

TWO: THE SPECULATIONS OF JEFFERSON THORPE

DEEPER UNDERSTANDING

“EVERYBODY KNEW JEFF AND LIKED HIM”: KINDLINESS AND HUMOUR

Leacock mentions several times how Mariposa’s opinion of Jefferson Thorpe changes for the better when he makes his fortune. However, Leacock refuses to go into how opinions change for the worse when he loses his fortune: “As I say, it was when Jeff made money that they saw how gifted he was, and when he lost it, – but still, *there’s no need to go into that*. I believe it’s something the same in other places too” (28).

1. Look back to “Horatian Satire and Stephen Leacock: An Overview” in the pre-reading section of this resource. What does Leacock’s refusal to talk poorly about Jeff tell us about his approach to humour and humanity?
2. Do you agree? Is there no need to go into that?

