1. The story is about american approach to problems and the desire to solve them. It is about a small village in Belgium, which is also referred to as paradise for mentally ill people. Most importantly, this story is about alternative approach to mental health problems. It is about accepting people who have mental disorders as they are, rather than trying to “fix” them with medications. Such approach is seen in Geel in Belgium, where people are assigned to local families without knowing diagnosis. They feel accepted; they work and live their lives rather than being sedated at a mental hospital. The story mentions a lot of concrete examples of people who were struggling, and people around, family, were trying to help solve a problem, while they needed nothing more than acceptance.

2. I was confused due to the rejection of the Geel method in the US; I understand the reasons why people do not want to officially introduce such a practice to the country, but it just seems off. If it helps people, if it does not destroy the person but gives them a chance to live a life, how could it be rejected? Another thing that stood out to me was the three parts that affected mentally ill people’s relapse. It is easy to assume that criticism and hostile environments are triggers, but too much heart involvement was a surprise for me, although it is reasonable.

3. It is great to know that there is such a place where people with mental problems are given a chance to live a life, though it is very unfortunate that it is just one such place and such practice was not accepted many times in the states, the country which I believed is the most advanced in terms of mental disorder treatments. It was very sad to hear a dad’s story of some sort of seizure of his daughter and his reflection of his reaction at that time. I believe it takes time to learn to accept a person as they are, especially if it is someone close.