

ENGLISH

CHAPTER 6 - THE BROWNING VERSION

Understanding the text

1. Comment on the attitude shown by Taplow towards Crocker-Harris.

Answer:

Crocker-Harris is Taplow's teacher. According to Taplow, he is a person who adheres to strict principles and is a hard worker, which is clear from the fact that he scheduled a class on the last day of school. He was fair to Taplow and gave him the grades he deserved. He is a person who does not care to be liked by others. Despite being a strict person, he is Taplow's favourite because he is hardworking and gives his all to his students. Taplow told Frank about Crocker-Harris that he is not sadistic, but he is strict.

2. Does Frank seem to encourage Taplow's comments on Crocker-Harris?

Answer:

Yes, Frank appears to support Taplow's comments about Crocker-Harris. When Taplow told Frank about Crocker-Harris, he said, "Crocker-Harris is a person who is shrivelled up inside like a nut, and he seems to hate people who like him." Frank cleverly persuaded Taplow to talk more about Crocker-Harris by asking a series of questions. During the conversation with Taplow, he also repeated the name "Crocker-Harris" so that Taplow would say something more about Crocker-Harris.

3. What do you gather about Crocker-Harris from the play?

Answer:

Crocker-Harris is a teacher who strictly adheres to his rules, regulations, and principles. He is someone who believes in making unbiased decisions about his students, and he is emotionless in front of them so that he can treat everyone

equally. He is not a sadist, but he is serious about his job. When he schedules class on the last day of school, he is strict about his responsibilities.

Working with words

A sadist is a person who gets pleasure out of giving pain to others. Given below are some dictionary definitions of certain kinds of persons. Find out the words that fit these descriptions.

1. A person who considers it very important that things should be correct or genuine, e.g. in the use of language or in the arts: P...

Answer:

Perfectionist

2. A person who believes that war and violence are wrong and will not fight in a war: P...

Answer:

Pacifist

3. A person who believes that nothing really exists: N...

Answer:

Nihilist

4. A person who is always hopeful and expects the best in all things: O...

Answer:

Optimist

5. A person who follows generally accepted norms of behaviour: C...

Answer:

Conventionalist

6. A person who believes that material possessions are all that matter in life: M...

Answer:

Materialist

Childhood

Think it out

1. Identify the stanza that talks of each of the following.

individuality rationalism hypocrisy

Answer:

Individuality – Third stanza

Rationalism – First stanza

Hypocrisy – Second stanza

2. What according to the poem is involved in the process of growing up?

Answer:

According to the poem, the poet was attempting to direct the process of maturation from childhood to adolescence. The poet believes that by losing his childhood, he will gain some characteristics that will perfectly define his adolescence. These characteristics include: comprehending rationalism and discrimination, comprehending adult hypocrisy, comprehending the power of individualism and self-confidence.

3. What is the poet's feeling towards childhood?

Answer:

Childhood, according to the poet, is a stage from which the next stage, adolescence, begins. Childhood was the stage when people tended to believe things earlier; a child easily believed what adults said. The poet was eager to enter his adolescent stage because a poet is eager to understand rationalism, discrimination, hypocrisy, individualism, and self-confidence, and the poet has no regrets about losing his childhood.

4. Which do you think are the most poetic lines? Why?

Answer:

The poem's final stanza appears to be the most poetic: "It went to some forgotten place That's hidden in an infant's face; that's all I know." These lines beautifully capture the process of growth and the passing of a particular stage of life. These lines imply, metaphorically, that an infant's innocent face conceals a great deal behind its smiles. He finds solace in the fact that the virtues of childhood are not forever lost but may be hidden somewhere in the child's consciousness.