

Chapter- 6

ON THE FACE OF IT

Concepts:-

- Issues concerning disabled people
- Social isolation and resulting psychological handicap.
- Courage to face life as it presents.
- Optimistic and pessimistic outlook.
- Power of positive company and resultant transformation.

Characters:-

Mr. Lamb: – An old cripple who enjoys life despite his handicap. He is an open-minded person.

Derry:-- A 14 year old boy who is lonely, defiant and pessimistic. He learns from Mr. Lamb how to live life. Ultimately, his life is transformed.

Introduction to the topic and the author:-

- Susan Hill is an English novelist, children's writer and playwright.
- Her novels are thought – provoking and contains an element of suspense and thrill.
- The topic dealt with here unravels the psychological make up of those people who are handicapped in life

Steps to comprehensive explanations:- (Page-56—66)

a) The meeting in the garden:-

- Derry jumps over to Mr. Lamb's garden and accidentally meets him.
- Initially he is afraid and apologetic when detected by Mr. Lamb. But Mr. Lamb shows friendly gestures and accepts him nicely.

b) Derry Appears to be Apprehensive:-

- Derry reveals his acid burn on his face.
- Derry has a repulsive attitude towards people.
- He suffers from inferiority complex and avoids mixing with people.
- He accuses people of avoiding him but which is not true.
- Mr. Lamb detects Dery's fallacious thoughts about people and advises him to make amends in his behaviour.

c) Mr. Lamb's Philosophy:-

- Mr. Lamb tries to take away Derry's negativity about life's problems.
- Mr. Lamb clears Derry's confusion that people are his enemies.
- Mr. Lamb tells Derry that he is interested in everybody and all are his friends.
- Mr. Lamb does not discriminate between a weed and a useful plant. He finds both of them to be plants only and have some purpose.

d) Mr. Lamb's Reveals his Impairment:-

- Derry discovers Mr. Lamb's tin leg and wants to know the cause of it.
- Mr. Lamb reveals that one of his legs was blown off by a bomb blast during war time.
- Mr. Lamb reminds Derry of many important things in life which needs more attention than one's physical impairment.
- Derry seems convinced but fails to overcome his psychological barriers.

e) Derry calls Mr. Lamb peculiar:-

- Derry still feels inferior about his burnt face.
- Derry describes the conversation between two women at the bus stop about his ugly face.
- Derry tells that his face is such an ugly face that only a mother could live it.
- Mr. Lamb urges Derry not to give important to people's comments.
- Derry calls Mr. Lamb peculiar because of his positivity about life.

f) The Positive side of Life:-

- Derry is gradually influenced by the optimistic outlook of Mr. Lamb.
- Derry imbibes the new meaning of life, nature, people and friendship from Mr. Lamb.
- two women at the bus stop about his ugly face.
- Derry tells that his face is such an ugly face that only a mother could live it.
- Mr. Lamb urges Derry not to give important to people's comments.
- Derry calls Mr. Lamb peculiar because of his positivity about life.

g) Watching, Listening, Thinking:-

- Derry tells Mr. Lamb that he hates some people.
- Mr. Lamb conveys that hatred is more dangerous than acid burn.
- Mr. Lamb wants Derry to give time to 'watching, listening and thinking' to know life in its true colour.
- Now Derry understands to come out of his shell and shed his bitterness to live life to the fullest.

h) Derry offers his help to Mr. Lamb:-

- Derry offers help to Mr. Lamb to get the apples down.
- Derry expresses concern that his mother wouldn't allow him to come out to meet him again.
- Mr. Lamb tells Derry that it is one's choice that determines how one would live.

Drilling of words and Linguistic expressions:

- **Windfalls:-** Falling of fruits and flowers from the tree by the impact of wind.
- **Scrup:-** Stealing from an orchard or garden.
- **Monstrous:-** Looking ugly or devilish
- **Daft:-** Foolish, dull
- **Ugly devil:-** Dirty person
- **Dribble:-** (of liquid) flow in drops or streams.
- **Crazy:-** obsessed, mad-like
- **Blown off:-** exploded in bomb blast, completely destroyed
- **Crab apples:-** A kind of fruit

Related Questions from the portion taught:-

- Why does Mr. Lamb leave his gate always open?
- How does Mr. Lamb react when Derry enters his garden?
- What sort of a person Derry is?
- What sort of a person Mr. Lamb was?
- "It are my face up. It ate me up" – who said these words and why?
- Why did Mr. Lamb have a tin leg?
- **Lesson continuation with comprehensive explanations:- (Pages – 67 – 68) – Scene – 2 & 3)**

a) Derry chooses for himself:-

- Derry argues with his mother to come back to Mr. Lamb's garden.
- Derry's mother shows rigidity and does not agree to allow him to come to Mr. Lamb as she thinks Mr. Lamb to be an eccentric person.
- Derry's transformation has begun and he dares to defy his mother's advice and come to Mr. Lamb again to learn things that matter in life.

b) Derry goes through Transformation and lives as a changed person:-

- Derry comes back to Mr. Lamb's garden to keep his commitment to help him.
- He finds Mr. Lamb lying on the ground.
- Mr, Lamb was trying to pick the apples off the tree when the ladder slipped off and Mr. Lamb crashed on the ground.
- Derry desperately tries to awaken him, but Mr. Lamb is unmoving.
- Derry breaks into sobbing as he has lost his only friend who could bring about a transformation in him.
- Now Derry is a changed person and knows how to live life at its face value.

THE END