

ON THE FACE OF IT

Q1. What had happened to Derry's face?

Answer. Half of Derry's face was burnt by the acid. It ate up his face and made him look ugly and horrible. He thought himself a devil and monster that's why he had become a repulsive and defiant boy.

Q2. How does Mr. Lamb look at the weeds?

Answer. Mr. Lamb had a different outlook to look at things. Along with other plants, he grows weeds in one side of his garden. He believes that weeds are worthless plants because they do not give any flower, fruits and herbs and have no medicinal value that's why they are worthless to us. On the other hands, plants that/which have all these values that's why they are accepted by us.

Q3. Why doesn't Mr. Lamb Cover up his tin leg?

Answer. Mr. Lamb has lost one of his legs in the war that's why he has to wear a tin leg. But he does not cover his leg although he is called 'Lamby Lamb' by the children in the street. He does not feel angry and bears/have no bitterness for them. He believes that they would forget it soon because there are lots of other beautiful things around to look at.

Q4. What did Derry hear the woman at the bus stop say?

Answer. One day when Derry was at the bus shelter, he heard a woman saying terrible things about him. She said that she had never seen such a horrible face and only a mother could kiss such a boy. Derry believed that it was true because his mother only kissed him on the other side of his face.

Q5. Why did the man in Mr. Lamb's story lock himself up in the room? What fate did he meet with?

Answer. Mr. Lamb's man locked himself in a room because he had a fear of everything of this world. A bus might run over him, or a man might breath/leave deadly germs onto him, a donkey might kick him to death or a girl might cheat him in love or he might slip on a banana skin. But one day a picture fell off the wall onto his head and killed him. Thus the man met a terrible fate.

Q6. Why did Derry want to go back to Mr. Lamb's garden?

Or

Why does Derry's attitude change?

Answer. Derry felt defeated due to his burnt up face and the indiscrimination/injustice of the society. But Mr. Lamb showed his true sincerity for the boy. With the example of weed and a man's funny story, he helped him to realize his inner goodness and true worth. Derry saw in him a true friends, guide and teacher in the old man. That's why he wanted to go back to him.

Q7. Why were there no curtains in Mr. Lamb's house?

Answer. Mr. Lamb had a big and beautiful garden. He loved the beauty of nature. He liked the darkness and light equally. He wanted to hear the magic sound of the wind and humming of the bird. He wanted everyone to come and enjoy his beautiful garden. That's why he did not put curtain on the windows. The gates of his garden were open to all.

Q8. What do you think the play "On the face of it" is all about?

Answer. The Story is about different outlook we have to see the life. Mr. Lamb and Derry are both handicapped yet they have different approach of life. Mr. Lamb has lost one of his leg in the war but he takes his handicap as a challenge and got victory on it. On the other hand, Derry thinks that his burnt up face has deprived him from all the rights and happiness. But Mr. Lamb helped the boy to realize his inner goodness and worth.

Q9. Derry and Mr. Lamb are similar yet different. Do you agree? Give reasons.

Answer. Derry and Mr. Lamb both are suffered with physical impairment. Derry's half face was burnt by acid while Mr. Lamb lost one of his legs in the war. But they have completely different outlook towards life. Derry thinks that he looks like a devil due to his burnt up face. It has snatched everything from him. He has locked himself in his own world where he has nobody to share his feelings. He takes his disability as a failure. He thinks that it has snatched everything from him. In fact his deformity and injustice of the society has made him a repulsive boy.

On the other hand Mr. Lamb is a convivial and sociable man. He takes his disability as a challenge and got victory on it. He lives in a beautiful house with a beautiful garden. He keeps the gate of his garden open for all. He never feels disappointed when he is called "Lambey Lamb" by the children. They are not afraid of him and came to his garden for apples and pears. He also encourages Derry to face his handicap boldly. In fact he can become a role model for other handicaps to follow. In his struggle, we learn a lesson of life that we must rise above our difficulties to prove our mettle/worth.

Q10. How does Mr. Lamb boost/infuse/inculcate/imbue/impart a new zeal in the little Derry in the story on the face of it? or How does Lamb try to remove the baseless fears of Derry?

Answer. Derry spent a few hours with Mr. Lamb that becomes a turning point of his life. Before meeting him, he was leading a very lonely life where he had nobody to share his feeling. He thought himself a devil due to his deformity and discrimination by society.

After having a little conversation with the boy, Mr. Lamb realizes that the boy has lost all his hopes and dreams due to his ugly looking face and the ill-treatment of the world. He infuses a new spirit and zest of life in Derry. He tells him that he does not fear anything created by the god including his burnt up face. With the example of weeds and a man's funny story, he proves that a man should live with a positive outlook. He must meet with the people around and participate in different activities. He teaches him to love the nature and live a worthy life like him. He must feel blessed as he has lost only half of his face but he still has two arms, legs, eyes and ears to live a normal life. All these things draw Derry to Mr. Lamb. Thus the old man helps the boy to realize his inner goodness and true worth and respect it too. This transformation is evident in the conversation between the son and the mother.

Q11. What makes Derry a defiant and repulsive child?

Answer. Derry was a young boy who was suffered with physical impairment. Half of his face was burnt up by the acid that made him a defiant and repulsive boy. But I think that his ugly looking face and discrimination of people both were responsible for it. He had seen the ill-treatment and partiality by the society. He had listened disgracing comment about him. How ironical it was that his family members did not want him to get back from the hospital. He had heard a lady saying that only a mother could love such a horrible face.

He thought that he looked like a devil due to his burnt up face. People feared and avoided him. He was forced to live a secluded/lonely life where he had nobody to share his feelings. He had no sympathy or love for himself and people around. He took his disability as a failure. It had snatched everything from him. Thus the boy had lost all his hopes and dreams in his selfish world. But the boy was completely changed when he found a true friend and guide in Mr. Lamb. He realized his self worth and inner goodness. He decided to live a normal life with a positive outlook.

Passages

Q1. Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow:

What have you changed the subject for? People always do that. Why don't you ask me? Why do you do what they all do and pretend it isn't true and isn't there? In case I see you looking and mind and get upset? I'll tell....you don't ask me because you're afraid to.

- i. Identify the speaker of these lines:
 - a. Mr. Lamb
 - b. Derry
 - c. The mother of Derry
 - d. None of these
- ii. What does the speaker is referring about in the above lines?
 - a. About his being healthy
 - b. about his being uneducated
 - c. About his being poor
 - d. About his being ugly looking.
- iii. What does the speaker mean when he says, 'why do you do what they all do and pretend'
 - a. People show unwanted sympathy and hate him at the same time.
 - b. People show sympathy and love him at the same time.
 - c. People love him for his disability
 - d. All of these.
- iv. Find out literary device used in the above lines:
 - a. Pun
 - b. Symbol
 - c. Imagery

- d. Irony

Q2. Read the stanza below and answer the questions that follow:

When Aunt is dead, her terrified hands will lie
Still ringed with ordeals she was mastered by
The tigers in the panel that she made
Will go on prancing proud and unafraid.

- i. What is aunt Jennifer's death symbolic of?
 - a. he unfulfilled desires
 - b. Her suppression
 - c. He weakness
 - d. All of these
- ii. Explain: 'terrified hands'
 - a. Hands that shivered out of fear
 - b. Hands were bruised
 - c. Hands that shivered due to Parkinson's disease
 - d. hands that were fractured
- iii. What does 'ringed with ordeals' imply?
 - a. Desire to buy rings
 - b. Chained with responsibilities
 - c. Trapped underwater
 - d. A magical ring
- iv. What is the poetic device used in the final line of the poem
 - a. Personification
 - b. Alliteration
 - c. Metaphor
 - d. Simile