

Short-Answer Questions

Q.1. What are the ways by which Mr Lamb tries to overcome the feelings of loneliness and disappointment?

OR

How does Mr Lamb keep himself busy when it is a bit cool?

[CBSE Delhi 2012]

Ans. Mr Lamb collects crab apples and makes jelly out of them, when it is cooler. He leaves his gates open to welcome whoever wishes to come into the garden.

Q.2. Why does Derry tell Mr Lamb that he is afraid of seeing himself in the mirror in the story 'On the Face of it'?

[CBSE (AI) 2007]

Ans. Derry's face had become scarred due to acid burns. This terrified him and brought in bad memories of the incident. In order to avoid them, he avoided seeing himself in the mirror.

Q.3. Mr Lamb's advice to Derry was the product of his goodness of heart or to befriend him to overcome his loneliness. Give reason.

Ans. Mr Lamb genuinely liked Derry and wanted him to overcome his inhibitions towards life. He did not want the boy to suffer and have a poor self-esteem because he had a burnt face. He gave his example only for him to understand what can be done to overcome loneliness and to make him understand that a disability should not stop one from enjoying life.

Q.4. People are insensitive to those who have disabilities. Give instances from the story, 'On the face of it'.

Ans. People generally pity the handicapped or react with disgust when they see them. For instance, people would stare at the burnt face of Derry and comment on it. He even heard two women commenting, looking at his face that only a mother could love a person with such a face. Even his own family were worried about his future. Similarly, Mr Lamb was also stared at by people and children even called him Lamey Lamb.

Q.5. How does Mr Lamb try to remove the baseless fears of Derry?

[CBSE (AI) 2008]

Ans. Mr Lamb gave confidence and courage to Derry. He suggested that Derry should get over his physical impairment instead of brooding over his burnt face. He told Derry

that he still has two hands, legs, eyes, a tongue and a brain, and if he puts them to right use by setting his mind to it, he can get on better than all the rest.

Q.6. What did Derry's mother think of Mr Lamb?

[CBSE (AI) 2009]

Ans. Derry's mother did not have a good impression of Mr Lamb. She thought he was not a good man. She did not want Derry to associate with him in any way.

Q.7. What consolation did people give when they saw his acid burnt face?

[CBSE Delhi 2010]

Ans. Derry's face was burnt by acid on one side. When people looked at his face, they drew back in horror. They pretended to show sympathy as if he was an object.

Q.8. Mr Lamb told Derry the story of a man who hid himself in his room. Why did the man do so and with what result?

[CBSE (AI) 2010]

Ans. The man was afraid of everything. He felt that he would die if he went out and so he hid himself in a room. In the end, a picture fell off the wall on his head and killed him.

Q.9. Why does Mr Lamb leave his gate always open?

[CBSE (AI) 2011]

Ans. Mr Lamb leaves his gate always open to welcome children. He did not have his own children. He has an apple orchard. He offered them apples and its jelly.

Q.10. What peculiar things does Derry notice about the old man, Lamb?

[CBSE (AI) 2012]

Ans. Unlike the other people who were horrified on looking at Derry, Mr Lamb did not show any dislike or horror at the way Derry looked. This surprised him. He also found it strange that even though the man himself was handicapped, he lived happily. He had a zest for life and encouraged him in ways no one had. He made him aware of his strengths and the importance of not pitying oneself.

Q.11. If you were to give a different ending to the story 'On the Face of It', how would you end it?

[CBSE (AI) 2013]

Ans. The story could end on a happy note. In another ending, Derry sees Mr Lamb on the ground, rushes to him and sees that he is hurt. He rushes for help and is finally able to get some help in order to revive the old man. Mr Lamb is happy to see that Derry had overcome his inhibitions and rushed to bring help for him. In the next spring season, not

only Derry and Mr Lamb but other children are also seen in Mr Lamb's garden, happy and collecting crab apples together.

Q.12. How does Derry interpret the fairy tale 'Beauty and the Beast'? What does he feel about himself?

[CBSE (F) 2013]

Ans. Derry knows that the theme of the fairy tale is to love inner beauty of a person, irrespective of the outside appearances. However, Derry thinks it to be all a farce. He finds the whole idea of transformation into a prince unrealistic. He is very pessimistic and fears that he would have to live alone for the rest of his life. In his fight with the world, he has forgotten to appreciate and love himself. He has forgotten that appearances are secondary.