



English

Class: 12th

Subject: English (Novel) Goodbye Mr. Chips)

Novel 11: [Row with Ralston](#)

Author: [James Hilton](#)

❖ Important Short Questions:

1. Who was Ralston?

Answer: Ralston was the new Head of Brookfield, efficient, ambitious, ruthless, but not very likeable.

2. How did Ralston raise the status of Brookfield?

Answer: He made the school popular, increased the waiting list, and attracted wealthy students.

3. Why did Chips never try to beware of Ralston?

Answer: He was not attracted to him personally and felt protected by his age and seniority.

4. How did Chips serve Ralston?

Answer: He served him willingly and loyally, for the sake of Brookfield.

5. What was the “urbane ultimatum” Ralston gave to Chips in 1908?

Answer: Ralston suggested that Chips should consider retirement with pension.

6. How did Chips react to the retirement suggestion?

Answer: He was startled, refused to consider it, and insisted he did not want to retire.

7. Why did Ralston say retirement should be considered?

Answer: He claimed Chips was not pulling his weight, had old-fashioned teaching, slovenly habits, and ignored instructions.

8. What did Ralston say about Chips’ gown?

Answer: It was slovenly and a subject of continual amusement in the school.

9. What did Ralston mean by “insubordination” in Chips’ case?

Answer: He said in a younger man it would be insubordination; in Chips’ case, it was slackness and obstinacy.

10. What example did Ralston give regarding Chips’ teaching methods?

Answer: Chips refused to adopt the new Latin pronunciation method.

11. How did Chips defend his Latin pronunciation?

Answer: He argued that “Cicero” and “vicissim” were correct, while the new pronunciations were nonsense.

12. What was Ralston’s aim for Brookfield?

Answer: To make it a thoroughly up-to-date school, efficient, modern, and attractive to wealthy parents.

13. How did Chips view Ralston’s reforms?

Answer: He thought they ignored traditions, promoted snob culture, and overemphasized wealth and certificates.

14. What did Chips think of the focus on exams and certificates?

Answer: He considered them less important than teaching sense of proportion and broad values.

15. How did Chips describe the new rich students at Brookfield?

Answer: Many were ostentatious, given large allowances, and some had vulgar habits.

16. Why did Chips think the school should teach a sense of proportion?

Answer: He believed it was more important than Latin, Greek, Chemistry, or certificates.

17. How did Chips respond to Ralston's criticism?

Answer: He walked away silently, refused to resign, and expressed disagreement politely.

18. What did Chips feel toward Ralston after the incident?

Answer: In retrospect, he felt a little sorry for Ralston, recognizing mutual misunderstandings.

19. How did the students learn about the conflict?

Answer: A small boy overheard the interview and spread the news to friends and parents.

20. What was the students' reaction?

Answer: They sympathized with Chips, disliked Ralston, and even considered protesting.

21. How did the young masters react to Ralston?

Answer: They supported Chips despite agreeing he was old-fashioned because they disliked Ralston's harsh methods.

22. Who was Sir John Rivers?

Answer: He was the Chairman of the Governors of Brookfield.

23. How did Sir John Rivers support Chips?

Answer: He reassured him that the Governors were fully behind him and did not want him to resign.

24. What advice did Sir John Rivers give Chips regarding Ralston?

Answer: To ignore Ralston politely and continue his work confidently.

25. How did the Governors view Brookfield without Chips?

Answer: They believed Brookfield would not be the same without him.

26. What did the Governors say about Chips' future at school?

Answer: They hoped he could stay as long as he liked, even until a hundred.

27. How did Chips feel when reassured by the Governors?

Answer: He was deeply moved and broke down emotionally.

28. Why did Chips consider Ralston's leadership dangerous?

Answer: Because it focused only on wealth and efficiency, ignoring tradition and true education.

29. What incident showed the popularity of Chips among students?

Answer: News of Ralston demanding his resignation caused widespread sympathy and support for Chips.

30. How did Chips' personal values clash with Ralston's?

Answer: Chips valued tradition, broad education, and sense of proportion, while Ralston emphasized modernity and wealth.

31. How did Chips feel about wealthy parents influencing Brookfield?

Answer: He disapproved, thinking they promoted a snob culture.

32. How did Chips compare modern education to Brookfield tradition?

Answer: He believed Brookfield's traditions defended character and balance, which modern reforms ignored.

33. What role did age and experience play for Chips during this row?

Answer: They protected him from Ralston's pressure and gave him confidence to stand firm.

34. Why did Ralston fail to fully control Brookfield?

Answer: He underestimated the school's traditions and the loyalty and respect Chips commanded.

35. What lesson does this episode teach about Chips' character?

Answer: It shows his courage, loyalty, integrity, and dedication to tradition and education above superficial efficiency.

Note:

This chapter is designed to provide a solid foundation of knowledge, with the goal of deepening understanding and encouraging further exploration of the subject. The content has been carefully selected to support effective learning and inspire students to engage with the topic more deeply.

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Purpose: To contribute to education by offering insightful, valuable content that enhances learning and understanding.

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