



Q11. "There's plenty of other things to stare at." Which 'things' are worth staring at and why?

Ans: According to the old man there are plenty of things to stare at. These include crab apples or the weeds or a spider climbing up a silken ladder, or his tall sun-flowers. All of them are beautiful and 'growing'. Derry is surprised at the mention of 'things'. Mr Lamb tries to convince him that it is all relative. Then he mentions 'Beauty and the Beast'.

Q12. How does Derry interpret the fairy story 'Beauty and the Beast'? What does he feel about himself?

Ans: Derry says that he has been told that story before. It teaches us that outward appearance does not matter. It is what one is inside that is important. Handsome is that handsome does. Beauty loved the monstrous beast for himself. When she kissed him, he changed into a handsome prince. No one except Derry's mother kisses him. She too kisses him on the other side of the face. He has developed a negative attitude and says he does not care 'if nobody ever kissed' him.

Q13. How, according to Derry, do people try to console those suffering from some physical impairment?

Ans: They ask the person to look at all those people who are in pain and brave. They never cry or complain. They don't feel sorry for themselves. Then the person is asked to think of all those persons worse off than him. One might have been blinded or born deaf, or confined to a wheelchair, or be crazy and dribble. Since Derry has none of these disabilities he is far better placed.

Q14. Why do these arguments fail to console Derry?

Ans: Derry has developed negative attitude. He says that the arguments to console him will not make his face change. He feels more hurt and pained by the comments of persons or what he overhears. Once he heard a woman in the street whispering to another, "Look at that, that's a terrible thing. That's a face only a mother could love." Derry calls it cruel of them.

Q15. How does Mr Lamb try to remove the baseless fears of Derry?

Ans: Derry has developed withdrawal symptoms. He doesn't like being near people. Mr Lamb tells him the story of a person who was afraid of everything in the world. So he went into his room and locked the door. He got into his bed and stayed there for a while. Then a picture fell off the wall on to his head and killed him.

Q16. Which fears did the man suffer from? What is the common factor in all of them?

Ans: The man feared that a bus might run him over, or a man might breathe deadly germs onto him, or a donkey might kick him to death or lightning might strike him down, or he might love a girl and the girl would leave him, and he might slip on a banana skin and fall and people who saw him would laugh their heads off. Most of these fears are imaginary.

Q17. What peculiar things does Derry notice about the old man?

Ans: Derry thinks that the old man is peculiar. He says peculiar things. He asks questions which Derry does not understand. There

are no curtains at the windows in his house. He likes the light and darkness and hears the wind with the windows open.

Q18. What does Derry listen about himself? How does he react to it?

Ans: Derry listens to what his parents talk about him downstairs when he is not there. They seem to be anxious about him and his future. What he will ever do and how will he ever get on in that world. What is going to happen to him with that bum mark on his face. They say what is going to happen to him when they have died.

Q19. In what ways does Mr Lamb inspire Derry to overcome his physical disability?

Ans: Mr Lamb tells Derry that he 'has got two arms, two legs and eyes and ears. He has got a tongue and a brain. He will get on the way he wants, like all the rest. And if he chooses and sets his mind to it, he could get on even better than all the rest.

Q20. "People are never just nothing. Never." Why does Mr Lamb say so? Why does he advise Derry not to hate anyone?

Ans: Mr Lamb says that he has friends every where. Derry says that the people passing us in the street are not our friends. Mr Lamb tells him that they are not enemies either. When Derry says they are "Just nothing", Mr Lamb makes this remark. He tells Derry that hatred does more harm than any bottle of acid. Acid only bums the face, but hatred may bum a person away inside.

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