Questions 2, 4, 7 and 8

2. Michael Lin

Mr. Nilson thinks something is wrong with his health, but it has nothing to do with his health. He is troubled by the restraints of his life. He feels trapped by the responsibilities that he has to address. When he sees the Japanese Quince, his ailments are all but forgotten. He is absorbed by its beauty. The Japanese Quince has more freedom than Mr. Nilson and when he escapes his responsibilities even for a moment, he experiences a feeling of bliss. The terms in which his symptoms are defined help define his “ailment” by showing us that he feels trapped and unfulfilled. According to the text, it states, “… he experienced a peculiar sweetish sensation in the back of his throat, and a feeling of emptiness just under his fifth rib.” This shows us that he felt unfulfilled. He also said that he felt a “choky feeling in his throat.” This “choky feeling” shows that he felt trapped by the responsibilities of life.

4. Quang Huynh

Mr. Nilson and Mr. Trandram at the tree are described very identical. For example, both Nilson and Trandram’s appearances are alike such as well-round gray eyes, a neat brown mustache, a black coat, and the situation is that they both go to the tree at a similar time. Mr. Nilson and Mr. Trandram go outside at nearly the same time. Although they are similar and had lived next to each other for 5 years, they would not interact with each other as Mr. Nilson thought it was unusual to have someone so identical to himself. The significance of these similarities is to indicate that they have been probably living the same live. It signifies that they are not different at all.

7. Tate Finger

Despite the absence of action, a conflict between the neighbors is present. Mr. Tandram and Mr. Nilson both conflict with each other as well as their selves. Each man thinks of himself as the protagonist and the other as the antagonist, displeased by who the other is, yet he is no different himself. The conflict is both external and internal as they are disagreeing with the traits that are in themselves, through that of another. The conflict is resolved when both men go into their homes and win against themselves by not pondering on the encounter before them.

8. Brianna Warden

The purpose of this story is to illuminate the disconnection of man from the world. In the story, the description of the men, Mr. Nilson and Mr. Tandram, is dull, grey, and black, while the description of the Japanese Quince is bright, sweet and pink. Compared to the tree, the men would look depressing and out of place in the gardens. Additionally, the men use their marriages as an excuse to have never talked, when in reality they simply never took the time to say “hello.” Therefore, the purpose of the story is to display the lack of connection the men had with the world around them.