

**Lesson 7 -****EVANS TRIES AN 'O' LEVEL**

- Colin Dexter

Main Points

- (1) The story tells about Evans, a prisoner who wants to appear in an 'o' Level exams in German, to escape
- (2) He is cunning and contrives to dodge the authority
- (3) The prison authority arranges his test in his cell and beef up security there.
- (4) Prison officer Stephens keeps on watching in the cell after every minute, through the peephole.
- (5) After some time, prison authority receives a call from the examination board regarding a correction slip.
- (6) Evans got the permission from the invigilator to put a blanket around him as he was feeling cold.
- (7) McLeery, the invigilator (Evans's man) leaves the prison escorted by Stephens on the order of the governor of the prison.
- (8) Stephens finds a person on Evans chair in wounded conditions.
- (9) The wounded invigilator (Actual Evans) tells them Evans (here Mcleery) has gone towards Elsefield. He gets to know this through a photocopied sheet pasted at the last blank page of the question paper.
- (10) He accompanies the police party to help it find the culprit.
- (11) The detective superintendent informs the governor of Evans being near Else field way towards Headington round about, but he could not be traced later.
- (12) He also informs that the wounded invigilator has been sent to the Red cliffs hospital.
- (13) The hospital informs that there is no patient there and no one knows about him.
- (14) Then, the governor understands that the wounded invigilator is actual Evans. The real invigilator, the real Mcleery is found tied in the study since 8:15 a.m.
- (15) The analysis of the hints helps the governor nab Evans again. He is staying in the hotel Golden Lion in Chipping Norton.
- (16) He confesses everything but again flees away.
- (17) He outsmarts the authorities fourth time and has the 'Last Laugh'.

Major features:**Characters:**

- (1) The Secretary of the Examination Board
- (2) The Governor of H.M. Prison Oxford
- (3) James Roderick Evans (Evans, the protagonist of story) and a prisoner.
- (4) Mr. Stephens - A Prison officer
- (5) Mr. Jackson - A Prison officer



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(6) Rev. Stuart McLeery -An Invigilator (Parson)

(7) Mr. Carter- Detective Superintendent

Mr. Bell- Detective chief Inspector.

Proceeding of Events

Evans tries 'o' level German Exam in his cell in the prison

Jacksons, Stephens visit Evans and snatch nail-Scissors and razors but not the 'Lucky Hat.

The duplicate Mcleery (original tied & gagged in the library) reaches with all the exams- material.

After the exams, the invigilator leaves but authorities mistake him for Evans. The real Evans mistaken for the invigilator is found wounded in the cell.

For the treatment, the real Evans is sent to hospital, thus, he escapes.

Evans, after escape stays at the Golden Lion hotel. But the Governor catches him.

Evans is arrested! No

He is sent to the prison in a prison van. But inside the van, it is his own man-final Escape.

The most Intriguing Question Plaguing the Authorities:

Question: Who is real Evans (A) the one who left the prison as an invigilator

Or

(B) The one who was left with wounds in the prison.

Answer: -B

Security Arrangements during Exams:

- (i) Shaving razors and nail scissors are taken away
- (ii) A microphone is fitted in the cell so that governor himself listens to the conversation
- (iii) The thorough checking of Mcleery, the invigilator.
- (iv) The wooden furniture have been placed apposite to each other.
- (v) Senior police officers Jackson and Stephens arranged to have a strict vigil.

The Significance of 313/271 (Index No 4 Centre No.)

The governor put the two together with the help of 'Ordinance Survey Map' for Oxfordshire and reaches hotel.

The Purpose of Clues on the superimposed photocopied sheet attached to the question paper.

- (1) Final details of escape-plans



- (2) To make the authorities believe that the wounded man was actually Mcleery
(3) To misled authorities at every step and to get them play to Evans' tunes

Some Questions :

Q.1 Why did the injured Mcleery offer to help the prison officers track Evans?

Q.2 Where did Evans Go?

Q.3 How does the correction slip help the escape of Evans?

Q.4 Who do you think has outwitted the other-Evans or the governor? How?

Ans1- The wounded Mcleery, who was actually Evans, wanted to escape. He did so in order to hoodwink the prison authorities. Evans saw in it the golden chance for his escape..

Ans2 -To a hotel named named 'Golden Lion' in Chipping Norton.

Ans3 -The slip provided the name of the hotel- gave them opportunity to know the time when the exams started.

Ans4 -Evans-almost rearrested in the hotel -handcuffed and made to sit in a prison van but to evans delight his friend had already exchanged the driver and the other officials. In the van, people are his friends - took the van towards New burry- Evans finally escapes -He outwitted the governor by dodging him at every step.