

HONEYCOMB

Quality

John Galsworthy

Introduction....

The story “Quality” is about the commitment of an artist(Shoemaker) towards his art and his ultimate death by starvation.

The story also exposes the sad loss of art and quality of work in the world of fashion, pomp and materialism.

Artists

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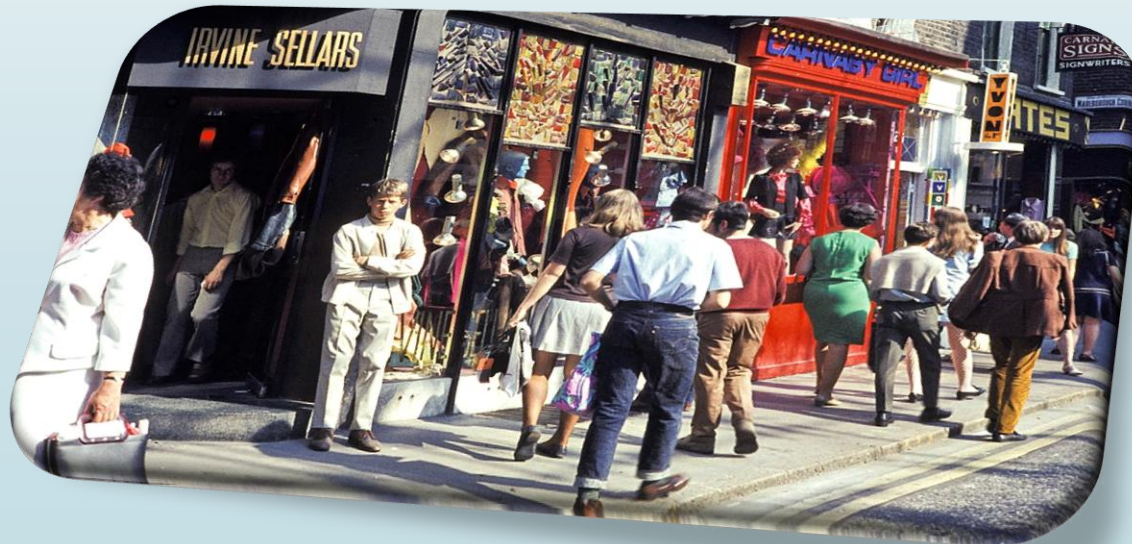
An artist is person who is skilled at some activity related to creating art, practicing art. We can respectfully call a Carpenter, a Sculpture, a Shoemaker, and a Pottery maker as an artist .



Key Characters and Setting

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- **Gessler Brothers (Elder and Younger Brother) .They are German immigrants, who value the quality in their art of shoemaking .**
- **The narrator – Loyal and sympathetic customer.**
- **The Englishman – He took over the shop of Mr Gessler**
- **Setting of the story is in a small, fashionable part of London.**



Main Themes

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- **Commitment to one's work. Every worker is an artist if he loves his work and immersed in it.**
- **Competition between small business and big firms.**
- **The tragedy of Gessler brother signifies that human values are threatened by material gain.**

Accent

- **Accent is a particular way of pronouncing words that is connected with the country, area or social class that one comes from.**
- **Mr. Gessler speaks with German accent as he immigrated from Germany.**
When Mr Gessler speaks p, t, k sound like b, d, g
- **This is very realistic and important aspect of language study in the story.**

- **Examples...**

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1) "Id is an ardt!" | - It is an Art. |
| 2) "Id 'urds' you dere" | - It hurts you there. |
| 3) "Id is a zlack dime" | - It is a slack time. |

In our country also people speak English language with their native language accents like, Marathi, Bengali, Tamil etc.

Opening

- **The touching story “Quality” opens with the Gesslers’ shop named as “Gessler Brothers”. They would prepare shoes on order.**
- **Mr Gessler(Younger brother) is a perfect, dedicated artist. His shop was like a church. The narrator knows him since the days of his father. The narrator was their regular customer who always valued his art and his commitment to it.**

Development in the story

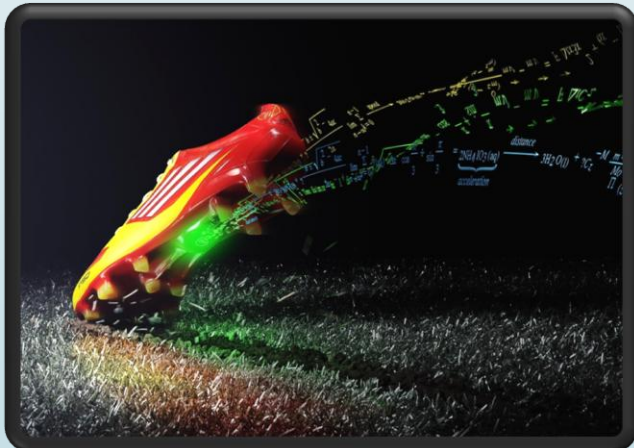
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- **In one of the visits to the Gesslers' shop the narrator complained about the creaking of the shoes. Mr. Gessler promised to repair it or cancel the charges. It shows his honesty, humility.**
- **Once, when the narrator went to Mr. Gessler wearing the pair of shoes bought from some big firm, Mr Gessler pressed his finger on the place where the boot was not comfortable to the narrator. He said in his German accent , “**Id urds you dere**”.**
- **First time he spoke out the struggle he had to face in his business. He laid bear his heart how big firms are snatching the small business with the help of advertisement without caring of the quality of the shoes.**
- **Out of genuine sympathy towards Mr Gessler the narrator placed the huge order of shoes.**

Role of Advertisement

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- **An advertisement is a piece of information in a newspaper, on TV ,a picture on a wall etc. that tries to persuade people to buy something.**
- **Advertisement plays a crucial role in attracting customers.**
- **Some ads can be misleading, just marketing tactics without quality products. Therefore the quality work of Mr. Gessler suffered.**



Elder Gessler Brother's death

- **The narrator happened to visit Gesslers' shop after a gap of 2 years just to know the sad news of the death of Elder brother though the younger brother himself. This is the downfall in the story.**
- **The narrator put another big order for the shoes. He received excellent quality shoes .It shows every pair of shoes they made spoke for itself.**
- **The narrator went out of London for a year.**

Competition

The Gessler brothers became the victim of small business (their own) versus mall business, which is showy, only based on advertisement.

Small Business



Mall Business



The End : Mr. Gessler's death

- **After returning from abroad , the narrator paid a visit to Mr Gesslers's shop to thank him for the splendid shoes he made. He was shocked to see the shop was taken over by an Englishman who revealed Mr Gessler's death due to starvation. Mr Gessler never gave time to eat, all went in rent and leather.**
- **In the end, as a tribute , both men acknowledged and appreciated the quality of his work, unmatched skills and passion.**
- **“He was a character. But he made good boots”.**

“ Yes, I (the narrator) said,” he made good boots”.

Thanks.

- **Pramod Bhivsan Nikalje.**
- **Aecs- 2 Tarapur**