



**INDIAN SCHOOL DARSAIT
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH**



Subject : English Lesson : On the face of it

Date of Worksheet : May 2019

Name of the Student : _____

Date: _____

Class & Div : XII Roll Number :

Summary

The play depicts beautifully yet grimly the sad world of the physically impaired. It is not the actual pain or inconvenience caused by a physical impairment that troubles a disabled man but the attitude of the people around him. Two physically impaired people, Mr. Lamb with a tin leg and Derry with a burnt face, strike a band of friendship. Derry is described as a young boy shy, withdrawn and defiant. People tell him inspiring stories to console him, no one will ever kiss him except his mother that too on the other side of his face. Mentions about a woman telling that only a mother can love such a face. Mr. Lamb revives the almost dead feelings of Derry towards life. He motivates him to think positively about life, changes his mind set about people and things. How a man locked himself as he was scared-a picture fell off the wall and got killed. Everything appears to be the same but is different- Ex. of bees and weeds. The gate of the garden is always open. Derry is inspired and promises to come back. Derry's mother stops him but he is adamant saying if he does not go now it would be never. When he comes back he sees Lamb lying on the ground. It is ironical that when he searches a new foothold to live happily, he finds Mr. Lamb dead. In this way the play depicts the heart rendering life of physically disabled people with their loneliness, aloofness and alienation. But at the same time it is almost a true account of the people who don't let a person live happily.

I Answer the following questions in 30-40 words each: 2

1. What is it that draws Derry towards Mr. Lamb in spite of himself? 2
 Mr. Lamb is a good inspirer, a motivator and a patient listener. He holds a positive attitude to life. On seeing Derry he neither asks anything about his face nor does he look disgusted rather he makes Derry feel comfortable with his burnt face. He instills confidence in Derry. He wants him to understand the world and see the difference by watching and listening. Due to these qualities, Derry is drawn towards Lamb.
2. How does Derry's attitude change? 2
 Due to his burnt face Derry had withdrawing attitude. He curses his handicap and is afraid of people's stare at him. But Lamb changed his attitude. Lamb instilled courage in him to live life as it is. He cited his own example. Children call him Lamey Lamb but he does not mind. He has a tin leg but that does not stop him from making friends.
3. How does Mr Lamb react when Derry enters his garden? [All India 2017] 2
 Derry entered Mr Lamb's garden by climbing over the garden wall. He had thought that it was an empty place. He didn't know there was anybody there. He just wanted to be in a secluded place. On seeing Mr Lamb Derry was startled. He clarified that he didn't enter to steal anything. Mr Lamb tried to comfort Derry and allay his fear by saying that anybody could enter the garden. He asked him to pick up ripe apples lying in the long grass.

4. What kind of garden does Mr Lamb have? Why does he like it? [All India 2017] 2
Lamb’s garden was an empty, unkempt garden where both weeds and flowering plants grew side by side. There was a Crab apple tree which was laden with ripe, red and orange fruits. There was also a beehive. The gate always remained open. Lamb enjoyed talking to anyone who cared to walk in. The garden was a source of solace to his lonely life. He enjoyed the sunshine and living in the lap of nature.

II Answer the following questions in 120-150 words.

1. How far do you find the ending of the play quite effective and meaningful? 6
The ending is quite dramatic and stage worthy. Mr. Lamb, who has been picking apples, falls down along with the ladder. As Derry reaches the garden, he finds Mr. Lamb lying on the ground. He kneels by Lamb and cries that he has come back. He implores the old man to get up and talk. As the old man does not respond, he begins to weep. Mr. Lamb is dead. It is a pathetic ending, no doubt, but it does not spread gloom. It is like a soldier making an exit with the satisfaction of mission accomplished. The old man has handed over his philosophy of life to Derry and inspired him to find out what he wants to be. Thus, though the old man expires physically, his ideas inspire Derry to pursue higher goals and achieve them. In this sense, the ending is quite effective and meaningful.
2. What is the bond that unites the two—Mr. Lamb and Derry? How does the old man inspire the small boy? 6
It is the bond of physical impairment that unites old Mr. Lamb and the small boy, Derry. He got his leg blown off during the war and since then he has a tin leg. Derry got one side of his face burnt by acid. Their respective disabilities have not only caused pain and suffering to the body but to their mind and soul as well. They have to live with their physical impairment. Mr. Lamb has adjusted himself to the ways of the world and stopped bothering about what people call him. He keeps himself busy in meaningful activities like picking apples, making jelly, bee-keeping and preparing toffee from honey. He loves reading books, hearing music, observing beautiful things and thinking about them. He inspires the small boy by saying that he has all the God-given organs intact. He has to decide what to do. He must work for it and then he can outshine even the others. Derry admits that ‘Handsome is he as handsome does.’ For him his face or how he looks does not matter now.
3. “Things that matter. Things nobody else has ever said. Things I want to think about.” What are the ‘things’ that Derry is referring to? How did Derry’s chance meeting with Mr. Lamb prove meaningful for him?(Board 2018) 6
Derry faced a great deal of rejection early in life. People felt that his face was ‘a terrible thing’ and shunned him. But Mr Lamb says that beauty was relative and that he enjoyed everything God made. Mr Lamb said that Derry had arms, legs, eyes, ears and a brain. He could get on the way he wanted like others or perhaps even better. He also said that hating people would do him more harm than a bottle of acid. It would burn away his inside. He clarified to Derry that people with the same deformity could also be different and that it was incorrect to judge people by their looks. Derry was thus determined to go back to Mr Lamb, sit and listen to the bees singing and him talking about the things that mattered, about things that nobody else had ever said , about things he wanted to think about.

EXTRA QUESTIONS-NOTEBOOK

1. Who is Derry? What self-opinion does he hold?

Derek, also called Derry was a young boy of 14. He was a quiet, shy and defiant boy. One side of his face was totally burnt by acid. He was a victim of inferiority complex.

2. What is the attitude of Mr. Lamb to the small boy who comes to his garden?

Mr. Lamb's attitude to the small boy is quite gentle, protective and accommodating. Like an elder in the family, Mr. Lamb advises the young boy to mind the apples lest he should trip and not to feel afraid.

3 How does Lamb try to remove the baseless fears of Derry?

Mr. Lamb influences Derry by his optimistic philosophy. He advised him not to give attention on other's comments, try to be internally pure and strong and eliminate the negativity of life.

Comment on the moral value of the play?

4. The moral of the play is very loud and clear. The physically disabled should focus on the brighter side of life and not to brood over the shortcomings. The society should accept them as they are and expand their social interactions. In this way they can fight out the loneliness, depression and disappointment.

LAQ

1. The actual pain or inconvenience caused by a physical impairment is often much less than the sense of alienation felt by the person with disabilities. What is the kind of behavior that the person expects from others?

Value Points:

Actual pain or inconvenience caused by physical impairment is often less than the sense of alienation felt by the person with disabilities – Physical disabilities – caused pain once in life time – But after it this physical disability – set chain for other actions – caused mental agony – -called Lamey lamb, mothers were afraid of sending the children because of his tin leg.

-Derry -burnt face –everyone pities him-only a mother could love that face -Both Mr. Lamb and Derry have been the victims of verbal atrocities – -Mr. Lamb takes comments lightly –

-But Derry does not have the attitude like Mr. Lamb – -Attitude of the people needs to be changed -Do not want sympathy but accept them as they are -Wounds get healed –but bitter comments never forgotten leaves a scar

2. Mr. Lamb displays signs of loneliness and disappointment. What are the ways in which Mr. Lamb tries to overcome these feelings?

Mr. Lamb displays signs of loneliness and disappointment and tries to overcome these feelings by doing different things. He says that when it is a bit cooler, he will get the ladder and a stick, and pull down those crab apples. He makes jelly. Derry could help him. Then he says he is interested in anybody or anything that God made. It may be a person, flower, fruit, grass, weeds or rubbish. There are plenty of things to look at. Some of them are his crab apples or the weeds or a spider climbing up a silken ladder or his tall sun-flowers. He also likes to talk and have a company. He has a hive of bees. He hears them singing. He sits in the sun and reads books. He likes the light and the darkness. He hears the wind coming through open windows. There aren't any curtains at the windows as they either shut things out or shut things in.