Quang Huynh

The Drunkard Questions

1. One instance of humor in the story, “The Drunkard” is when lemonade is used as a sign of innocence and childhood. A quote from the story would be, “I was astonished that he could even drinks such stuff. It looked as if he had never tried lemonade.” This quote is quite ironic and humorous because the theme of the story is that alcohol is bad. So, Larry taking a sip from his dad’s alcohol is humorous because the father is supposed to prevent him from drinking alcohol. But Mick did not do a good job.
2. The first-person perspective narrative impacts the humor present within the story because the reader is seeing everything from Larry’s point of view. The reader knows the protagonist’s thoughts and shows his reactions to actions. The humor comes from the distortion of life. According to the text, it states “’Who are ye laughing at?’ I shouted, clenching my fists at them. ‘I’ll make ye laugh at the other side of yeer faces if ye don’t let me pass.’” Larry was being aggressive due to the alcohol. The alcohol swayed Larry’s observation of life and distorted his view of life. Moreover, the alcohol made Larry to behave differently. This impacts the humor of the story because it shows that alcohol has an effect on the mind, and how the father would act if he were drunk.
3. Another subtle, darker implication about life in the story would be that addiction is a very bad thing. From the text, it says “’But I gave him no drink,’ he shouted, aghast at the horrifying interpretation the neighbours had chosen to give his misfortune.” This is saying how addiction is a bad thing and how children are influenced by the actions of their parents. Larry was curious what the alcohol was like and tried it out for himself.
4. The title is not seriously meant to be referring towards Larry’s father. The drunkard is referring to the son of the story because he was the one who became drunk in the story. I found it funny that how Larry got praise and help from his parents after downing a cup of alcohol.
5. Larry’s drunkenness is seen from his own point of view, his parents and his neighbors. Larry doesn’t know what he is doing and doesn’t see a problem with being drunk. The mom is not happy that his dad influenced his son to drink, but the father knows that he’s not the one at fault for his son being drunk. The neighbors find it funny that the son got drunk and unacceptable that his father allowed his son to drink alcohol.
6. The principal type of irony in the story would be how the father being drunk is frowned upon. Then, when his son became drunk, it is viewed as humorous. This is pretty ironic because you would think it would not be funny for children to be drunk, but it was hilarious to the neighbors and others. Furthermore, dramatic, situational, and conversational irony is all found in the story. One example of conversational irony is “’That’s a nice way to talk to me after all I went through,’ he whined.” This is because Mick is being passive aggressive with the current situation. He’s saying it in air quotes, as he doesn’t really mean what he is saying. Then, an example of dramatic irony is “’Ah, there’s no one here would do a thing like that, Mick,’ said the publican in a shocked tone.” That’s because the readers know that really happened and how Larry got drunk. The neighbors and the father don’t know what truly happened to Larry and his motivates on getting drunk. In addition, an instance of situational irony is “’Mick Delaney,’ she cried hysterically, ‘what did you do to my son?’” This is ironic because the mother expects the father to get drunk, not the son.