

Long-Answer Questions

Q.1. Do you think Mr Lamb leaves Derry with a positive frame of mind in the end? Mr Lamb dies but leaves his spirit behind.

OR

Describe how Mr Lamb and Derry's conversation bring about a change in the views of Derry, towards life.

OR

What benefits did Derry reap from his associations with Mr Lamb?

[CBSE Delhi 2014]

Ans. The interaction between Derry and Mr Lamb had been short but the impact on Derry was very powerful. Mr Lamb tried to show Derry that life is much more than his obsession with his disability. It is good to know one's limitations but limiting oneself because of the limitations is wrong. To prove his point, Mr Lamb gave example of other people's lives and also his own. He wanted to show that disability is not in the body but in the mind and the moment it engulfs the mind, one loses out on oneself.

Mr Lamb does not ask Derry the reason behind his disfigured face, something which everyone else had done. Mr Lamb's apparent disregard for his own disability also amazes him. For someone who was fixated with his own disability and who had in fact started pitying himself, it was a shock. Mr Lamb, without overtly advising him, through his actions and behaviour, his benevolent nature and through his optimistic attitude towards life, made Derry realise that there is more to life than being forever concerned with oneself. The old man instilled a new hope in Derry to live life on his own terms.

Q.2. How did Mr Lamb's meeting with Derry become a turning point in Derry's life?

[CBSE Delhi 2008; CBSE (AI) 2011]

OR

Derry sneaked into Mr. Lamb's garden and it became a turning point in his life. Comment.

[CBSE Delhi 2016]

Ans. Mr Lamb turned Derry into a confident boy from a self-pitying one. Both were physically handicapped but had a different outlook towards life. Derry had a pessimistic attitude and felt that life cannot be lived happily with a handicap. Derry was a defiant

and withdrawn boy who hated socialising. He felt frustrated with people, their staring and their jibes at him. Meeting Mr Lamb had a positive effect on Derry. Mr Lamb, though handicapped, had a very optimistic outlook towards life. He felt that life can be lived happily irrespective of whatever one's handicap was.

Derry could be himself in front of Mr Lamb and Mr Lamb never pitied him. Mr Lamb did not have a leg and even then he was happy with his life. He taught Derry to take life the way God had given and live to the full rather than just being forlorn and complain throughout.

Derry made his mother understand that his handicap was something immaterial and would not affect his happiness or hamper his progress in life. Meeting Mr Lamb had in fact led him to turn a new leaf in his life.

Q.3. Both Derry and Lamb are physically impaired and lonely. It is the responsibility of society to understand and support people with infirmities so that they do not suffer from a sense of alienation. As a responsible citizen, write in about 100 words what you would do to bring about a change in the lives of such people.

[CBSE (AI) 2014]

OR

How is Derry's and Mr. Lamb's behavior and attitude different towards people because of their physical impairment?

[CBSE Sample Paper 2015]

Ans. Derry's main problem was his burnt face. One side of his face was eaten up by acid. He suffered from a tremendous sense of inferiority complex. He was always conscious that his face was "bad", "terrible" and "the ugliest thing". People were "afraid" of him. He tries to escape people. He allows himself to be alienated from the world. On the other hand, Mr Lamb doesn't allow his physical disability to come in his way. He accepts life as it comes. He has a positive attitude towards life, things and people. He doesn't find solace in escapism. Children tease him by calling "Lamey-Lamb" but he doesn't mind it. One of his legs was blown off in the war. But he is full of life and enjoys it at his best. He enjoys sitting in the sun, reading books and growing weeds and flowers.

Derry is withdrawn and defiant. He doesn't trust people. He thinks that no one will ever love and kiss him except his own mother. He can't stand people staring at him or passing uncharitable remarks. He is touchy and hypersensitive. Mr Lamb is openminded and open-hearted. All were welcome in his house. He loves everybody and everything. He teaches Derry how to handle people and things.

Q.4. Sophie's dream world clashes with the world of her family and friends". Bring out the stark difference between the two worlds.

[CBSE Sample Paper 2015]

Ans. Both Derry and Mr. Lamb were physically impaired and had faced rejection from others. Both suffer from loneliness and long for company. Mr. Lamb who was like Derry had inspired him to face the world in spite of his physical impairment. Instead of brooding over his burnt face, he asks him to regard himself lucky that he did not have any other problems. If he set a goal to do something, his burnt face would not stand in his face and he could do even better than others. So Mr. Lamb infused a new spirit and zest of life in Derry who now would lead a new life after meeting him. This was evident from the fact that he went back to Mr. Lamb's garden despite stiff resistance from his mother.

Q.5. The lesson, 'On the face of it', is an apt depiction of the loneliness and sense of alienation experienced by people on account of a disability. Explain.

[CBSE Delhi 2011]

OR

Both Derry and Lamb are victims of physical impairment, but much more painful for them is the feeling of loneliness. Comment.

[CBSE (AI) 2016]

Ans. Man is vain, selfish and prejudiced. He does not cherish anything that is incomplete or impaired. This nature of man, creates a vacuum in the life of human beings who are handicapped, for no fault of theirs. A war veteran, an accident victim, a polio affected, or a person born handicapped is looked upon by the so called 'Normal' people with a false sense of sympathy, disgust or repulsion. As a result the injury that is physical becomes secondary to the injury that is caused to the mind, and psyche of the person. They become pessimistic, feel lonely and alienated they are rejected by the society.