdrawing from the contest at the eleventh hour. He considered that he had been badly treated. And what he wanted at the moment was revenge. His anger was also directed against Major Percy. He considered him at the bottom of the whole thing.

Q12. How did Jerry Fisher take his revenge on Bill?

Ans: Jerry Fisher was a trainer of Bill. He was fond of Bill and was sure that he would beat Murphy. But he was infuriated when he came to know that Bill was withdrawing from the contest at the eleventh hour. He considered that he was badly treated and itched for revenge. He did take his revenge by revealing to Harold that his father was not a commercial traveller but 'a man of wrath'. He was a professional boxer known among Londoners as 'Young Porky'.

Q13. How did Harold react when Jerry Fisher revealed true identity of his father Bill?

Ans: The fiction of the commercial traveller was exploded. Harold came to know that his father was a professional boxer. He was famous as 'Young Porky'. He called the act of hiding his father's identity as a 'rotten' and the silliest idea. Ironically, he had betted two shillings that Murphy would not last ten rounds against 'Young Porky'. He felt so proud of his father. His schoolmates would not have dared to call him 'Goggles' had they known that he was the son of 'Young Porky.'

Q14. Why did Harold call his parents' efforts to hide his father's identity as 'Young Porky' as the 'rotten' and 'silliest idea'?

Ans: Harold's parents couldn't even dream that their spectacled child was so much interested in boxing. He had saved his pocket money and betted two shillings that Murphy would not last ten rounds against 'Young Porky'. Ironically, he was the son of 'Young Porky'. By hiding this fact from him, his parents had done the silliest possible thing. They had deprived him of the honour of being the son of such a great boxer. His classmates called him 'Goggles'. None would have dared if they had known that he was the son of 'Young Porky'.

Q15. The dramatic irony in the story is that the Brambles tried to hide the fact that could have been a matter of pride and swanking for Harold. Give a reasoned answer.

Ans: Harold's parents and Major Percy exercised all their energy in hiding this fact from Harold that Bill was 'a man of wrath'. Harold was fed on the fiction that his father was a commercial traveller. Ironically, the spectacled Harold had deep interest in boxing. He had betted two shillings that Murphy would not last even ten rounds against 'Young Porky'. Little did he know that he was the son of 'Young Porky'. It was not a matter of disgrace but a matter of pride and swanking if he had known the true identity of his father earlier.

Q16. Justify the title of the story, 'Keeping It from Harold'.

Ans: P.G. Wodehouse has titled the story 'Keeping It From Harold'. The title is appropriate, meaningful and logical. Harold's father was a professional boxer. But it was kept a guarded secret from Harold. He was led to believe that Bill was a commercial traveller. This concealment of Bill's true identity was the silliest of ideas. When the truth came into light, it evoked a strong reaction in Harold. He was publicly deprived of that glory and honour of which he was the real owner. All this happened because of 'Keeping It From Harold'.

II. Value-Based Long Answer Type Questions (80-100 WORDS)

Q1. Harold was an embodiment of decency, good behaviour, and intelligence but hated truth being kept from him. Give a pen-portrait of Harold Bramble in your own words.

Ans: Harold Bramble was a ten-year old prodigy. He started showing signs of a genius at quite a young age. He had won the spelling and dictation prize last term 'on his head'. The spectacled child was a constant source of amazement to Mrs. Bramble. His mother was highly proud of bringing such a prodigy into this world. Harold was totally different from ordinary children of his age. He was devoted to his books. He was a model of decency, good behaviour and intelligence. His parents regarded him as 'being of a superior order'. This very 'perfection' of Harold became a sort of drawback for the Brambles. They were led to believe that Mr. Bramble's profession would bring discredit and great embarrassment to Harold. Hence, they sacrificed truth and fed him on a fiction that Bill was commercial traveller. Harold seemed to defy the laws of heredity. He had 'run to intellect as his father had run to muscle'. Harold hated truth being kept from him. Ironically, Harold was deeply interested in boxing. He had betted two shillings that Murphy would not last ten rounds against 'Young Porky'. When he came to know that his own father was 'Young Porky' he was stunned. He called his decision of withdrawing from the contest for him as the 'silliest' of all ideas. He could have felt proud of his father and swanked like anything. His classmates would not have dared to call him 'Goggles'. His father's true identity would have been the greatest honour and pride for him.

Q2. An overprotective and possessive mother in Mrs. Bramble never lets her understand either Bill or Harold. Draw a character sketch of Mrs. Bramble highlighting all the important traits of her personality.

Ans: Mrs. Bramble is presented as a dominating and decisive personality. She is feared and respected by Mr. Bramble and her brother Major Percy. She takes all the major decisions. Mr. Bramble is made to yield to her in good humour. The very naming of Harold proves that when it comes to decision making, Mrs. Bramble has the final say. The poor husband had to withdraw his suggestion with the utmost good humour. Mrs. Bramble is a possessive and overprotective mother. Harold doesn't like that she should address him as if she is addressing a baby. Mrs. Bramble is highly proud of bringing such a prodigy as Harold into the world. Harold's unique character and his perfection becomes a drawback for her. She persuades her husband that Harold should not be disgraced and embarrassed by knowing Bill's real profession. Here, she is totally mistaken like Mr. Bramble and Major Percy. She fails to see the other side of Harold's personality. She can't even dream that her spectacled and scholarly son can have such a deep interest in boxing. Ironically, Mrs. Bramble fails to understand that Bill's true identity could have been a matter of pride and swanking for Harold. But she is more practical than Bill. No doubt, she hates Bill's profession. She realises that Bill's boxing career has earned a lot of money for the family. With that money they could give Harold the best possible education. She is shocked when she comes to know that Bill has withdrawn from the contest against Murphy.

Q3. Self-sacrifice, mild and obliging nature contrasted with the terrible performances of the boxer 'Young Porky'. Highlighting the main features of Bill Bramble's personality draw his character-sketch in your own words.

Ans: Bill Bramble presents a great contrast as a professional boxer and a private man. He was a gifted professional boxer. He had the ability to hit his opponent in the eye while apparently meditating an attack on his stomach. There was not a man whom he could not overcome in a twenty-round contest. He was the possessor of a left hook. It had won the approval of his fans and newspapers. He was famous among Londoners as 'Young Porky'. Bill was a square-jawed man with an irregularly-shaped nose. His being a professional boxer became the root cause of trouble for the family. Everyone took pains to hide his true identity from Harold. The child was fed on the fiction that Bill was a commercial traveller.

In private life, Bill was the mildest and most obliging of men. He behaved like a diffident crab before Mrs. Bramble and Major Percy. He was easily influenced and persuaded. He was a man of self-sacrificing nature who would yield to everybody. The very naming of Harold had caused a sacrifice on his part. He wanted to name the child John or Marie. But Mrs. Bramble insisted that Harold was a sweet name. The poor man withdrew his suggestion with the utmost good humour. He withdrew from the contest against Murphy not to cause disgrace and embarrassment to his prodigy son. Little did he know that his true identity could have been a matter of great pride and honour for his spectacled prodigy son.

Q4. Why did Harold's parents take so much pains to hide Bill's true identity as a 'man of wrath' or a professional boxer from Harold? Did they succeed in their mission? What is the message that Alexander Baron wants to give to the readers in 'The Man Who Knew Too Much'? Give a reasoned answer.

Ans: Harold's uniqueness and 'perfection' became a sort of drawback for the Brambles. They considered him as being of a superior order and were proud of giving birth to such a prodigy. They didn't want to embarrass their scholarly and spectacled son. They didn't want to tell that his father was a 'man of wrath' and a professional boxer. He was nicknamed 'Young Porky'. Unfortunately, – they were ill-advised in this regard. The senior curate of the parish and Major Percy Stokes, ill advised the Brambles to hide Bill's true identity. The prodigy was fed on the fiction that his father was a commercial ~ traveller. Even Bill made all sacrifices and withdrew from the contest against Murphy at the eleventh hour.

All our ill-advised and silly fears can be ? false. This is the lesson Mrs. Bramble should have learnt. Even they couldn't keep , it from Harold. Jerry Fisher in a fit of anger revealed to Harold that his father was not a commercial traveller but a professional boxer 'Young Porky', The fact which could have been a subject of highest honour, pride and swanking was unnecessarily kept a guarded secret from Harold. He had betted two shillings that Murphy would not last even ten rounds against 'Young Porky'. Harold's schoolmates would not have dared to call him 'Goggles' had they known that he was the son of 'Young Porky'.

Q5. Describe the ironical ending of the story. The fact that the Brambles took so much pains and care to hide from Harold could have been the subject of greatest pride, honour and swanking for Harold. Describe Harold's reaction at the disclosure. Justify your answer giving , examples from the text.

Ans: They say what man proposes, God disposes. Mr. and Mrs. Bramble took so much pains and care to hide a simple fact that his father Bill was a professional boxer. Harold's uniqueness and 'perfection' led Mrs. Bramble and her husband to create a myth. They felt that Bill's true identity would be a subject of dishonour and embarrassment for their prodigal son. He was not to know that his father was a 'man of wrath' and famous among Londoners as 'Young Porky'. Unfortunately, many others misguided them. The senior curate of the parish and Major Percy Stokes goaded the Brambles to keep it from Harold. Foolishly, Harold was fed on the fiction that his father was a commercial traveller.

The whole ill-advised plan of the Brambles and Percy turned out to be a miserable failure and anti-climax. In a fit of anger Jerry Fisher revealed Bill's true identity. Harold's reaction was most unexpected. Little did they know that their spectacled prodigy had deep interest in boxing. Harold had betted two shillings that Murphy would not last even ten rounds against 'Young Porky'. The withdrawal of Bill from the contest appeared to Harold as 'rotten' and silly. His schoolmates would not have dared to call him 'Goggles' had they known that he was the son of 'Yoimg Porky'. Ironically, the fact that they hid from Harold, could have been the subject of great honour, pride and swanking for him.