


**Dr. H. N. SINHA ARTS AND
COMMERCE COLLEGE, PATUR.**

**Faculty of Commerce and Management
B.COM. II SEMESTER III
Subject : Compulsory English**

Two Gentlemen of Verona

A. J. Cronin

Archibald Joseph Cronin (1896-1981) was a Scottish novelist, dramatist, and non-fiction writer. He was a trained physician. Cronin served as a surgeon sub-lieutenant during the First World War in the Royal Navy before graduating from medical school. He is considered one of the most renowned storytellers of the twentieth century. His best-known works are *The Citadel* and *The Keys of the Kingdom*, both of which were made into Oscar-nominated films. Many of Cronin's books were bestsellers and have been translated into many languages. Some of his stories are based on the experiences from his medical career. We find a dramatic mix of realism, romance and social criticism in his stories. Cronin's works deal with moral conflicts between the individual and society.



A J Cronin was a doctor by profession.
He gave up his profession as a doctor and started writing novels and short stories.
Some of his novels have been made into films.
The title of the short story, “Two Gentlemen of Verona,” is that one of the early plays of Shakespeare.
The story tells about the sacrifice of the two little boys to bring hope to their sister.

Two Gentlemen of Verona is a touching story of two small boys Jacopo and Nicola - who live a frugal and hard life by doing odd jobs in order to sustain themselves and take care of their sister.

The boys exhibit maturity way beyond their age. They also show what being a gentleman is all about embracing gentleman responsibilities without complaining, displaying largeness of heart and nobility of character

The narrator and his companion were driving through the foothills of the Alps. At the outskirts of Verona, they saw two boys selling wild straw berries. They were brothers. Nicola, the elder was 13 years old while Jacopo was 12. They met these two boys in several places. Their behaviour attracted them. They willingly did all kinds of work. They polished shoes, sold fruits, sold newspapers, conducted the tourists round the town and did all kinds of small jobs.

One night, the narrator saw the two boys resting on a stone pavement with a bundle of unsold Newspapers. When the narrator questioned them why they were there at late night, Nicola told him that they were waiting for the last bus to Padua so that they could sell the Newspaper. The next morning, the narrator saw them at the fountain. He went there to get his shoes polished. He asked them what they did with their earnings as they were not spending money on clothes and they ate simple food. He asked if they saved money to go to the United States. They replied that they had some other plans.

Since the narrator was leaving Verona, he asked the boys if they need any help from him. Jacopo requested the narrator to drop them in the car to the village Polenta that is around 30 kilometres away. But his brother Nicola did not like the fact that his brother is troubling the narrator. The narrator gladly agreed to help the boys. The next day afternoon, he drove them to the village and the boys asked him to stop the car before a big building. The boys requested the narrator to wait for some time and they went into the building.

The narrator learnt from a nurse that it was a hospital where the boys' sister Lucia was a patient.

She was undergoing treatment for tuberculosis.

The two boys were supporting her in the hospital for more than a year.

The nurse also told that their father, a widower, was a popular singer at La Scala and was killed in the German war.

Thus they were made orphans by the war.

A bomb destroyed their home.

The boys spied on the movement of the German troops and gave information to the resistance forces.

When peace was restored, they found that Lucia with Tuberculosis. The hospital charged a fee which her two brothers paid.

She also said that Lucia also is a singer and she is progressing in her health and very soon she will be able to sing and earn a living.

While they were driving back to Verona, the narrator did not ask anything to the boys.

He did not like the boys to know that he knew about their secret.

He was impressed with the boys who worked cheerfully and with the purpose.

Their selfless action, dignity and courage moved the narrator.

So, they were called the gentlemen of Verona by the narrator.

The background features abstract, overlapping geometric shapes in various shades of green, ranging from light lime to dark forest green. These shapes are primarily located on the left and right sides of the frame, leaving a large white central area. The shapes are composed of triangles and polygons, some of which are semi-transparent, creating a layered effect.

THANK YOU