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Apperciation

1. Examine the communication channels in the story between

- a. Paul and his mother
- b. Paul and Bassett
- c. Paul and his uncle
- d. Basset and Paul's uncle
- e. Paul's mother and his uncle

Answer:

a. Paul and her mother shared the most intimate conversation through eyes. Though they were not actually love bound to each other as in the first paragraph, the author says that it was the children and the mother alone who knew that there was no love in their relation, they knew it because they read in each other's eyes.

b. The friendship of Paul and Bassett or to say more clearly their partnership was an affectionate relation between them. Bassett knew and understood what the rest failed to even notice. He brought all the news of racing horses to Paul and then the clairvoyant Paul will decide in his trance who was to be the winner.

c. Paul and uncle Oscar became partners soon after uncle discovers that Paul has an uncanny knowledge that makes him predict the winning horse. However, there is more to it, he realises that the whole betting thing was making Paul nervous and was hampering his health. However, Oscar Creswell asks Paul on how to win by betting, to which the child innocently replies that he just knows who is going to win once he gets there

d. Bassett and uncle Creswell shared a bond since long back. However, as Bassett had promised to Paul he never told about his betting to uncle Oscar as well. But later he found himself explaining things to Creswell and the three of them became partners.

e. It would be totally unfair to call Hester that harsh a lady for she did care about her children after all, however, she gave importance to materialistic gains. When she realised her sons obsession with the racing horses, she asked Bassett the gardener to keep Paul away from Oscar so it did not affect her son's health. She realised that the obsession was proving to be neurotic for her son and she wanted her son to be healthy and for that she risked her relation with her dear brother.

2. How has the author linked the symbol of the rocking-horse to Paul's triumphs at the races?

Answer: The rocking-horse is one of the three symbols present in the story that Lawrence has dealt with throughout the story. The horse is symbolic of the victory that Paul achieves at last. The materialistic gain and the importance of money over love. The whispering that haunts Paul that "there must be more money and the rocking-horse are interrelated. The want of money to achieve the love of mother that he never had, he goes on betting and earning more and more, thus, proving his luck. The boy when asked his mother for what is luck, she explained him that luck is what

brings one money. The boy is disheartened to know that his father has no luck and so will not make money. He is sad at the implication that he will never have his mother's love who is all consumed by indebtedness. The boy, autistic as he is, with some clairvoyance rides his horse harder and ferociously till he "gets there" It shows his desperation to physically win his mother's love by winning the race and thus earning more money, as "there must be more money" Post the ride, Paul will stand facing the horse with his legs apart and he would look at the bent head of the horse and its shining eyes. These interpret just one thing, the determination, the wanting, the longing for money. It is about success, money, love and most importantly, winning. And Paul gets it all, he wins and gets her mother the money through his triumphs in races. And he even found her love as she grew too concerned about her son's obsession with the races that eventually killed him.

3. The ending of the story is an instance of irony. Suppose Paul had not died at the end, how would you have reacted to the story?

Answer: It is true that a tragedy digs a deeper mark than a happy ending. It causes an emotional catharsis in the audience. Had the story had a happy ending it would have been pleasant, however, the reader would not have felt the emotions and passion that drove Paul to his inevitable climax. Yet some may find it not justified to have killed the boy at the end of the story that went so well with Paul achieving what he wanted all the while, money and love both. He sacrificed his life to bring to his mother what his father couldn't and thus proved to be worthy of her affection, which hungered for. However, one can not have all the happiness in the world. They say that God is cruel when he gives us something, he gives it to us only with one hand while taking away with the other our most cherished possession. So, it can not be said that the death of Paul was justified or other way round; however, it is ironical. Had he lived post the Derby win, who knows what shape the story might have taken. Maybe what happens happens for some good yet it would have brought the story to a happy ending had Paul lived.

Language Work

1. 'A bird in hand is worth two in the bush'.

a. Explain the above statement in the literal sense.

b. Explain it in the context in which it is mentioned in the story.

Answer:

a. The proverb originates from the tradition of falconry, which implies that no matter the number of falcons in a bush, what matters is the falcon in possession, even if it is a single falcon.

b. When Paul and uncle Oscar decide to gift the 5,000 pounds to Hester, by giving her 1,000 pounds on each birthday. She becomes eager and asks the lawyer if she could have all the 5,000 pounds in once. Then the son decides to give them away to her mother in once so that she is free of the debt and said that he could make more with the left amount. The uncle doubted and tried to caution the lad by telling him that is wise to not give what you have with you right now for the possibility. However, Paul was sure to know of one of the three upcoming races he assured and so gave the money to his mother gladly.

2. Explain the following phrases

a. Sure as eggs

b. Spinning yarns

c. Turned to dust

Answer:

a. When a person is absolutely sure about something

"The man will not bet unless he is as sure as eggs."

b. To narrate a long and wonderful story

"Mother always spun yarns while putting the baby to sleep at night."

c. Ruined, finished completely

“The man was so ill fated every thing he touched turned to dust.”

3. Given below is the dictionary meaning of

Smirk: to smile in a silly or unpleasant way that shows that you are pleased with yourself.

Look up the dictionary for the following words which are also related to facial expressions and write down the meaning of each smile, grin, grimace, sneer

Answer:

Smile: A facial expression indicating happiness

Grin: To smile broadly to indicate pleasure

Grimace: An expression showing disapproval

Sneer: To show that one has no respect for somebody by a facial expression.

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