

## VIEW OF THE CHAPTER

- The author bought a second hand roll top desk from a junk shop.
- It was in a very bad condition.
- He took it home and tried to repair it.
- In the drawer he found a small tin box.
- In this box he found a letter.
- The letter was written by Mr. Jim Macpherson to his wife Connie Macpherson.
- The author read that letter.
- The letter described a wonderful Christmas evening spent together by Fritzs and Tommies.
- Both the opposite armies enjoyed a lot together.
- For sometime they forgot about war.
- The author realized that this letter was written to a wife by her husband.
- So he decided to give that letter to Mrs. Connie. He reached on the address mentioned in the letter.
- There he came to know that Connie was in a nursing home.
- She was now 101 years old.
- The matron took the author to Connie.
- Connie mistook him to be her husband Jim.
- She had tears in her eyes. She wanted to listen to her husband's voice.
- All this shows that how eagerly she was waiting for her husband.
- But he never returned.
- The author wants to convey a theme through the chapter.
- That is futility of war. War always brings destruction.
- People have to lose their near and dear ones.
- So war must be avoided.

## NEW WORDS

Fritzs- German soldiers

Tommies- British soldiers

Futility- Uselessness

Roll top desk- A round table

**Question- Answers**

**1. For how long do you think Connie had Kept Jim's letter? Give reasons for your answer.**

Ans. I think Connie had kept Jim's letter for about 70-75 years. She received that letter in 1915. At that time she was about 20-25 years old because she was married at that time. And when the author visited her she was 101 years old.

**2. Why do you think the desk had been sold and when?**

Ans. The desk had been sold because Connie's house had caught fire. When she was shifted to the nursing home, the desk was sold.

**3. Why do Jim and Hans think that games and sports are good ways of resolving conflicts? Do you agree?**

Ans. According to Jim and Hans, no lives are lost in sports and games. Games cause no destruction. So they are good ways of resolving conflicts.

Yes, I agree with them.

**4. Do you think the soldiers of two armies are like each other, or different from each other. Find evidence from the story to support your answer.**

Ans. Yes the soldiers of two armies are like each other. Soldiers on both sides longed for peace. They did not want war. They enjoyed talking, drinking, eating, laughing and playing together.

**5. Mention the various ways in which the British and the German soldiers become friends and find things in common at Christmas.**

Ans. The German soldiers waved a white flag and they approached the British soldiers. They enjoyed talking, drinking, eating, laughing and playing together. They wished Merry Christmas to each other. They exchanged carols.

**6. What is Connie's Christmas present? Why is it "the best Christmas present in the world?"**

Ans. The return of Jim on Christmas is Connie's Christmas present. She had waited for ages for Jim's return. She loved and missed him a lot. So it was her best Christmas present.

**7. Do you think the title of the story is suitable for it? Can you think of any other title(s)?**

Ans. Yes the title is suitable for the story. Another title could be The Christmas Present or The Return of Jim.