

CHAPTER

2

ON THE FACE OF IT

—Susan Hill

Introduction

This is a play featuring an old man Mr. Lamb and a small boy named Derry. Derry suffers from a complex. After one side of his face gets burnt, he always remains withdrawn and defiant. He doesn't like to be near people as he can't stand their uncharitable looks and remarks. Mr. Lamb himself has a tin leg, but has a very positive attitude towards life and people. He shows the right way of judging men, matters and life to young Derry.

Summary

Derry walks slowly and cautiously through the long grass. He enters Lamb's garden. Mr. Lamb speaks to him when he is close at hand. Derry is startled. He is apologetic. He didn't know if there was anybody there. Mr. Lamb tries to make Derry comfortable. Mr. Lamb says that he can pick up crab apples. Derry need not go away on Mr. Lamb's account. Mr. Lamb doesn't mind who comes in the garden. The gate is always open. Derry did not need to climb over the wall of the garden. Derry says he didn't come there for stealing apples. Mr. Lamb assures him that he can stay there.

Derry says that people are afraid of him. They look at his face and find it terrible and ugly. Even when, he himself sees his face in the mirror, he is afraid of himself. Mr. Lamb says that he will get the ladder and a stick and pull down crab apples. He makes jelly from them. Derry doesn't want Mr. Lamb to change the subject. He wants to talk about himself. Mr. Lamb thinks that perhaps Derry's face got burnt in a fire. Derry corrects him. Derry says he got acid all down on that side of his face and burnt it all way. The acid ate up his face.

Mr. Lamb is old. Derry is young. Derry has got a burnt face. Lamb has got a tin leg. Similarly, one green plant is called a weed and another a flower. All are life. Mr. Lamb lost his leg. Some kids call him "Lamey-Lamb". A tin leg and a burnt face are not the only things to be taken notice of or to be stared at. There are so many other things like crab apples, weeds and sunflowers. They deserve our attention and Mr. Lamb enjoys life and people as much as he can.

Derry says that people have already told him many fairy stories to console him. They say that it is not important what you look like. People tell these comforting lies only to console him. But Derry knows that he will not change. He will stay as a 'monstrous beast'. No one will kiss him ever. Only his mother and she too kisses him on the other side of his face. He doesn't care if nobody ever kissed him. Mr. Lamb asks Derry if he doesn't care to be kissed by pretty girls. Girls with long hair and large eyes. Will he not like to be kissed by the people he loves? Derry replies that no one will ever kiss and love him. He is grieved that he won't ever look different. Even when he grows as old as Mr. Lamb, he will look the same. He will still only have "half a face". Mr. Lamb replies that Derry may have a 'half face', but the world has got a 'whole face'. He should look at it.

Derry is obsessed with what people say and comment. People remind Derry that there are people even worse than him. They might be blind, dumb or may be mad by birth. Sometimes people can be very cruel. A woman looked at him. She said to another woman, "Look at that, that's a terrible thing". She told her that only a mother could love such a face. Mr. Lamb advises Derry to keep his ears shut. Derry says that he doesn't like being close to people. He can't stand people staring at him and passing cruel comments about him.

Mr. Lamb reminds Derry that he can't lock himself up in a room and never leave it. Then, he narrates to him the story of a man who was afraid of everything in the world. So, he went into his room, locked the door and stayed there. A picture fell off the wall on to his head and killed him. Mr. Lamb says that he enjoys life as it comes. He sits in the sun and reads books. He is not fond of curtains. Mr. Lamb motivates Derry. Derry has got two arms, two legs, eyes and ears. He has got a tongue and also a brain. He can get on the way he wants like all others. And if he chooses, he can "get on better than all the rest". Derry asks, "How?" Mr. Lamb replies that Derry can live the same way as he himself does. For him everybody is welcome. The gate is always open. Derry says that there are some people whom he hates. Mr. Lamb says that hatred is more harmful than a bottle of acid. Derry gets up and prepares to go. He says he will come back. Mr. Lamb says that generally people say so but never come back.

Derry comes home. His mother warns him not to go back there. Derry assures her that she need not fear. Only an old man with a tin leg lives there. He has a huge house and a garden. He is Mr. Lamb. He says things nobody else has ever said. Derry runs to Mr. Lamb's garden. He opens the garden gate. He cries that he has come back. Suddenly, there is a crash. The ladder falls back, Mr. Lamb also falls down with it. He dies. Derry begins to weep. He goes on crying "Lamey-Lamb ! I did come back".



(A) OBJECTIVE QUESTIONS

1 Mark Each



Stand Alone MCQs

- Derry was scared that if he didn't go back to Mr Lamb, _____.
 (A) Mr Lamb would not let him in.
 (B) Mr Lamb would make other friends
 (C) he wouldn't be able to pick crab-apples
 (D) he'd never go anywhere in the world again

Ans. Option (D) is correct.

Explanation: He adopted Mr Lamb's ideology happily and decided to lead a normal life like all others.

- Mr. Lamb called Derry blessed:
 (A) because he was young.
 (B) because he had a mother.
 (C) because he had friends.
 (D) because except a burnt face, he had a perfectly healthy body.

Ans. Option (D) is correct.

Explanation: Lamb told Derry how to overcome his physical deformity. Lamb called him blessed because he had got two arms, two legs, ears, eyes, a brain and a tongue except the burnt face. Mr Lamb himself had a leg of tin.

- How did Mr Lamb relate Beauty and the Beast?
 (A) They were relative to each other.
 (B) They were indifferent to each other.
 (C) They were God's Grace.
 (D) They were part of destiny.

Ans. Option (A) is correct.

Explanation: Mr. Lamb means that different people hold different perceptions. While one person might find someone or something beautiful, another person might find that person or thing beastly.

4. What was Mr Lamb's attitude towards life?

- (A) He wanted to survive with the problems.
- (B) He wanted to struggle with disability.
- (C) He wanted to live life to the fullest.
- (D) He wanted to look for sympathy.

Ans. Option (C) is correct.

Explanation: Mr Lamb didn't want to waste his life in regrets.

5. Derry liked to be alone:

- (A) because of burnt face.
- (B) because he couldn't bear with people's comments.
- (C) because of inferiority complex.
- (D) All of these.

Ans. Option (D) is correct.

Explanation: Derry had a burnt face which people used to hate and pass foul comments, so Derry had developed inferiority complex and he liked seclusion.

6. Mr. Lamb kept the door of his garden open:

- (A) to let the animals come in.
- (B) to get fresh air.
- (C) to avoid opening the door again and again.
- (D) to have fine contact with the outer world and enjoy.

Ans. Option (D) is correct.

Explanation: Mr. Lamb always kept his gate open because he did not mind strangers entering his house. He was an extremely social person and was ever ready to welcome anyone who entered his garden.

7. If Derry were in a library at the beginning of the play, which of the following sections of books would he NOT explore?

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| (i) Science fiction | (ii) Fantasy |
| (iii) Self-help | (iv) Non-fiction (CBSE QB, 2021) |
| (A) Options (i) and (ii) | (B) Options (ii) and (iii) |
| (C) Options (iii) and (iv) | (D) Options (i) and (iv) |

Ans. Option (B) is correct.

8. "Ah, but do you care if you never kiss them." What does Mr. Lamb aim to do with such a statement? (CBSE QB, 2021)

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| (A) Empower Derry to take charge. | (B) Inspire Derry to have dreams. |
| (C) Comfort Derry by distracting him. | (D) Question Derry about his desires. |

Ans. Option (A) is correct.

9. Choose the option that best constitutes a message from the play: (CBSE QB, 2021)

- (A) People's attitude should not stop one from experiencing life.
- (B) What people say has no bearing upon how one feels about things.
- (C) People cannot be changed. One can and should only change oneself.
- (D) One's opinions cannot be based on what people say behind one's back.

Ans. Option (A) is correct.

10. Based on the slogans and tag lines, for which of the following brands might Mr. Lamb be a suitable brand ambassador?



(i)



(ii)



(iii)



(iv)



(v)

(CBSE QB, 2021)

(A) Options (i), (ii), (iii)

(B) Options (ii), (iii), (iv)

(C) Options (iii), (iv), (v)

(D) Options (iv), (v), (i)

Ans. Option (D) is correct.



Extract Based MCQs

- I. Read the given extracts and answer the questions that follow:

(1 × 4 = 4 marks)

MR LAMB: Look, boy, look.... what do you see?

DERRY: Just....grass and stuff. Weeds.

MR LAMB: Some call them weeds. If you like, then.... a weed garden, that. There's fruit and there are flowers, and trees and herbs. All sorts. But over there.... weeds. I grow weeds there. Why one green, growing plant is called a weed and another 'flower'? Where's the difference. It's all life.... growing. Same as you and me.

DERRY: We're not the same.

MR LAMB: I'm old. You're young. You've got a burned face, I've got a tin leg. Not important. You're standing there.... I'm sitting here. Where's the difference?

(CBSE QB, 2021)

1. Like the play, the given extract is a study in contrasts. What does Mr. Lamb seek to do by bringing up distinctions?

- (A) To explain that weeds are important and should be valued and cared for as much as flowers.
 (B) To emphasize that distinctions are made by man to serve specific purposes and uses.
 (C) To highlight that labels are arbitrary and essentially reflect a common life experience.
 (D) To remind Derry that the only difference that matters is that of attitude and experience.

Ans. Option (C) is correct.

2. How would you describe Derry's tone when he says – "We're not the same"?

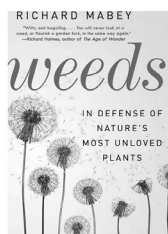
- (A) Angry
 (B) Perplexed
 (C) Gloomy
 (D) Practical

Ans. Option (C) is correct.

3. Look at the given images of books. In which of the following are you NOT likely to find Mr. Lamb's words as given in the extract?



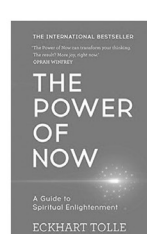
(i)



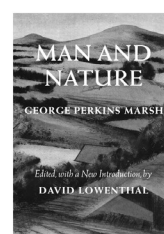
(ii)



(iii)



(iv)



(v)

(A) Options (i) and (iii)

(B) Options (i) and (iv)

(C) Options (ii) and (iv)

(D) Options (ii) and (iii)

Ans. Option (B) is correct.

4. Which of the following represents Mr. Lamb's analysis of flowers and weeds?

- (A) Comparison is an act of violence against the self.
- (B) If you have a garden in your library, everything will be complete.
- (C) One man's freedom fighter is another man's terrorist.
- (D) The cosmos is within us. We are made of star-stuff.

Ans. Option (C) is correct.

II.

DERRY: What do you do all day?

MR LAMB: Sit in the sun. Read books. Ah, you thought it was an empty house, but inside, it's full. Books and other things. Full.

DERRY: But there aren't any curtains at the windows.

MR LAMB: I'm not fond of curtains. Shutting things out, shutting things in. I like the light and the darkness and the windows open, to hear the wind.

DERRY: Yes. I like that. When it's raining, I like to hear it on the roof.

MR LAMB: So you're not lost, are you? Not altogether? You do hear things. You listen.

DERRY: They talk about me. Downstairs, when I'm not there.

(CBSE QB, 2021)

1. According to Mr. Lamb, what does the idea of being 'lost' signify?

- (A) He, who does not hear what other people say, is lost.
- (B) He, who does not appreciate man and nature, is lost.
- (C) He, who does not pause to reflect on wind and rain, is lost.
- (D) He, who is closed off to nature and its wonders, is lost.

Ans. Option (D) is correct.

2. Read the following analysis of Mr. Lamb's character based on the given extract. Choose the option that fills in the given blanks most appropriately:

Mr. Lamb's (i) _____ and daily activities reflected the values he lived by and the kind of person he was. His openness, inquisitiveness and his (ii) _____ to nature were embodied in his work and words. Being close to and experiencing (iii) _____ was not only significant to him, but was at the heart of finding meaning and (iv) _____ in life.

- (A) (i) preferences ; (ii) attainment ; (iii) nature ; (iv) direction
- (B) (i) choices ; (ii) loyalty ; (iii) the world ; (iv) hope
- (C) (i) words ; (ii) attitude ; (iii) gardening ; (iv) worthiness
- (D) (i) sermons ; (ii) proximity ; (iii) life ; (iv) values

Ans. Option (A) is correct.

3. Choose the option that best describes the sequence of Derry's emotions in the above extract:

- (A) shyness – friendliness – reluctant acceptance
- (B) inquisitiveness – nostalgia – mild sadness
- (C) curiosity – measured delight – disappointment
- (D) defiance – excitement – grouchy insecurity

Ans. Option (C) is correct.

4. "You do hear things. You listen." Choose the option that captures the difference between hearing and listening.

hear: listen :: _____ : _____

- (A) shut in: shut out
- (B) smile: laugh
- (C) act: reflect
- (d) chance: attend

Ans. Option (D) is correct.

III. "I thought it was empty.....an empty house".

1. Who is 'I' here?

(A) Derry

(C) Susan Hill

(B) Mr. Lamb

(D) Jack

Ans. Option (A) is correct.

2. Who is the owner of the house?

(A) Derry

(C) Susan Hill

(B) Mr. Lamb

(D) Jack

Ans. Option (B) is correct.

3. Why does 'I' enter the house?

(A) To steal apples

(C) To greet the neighbours

(B) To get his ball back

(D) Out of curiosity

Ans. Option (D) is correct.

4. How does 'I' feel when he sees the owner?

(A) Excited

(C) Embarrassed

(B) Pleasured

(D) Indifferent

Ans. Option (C) is correct.

IV. "What have you changed the subject for? People always do that. Why don't you ask me? Why do you do what they all do and pretend it isn't true and isn't there?"

1. Who is the speaker?

(A) Derry

(C) Derry's mother

(B) Mr. Lamb

(D) Mr. Lamb's wife

Ans. Option (A) is correct.

2. Which subject was being talked about?

(A) English

(C) Tin leg

(B) Burnt and ugly face

(D) Nature

Ans. Option (B) is correct.

3. Who changed the subject and why?

(A) Derry

(C) Derry's mother

(B) Mr. Lamb

(D) Mr. Lamb's wife

Ans. Option (B) is correct.

4. What did people do when they looked at Derry?

(A) Sympathised with him

(C) Afraid of him

(B) Loved him

(D) Did not notice him

Ans. Option (C) is correct.

V. "But you can put on trousers and cover it up and no one sees, they don't have to notice and stare."

1. Who is 'you' conversing with?

(A) Derry

(C) His wife

(B) Mr. Lamb

(D) Susan Hill

Ans. Option (A) is correct.

2. Why do children call 'you' Lamey-Lamb?

(A) He could not walk.

(C) He had a tin leg.

(B) He had a golden leg.

(D) He had no legs.

Ans. Option (C) is correct.

3. In what context does the speaker say these words?

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| (A) His burnt face | (B) His amputated hand |
| (C) His distorted head | (D) His large ears |

Ans. Option (A) is correct.

4. How does 'you' respond?

- (A) Tries to keep the speaker quiet.
(B) Tries to alter the view of the speaker.
(C) Tries to alter the appearance of the speaker.
(D) None of these.

Ans. Option (B) is correct.

VI. "So you will. But the world won't. The world's got a whole face, and the world's there to be looked at."

1. From which lesson have these lines been taken?

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| (A) The Enemy | (B) Should Wizard Hit Mommy |
| (C) On The Face of It | (D) Deep Water |

Ans. Option (C) is correct.

2. Who is 'you' here?

- | | |
|-----------|--------------|
| (A) Derry | (B) Mr. Lamb |
| (C) Jack | (D) Jo |

Ans. Option (A) is correct.

3. What problem is 'you' talking about?

- | | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| (A) Amputation of leg due to an accident. | (B) Burning of face due to acid. |
| (C) Distortion of head due to a blow. | (D) None of these. |

Ans. Option (B) is correct.

4. Who gives this reply?

- | | |
|-----------|--------------|
| (A) Derry | (B) Mr. Lamb |
| (C) Jack | (D) Jo |

Ans. Option (B) is correct.

VII. "And think of all those people worse off than you. Think, you might have been blinded, or born deaf, or have to live in a wheelchair, or be daft in your head and dribble."

1. Who is the speaker of these words?

- | | |
|-----------|--------------|
| (A) Jack | (B) Jo |
| (C) Derry | (D) Mr. Lamb |

Ans. Option (C) is correct.

2. How have people been sermonizing to Derry about his burnt face?

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| (A) To be brave | (B) To be sympathetic |
| (C) To be patient | (D) To be happy |

Ans. Option (A) is correct.

3. How does Derry feel about this sermonising?

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| (A) Liked | (B) Disliked |
| (C) Indifferent | (D) Displeased |

Ans. Option (B) is correct.

4. Pick up a word from above lines which is similar in meaning as 'fall slowly in drops or a thin stream'.

- | | |
|-----------|-------------|
| (A) Worse | (B) Deaf |
| (C) Daft | (D) Dribble |

Ans. Option (D) is correct.

VIII. "So you believe everything you hear, then"

1. Who is the speaker of the above lines?

(A) Derry

(B) Lamb

(C) Dr. Sadao

(D) Tom

Ans. Option (B) is correct.

2. About which incident the listener is talking about he had heard?

(A) Two women talking about his face

(B) Two men talking about his leg

(C) Two children making fun of him

(D) Everyone around him

Ans. Option (A) is correct.

3. How did Derry feel about it?

(A) They were cruel.

(B) They were sympathetic.

(C) They were happy.

(D) They were indifferent.

Ans. Option (A) is correct.

4. How does Mr. Lamb interpret the conversation?

(A) Sympathetic

(B) Casual

(C) Funny

(D) Serious

Ans. Option (B) is correct.

IX. "I am not fond of curtains. Shutting things out, shutting things in. I like the light and the darkness, and the windows open, to hear the wind."

1. Whose house is being referred here?

(A) Dr. Sadao

(B) Humi

(C) Lamb

(D) Douglas

Ans. Option (C) is correct.

2. What things the house is full of?

(A) Books

(B) Dust

(C) Garbage

(D) Paintings

Ans. Option (A) is correct.

3. Why is 'I' not fond of curtains?

(A) They shut things in.

(B) They shut things out.

(C) They are useless.

(D) They are waste of money.

Ans. Option (B) is correct.

4. What does the listener like to hear?

(A) Barking of dog

(B) Honking of vehicles

(C) Calmness of the nature

(D) Pitter patter of rain

Ans. Option (D) is correct.

X. "What'll he ever do? What's going to happen to him when we've gone? How ever will he get on in this world?"

1. Who is the author of this story?

(A) Colin Dexter

(B) Pearl S. Buck

(C) Susan Hill

(D) John Updike

Ans. Option (C) is correct.

2. Who speaks these words?

(A) Lamb

(B) Lamb's wife

(C) Derry

(D) Derry's parents

Ans. Option (D) is correct.

3. For whom is the concern being expressed?

(A) Lamb

(B) Derry

(C) Lamb's wife

(D) Derry's parents

Ans. Option (B) is correct.

4. Who is the listener?

- (A) Derry (B) Mr. Lamb
(C) Dr. Humi (D) Louisa

Ans. Option (B) is correct.

XI. "It's got nothing to do with my face and what I look like. I don't care about that and it isn't important. It's what I think and feel and what I want to see and find out and hear."

1. Who is the speaker?

- (A) Derry (B) Derry's mother
(C) Derry's father (D) Lamb

Ans. Option (A) is correct.

2. Where is he willing to go?

- (A) School (B) College
(C) Lamb's house (D) Playground

Ans. Option (C) is correct.

3. Why does Derry want to return to Lamb's garden?

- (A) To get his ball (B) To make fun of him
(C) To exchange books (D) To keep his promise

Ans. Option (D) is correct.

4. What does Derry see when he returns to Lamb's garden?

- (A) The flowers have been plucked. (B) The apples have been plucked.
(C) Lamb is lying on the ground. (d) Lamb is watering the plants.

Ans. Option (C) is correct.



(B) SUBJECTIVE QUESTIONS



Short Answer Type Questions

(2 Marks Each)

(Answer the following questions in about 30-40 words each.)

1. 'It is not merely age but experience that counts.'

With reference to any one example from the text, comment on how Derry found Mr. Lamb different from other adults he had encountered. (CBSE QB, 2021) 2

Ans. Mr Lamb was a person full of life. Sadness or negativity found no place in his world. His physical impairment and people's humiliating remarks had failed to dampen his spirit. His undying optimism and ever friendly attitude drew Derry towards him. For Derry, Mr Lamb was his source of inspiration.

2. Do you think Derry's mother is protective of him? Justify your opinion with textual evidence.

(CBSE QB, 2021) 2

Ans. Derry's mother is given little characterization in the play, but she seems simultaneously overprotective and not understanding of her son. She contributes to his isolation by keeping him home because of his facial injury, and treats him with a sense of pity that robs him of dignity and treating him like a perpetually helpless victim. In the play, Derry's mother forbids him from returning to Mr. Lamb's house, but Derry leaves anyway, finally asserting himself in a positive way.

3. Why did Derry go back to Mr. Lamb's garden even after opposition? (CBSE QB, 2021) 2

Ans. Derry developed a new vision of life under Mr Lamb's guidance. He became positive and looked happy. Derry no longer cared about his face and looks. He was more concerned with himself, what he thought and felt, what he wanted to see and find out and hear. He knew that if he did not go back to Mr Lamb's garden then, he would never go anywhere in that world again. He wanted the world. He no longer wanted to shun it or avoid the people.

Q4. Why does Mr. Lamb leave the gate of his house always open? [Delhi Set I, 2020] 2

Ans. Mr. Lamb always kept his gate open because he always wanted visitors to come to his house. Mr. Lamb resided alone in a big house and that is why he wanted a companion. He left the gates open so that visitors might not turn away watching the gates closed.

Q5. What is common between Derry and Mr. Lamb? [Outside Delhi Set I, 2020] 2

Ans. Both of them had their own disabilities, Mr. Lamb was a man who owned a tin leg and Derry was a victim of acid attack. Both of them had physical deformities which made them stay away from society. The callousness of society affected them adversely.

Q6. "It ate my face up. It ate me up." Who said these words? Why? [Outside Delhi Set-I, 2019] 2

Ans. Value Points :

(i) Derry

(ii) withdrawn and pessimistic; doesn't trust people; lonely and hypersensitive as his face got burnt with acid.

[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2019] 2

Detailed Answer : 'It ate my face up. It ate me up'. These words are uttered by Derry. He said these words because his face was eaten by acid. He had one side of his face disfigured with acid and didn't like it. That was the main reason why he always kept to himself and did not have any friends. He was withdrawn and pessimistic.

Q7. What kind of garden does Mr. Lamb have? Why does he like it? [Outside Delhi Set-III, 2019] 2

Ans. Value Points :

- an unkempt garden
- both weeds and flowering plants present
- crab apple trees with golden and orange fruits ripe and ready
- presence of beehives
- gate always open, everyone welcome
- many come and talk with him
- gives solace to him in his loneliness
- enjoyed the warm sunshine/Nature

(any one)

(any one) 2

[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2017]

Detailed Answer : Mr. Lamb is an old man with a tin leg. His real leg was blown off years ago during the war. He lives all alone in his house. There is a garden near the house. It has ripe crab apples looking orange and golden in colour. It is a place which welcomes different kinds of people and lets them do what they want. Mr. Lamb wanted kids and all to visit him as he couldn't move much.

Q8. Who was Derry? What problems did he have? [Comptt., Outside Delhi Set-III, 2017] 2

Ans. Value Points :-fourteen-year-old boy with one side of his face disfigured with acid

- kept to himself, did not mix with people
- full of frustration and anger
- could not take criticism

[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2017] 2

Detailed Answer : Derry was a young boy who came to Mr. Lamb's garden. One side of his face had been burnt by acid. He was reserved and did not like to mix with people. He would always think that he was the ugliest person on the earth.

Q9. How do people console Derry when they look at his face? [Foreign Set III, 2017] 2

Ans. Value Points :- people console him-by quoting the fairy tale- 'Beauty and the Beast'

- said 'it is not what you look like but what you are inside is important'

[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2017] 2

Detailed Answer : People often asked him to look at those people who were in pain, are brave, never cry, never complain and don't feel sorry for themselves. They also asked him to think of those who were worse off. He was better off than those people who were blind, born deaf, confined to a wheel chair, or are crazy and dribble.

Q10. How do people react to Derry's face? [Foreign Set II, 2017] 2

Ans. Value Points :-they stare at him

- feel afraid of him
- pity him

[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2017] 2

Detailed Answer : When people looked at Derry's burnt face, they kept staring at him. They often reacted as if they were afraid of him. Some of them pitied him and consoled him by saying sympathetic words.

Q11. How does Mr. Lamb react when Derry enters his garden?

[Outside Delhi Set-II, 2017] 2

Ans. Value Points :

- Lamb is open hearted
- broad minded, welcomes Derry to his garden
- Lamb, happy to get someone to talk to in his loneliness
- treats him as a friend

(any two) 2

Detailed Answer : Unlike Derry's thought that Mr. Lamb would be angry at him if he saw him entering stealthily into the garden. Mr. Lamb treated Derry very gently and welcomed him to his garden. In fact, he was happy to get someone to talk to him in his loneliness. Like a father, he even gave Derry advice to be careful while fetching apples as he might slip and get hurt physically.

12. Why does Derry stay away from people?

[Comptt., Outside Delhi Set I, 2015] 2

Ans. Derry suffers from the complex that most of the physically impaired persons suffer from. He has become withdrawn and defiant. He has got a burnt face. He thinks that he is the ugliest person on the earth. People find his face very terrible. So, he is not afraid of the people but they are afraid of him.

13. In what sense is the friendship between Mr. Lamb and Derry fruitful?

[HOTS] 2

Ans: Mr. Lamb is optimistic, whereas Derry is pessimistic and has an inferiority complex. Mr. Lamb helps him overcome his inferiority complex and advises him not to pay much attention to what others thought about him. He asked him to enjoy life and the beauty of nature. He brings about a positive change in Derry.

Commonly Made Error

- Some students answer it explaining similarities between Derry and Mr. Lamb.

Answering Tips

- The answer must state how each helped the other.

14. Why does Derry's mother not want him to go back to visit Mr. Lamb?[Delhi/Outside Delhi, 2018] 2

Ans. Value Points:

- new to the area
- did not have much personal information about Lamb
- heard adverse remarks by people

[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2018] 2

Detailed Answer : Lamb was new to the place and she had not much personal information about him. She had also heard adverse remarks made by people about Mr. Lamb, who was leading a lonely life, with no contact with outside world. Earlier, children used to tease and chase him, so he would not be a healthy company for her son.

15. How is the Derry we meet at the beginning, different from the Derry at the end?

[Outside Delhi Set-II, 2019–20] 2

Ans. We find a positive change in Derry at the end. He is free from his old complexes. Lamb has given him a direction and purpose of life.



Long Answer Type Questions

(5 Marks Each)

(Answer the following questions in about 125-150 words.)

Q1. Mr. Lamb calls Derry his friend while Derry refuses his affirmation. Would you consider their relationship with each other as friendship? Support your answer with the reference to the instance(s) from the text.

[HOTS] [CBSE SQP, 2020-21] 5

Ans. Derry was a small boy who had a burnt face due to acid. He was very withdrawn and defiant. He used to run away from the world as he hated others staring at him. He thought people are afraid of his infirmity. Similarly, Mr. Lamb too was a handicapped person. He had lost his one leg in a bomb explosion during war years ago. He lived alone in this world.

The two of them have infirmity and are rejected by the people. Both have a vacuum in their hearts for not having company. Mr. Lamb is a man full of positive energy. When Derry met him, he found himself drawn towards Mr. Lamb. Mr. Lamb happened to be the only one who gave him a new line of thought about his physical infirmity. Thus, they both shared a bond that united the two of them.

2. The play 'On The Face of It' depicts the unusual behaviour of the people towards the physically disabled, which makes them feel lonely. Comment. (HOTS)[Outside Delhi Set-III, 2020] 5

Ans. The lesson 'On The Face of It' aptly depicts the loneliness and sense of alienation experienced by Derry and Mr. Lamb on account of a disability. The actual pain and inconvenience caused by the disabilities is often much less than the sense of alienation felt by the disabled person. Derry suffered from severe negative complexes because of his burnt face. He became a pessimistic loner who indulged in self-pity and was always suspicious of the intention of others. His anger and frustration made him withdrawn and an introvert. Mr. Lamb, on the other hand, was inwardly a loner who craved for company and acceptance. Though outwardly he was always jovial, outgoing and optimistic; he was an extremely sensitive person. Derry and Mr. Lamb's physical disabilities caused pain and suffering, not only to their body, but also to their mind and soul.

[AI] 3. Compare and contrast the characters of Mr. Lamb and Derry. [CBSE SQP, 2019-20] 5

Ans. Value Points :

- Mr. Lamb—optimistic, friendly, strong, practical
- Derry- fearful, sensitive, defiant and rude

[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2019-20] 5

Detailed Answer : Both Mr. Lamb and Derry suffer from problems. Mr. Lamb had a tin leg, whereas Derry had a burnt face. But both of them differ in their attitude towards handling their problems.

Mr. Lamb is very positive in his outlook. He sees the beauty in everything, including weeds. He doesn't let physical handicap prevent him from living life to the fullest. He is very friendly, opened his doors to the world as he thinks that the world and people are important. Moreover, he is strong and doesn't let people's negative comments hurt him. Besides, being very practical, he knows one's life is in one's own hands. He also shows understanding of Derry's problems.

On the contrary, Derry is scared of meeting people as he hates seeing their fear of him and facing their rejection. He is too sensitive and people's comment hurt him deeply. He becomes upset due to his parents' over-protectiveness and mother's repulsion for his burnt face. He is defiant and rude and does not talk to people. He sees everything in a bad light and is pessimistic about everything. He not only hates himself but the world and remains away from all. He indulges in self-pity over his face but he has inner deep desire to be accepted which he hides under an abrasive exterior. However, he changes at the end after listening to Mr. Lamb and becomes ready to face the world and overcome obstacles to do so. Eventually he finds courage and strength to get what he wants.

4. Derry and Mr. Lamb both are victims of physical impairment, but their attitudes towards life are completely different. Elaborate. [Delhi Set-I, 2019] 5

Ans. Distribution of marks:

Content:	2.5 marks
Expression:	2.5 marks
grammatical accuracy, appropriate words and spelling	
coherence and relevance of ideas and style	

Value Points :

- Derry : one side of face burnt away by acid
- Lamb : tin leg, real one blown away in a war
- Derry is introvert, cynical, pessimistic, inward looking associating every negativity with him, more withdrawn/shuts himself in/avoids people/averse to taking risks

[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2019] 5

Detailed Answer : Derry is a fourteen year old boy whose main problem is his burnt face. One side of his face had been burnt by acid. He suffers from a tremendous sense of inferiority complex. He is always conscious of the fact that his face is "bad", "terrible" and "the ugliest thing". People are "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 him "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 to 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 hyper sensitive. Mr. Lamb is open-minded and open-hearted. All are welcome. He loves everybody and everything. He teaches Derry how to handle people and things.

5. How is the Derry we meet at the beginning different from the Derry at the end?

[Outside Delhi Set II, 2019] 5

Ans. Value Points :

- (i) A withdrawn, defiant person and one filled with negativity. He has made himself miserable and pitiable.
- (ii) We find a positive change in Derry at the end. He is free from his old complexes. Lamb has given him a direction and purpose of life.

[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2019] 5

Detailed Answer : Derry was a fourteen-year-old young boy who suffered from a sense of inferiority complex due to his acid-burnt face. He never accepted himself like that and therefore, he was never able to reconcile himself with his physical disability. But there was a positive change in him when he came into association with Mr. Lamb. He was surprised to notice that Mr. Lamb, despite his physical impairment, was an optimistic and cheerful man. He never felt miserable or pitiable. He played with children and always kept the doors and windows of his house open so as to welcome everybody at all times. This left a deep impression on Derry's mind. He liked the way Mr. Lamb took his disability and learnt how to deal with people and things that come in the path as hurdles. His attitude towards life took a turning point and he became a different man who wanted to meet the world with open arms like Mr. Lamb who gave him a direction and purpose of life.

AI 6. Derry sneaked into Mr. Lamb's garden and it became a turning point in his life. Comment.

[Delhi Set I, 2016] 5

OR

Who was Mr. Lamb? How did he make Derry gain confidence and come out of his shell?

[Comptt; Delhi Set I/II/III, 2017]

Ans. Value Points

- Mr. Lamb—physically handicapped man with tin leg/lived alone
- Mr. Lamb not repulsed by Derry—accepts him as he is
- does not pity Derry
- does not react to Derry's rudeness
- does not force him to stay and listen to him
- makes him realise that handicaps are not obstacles
- opens the world to him : tells him to wait, watch and listen/doesn't expect him to do anything difficult

(Any two)

[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2016] 5

Detailed Answer : Derry is a fourteen-year-old boy with a face burnt by acid. Mr. Lamb serves as an ideal for Derry. Mr. Lamb has a tin leg. But he never allows his disability to sour the joys of life. Derry, on the other hand, makes himself quite pitiable and miserable. His hyper sensitivity is like an open wound. He can't stand people staring at him. Even cruel and uncharitable remarks upset him. He can't keep his ears shut. Nor does he possess a large and generous heart like that of Mr. Lamb, whom children called 'Lamey-Lamb', but Mr. Lamb does not mind it. He plays with them and gives them jelly and toffees. Derry, on the other hand, has developed a perverted mindset. The worst is that Derry distrusts the world and its people. We find a change in Derry towards the end. Mr. Lamb's ideas leave their imprint on him. He is free from that complex now. He doesn't care about his burnt face and it no more seems important to him.

Commonly Made Error

- A few of the students write the summary of the story.

Answering Tip

- The answer must explain the change in perspective of Derry towards life and society as a whole.

7. What benefits did Derry reap from his association with Mr. Lamb?

[HOTS] 5

Ans. Derry was a fourteen-year-old young boy who suffered from a sense of inferiority complex due to his acid-burnt face. He never accepted himself like that and therefore, he was never able to reconcile himself with his physical disability. But there was a positive change in him when he came into association with Mr. Lamb. He was surprised to notice that Mr. Lamb, despite his physical impairment, was an optimistic and cheerful man. He never felt miserable or pitiable. He played with children and always kept the doors and windows of his house open so as to welcome everybody at all times. This left a deep impression on Derry's mind. He liked the way Mr. Lamb took his disability and learnt how to deal with people and things that come in the path as hurdles. His attitude towards life took a turning point and he became a different man who wanted to meet the world with open arms like Mr. Lamb.

- 8. Both Derry and Lamb are victims of physical impairment but much more painful for them is the loneliness. Comment.** [Outside Delhi Set II, 2016] 5

Ans. Value Points

- Mr. Lamb and Derry—having different sorts of physical disabilities
- Mr. Lamb had a tin leg
- Derry—acid burnt face
- both suffered alienation from society
- not accepted by society
- loneliness caused constant pain for Derry but Mr. Lamb reconciled
- both expected a kind and considerate behaviour from others
- do not want sympathy
- Derry dislikes being pointed at, nicknamed, mocked at or made fun of : Mr. Lamb reconciled
- Derry sensitive about mother kissing only on the other cheek (Any three)

[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2016] 5

Detailed Answer : Derry's main problem is his burnt face. One side of his face had been burnt by acid. He suffers from a tremendous sense of inferiority complex. He is always conscious of the fact that his face is "bad", "terrible" and "the ugliest thing". People are "afraid" of him. He tries to escape from 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 him "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 to 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 hyper sensitive. Mr. Lamb is open-minded and open-hearted. All are welcome. He loves everybody and everything. He teaches Derry how to handle people and things.

- 9. Both Derry and Lamb are physically impaired and lonely. It is the responsibility of the 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.** [HOTS] 5

Ans Like Derry and Lamb, there are so many people in this world who are impaired and lonely. They suffer from an inferiority complex and a sense of alienation. They remain aloof and turn themselves into a recluse. It is our duty to accept them and make them realise that this world belongs to them as well. We should treat them in a kind and sympathetic way. We should not look down upon them with pity in our eyes as they will feel bad and disheartened with such treatment. We should accept them with open arms and make them realise that their disability is not their fault. We should fill their hearts with hope and optimism and allow them to feel equal with the rest of the world.

Commonly Made Error

- Some students waste effort on answering the problems faced by such people.

Answering Tip

- Instead, the answer must focus on suggesting ways in which they can be better taken care of.

- 10. Optimism in one's attitude helps deal with all the challenges in life. Prove the statement by referring to the character Mr. Lamb from the chapter "On the Face of It".** [CBSE SQP, 2018-19] 5

Ans. Value Points:

- Derry— physically handicapped (burnt face), knows he is different, has poor self-esteem, feel victimized
- Mr. Lamb— physically handicapped (does not have one leg) but has positive attitude, he is understanding, friendly towards people, provides confidence to Derry
- example of bees/weeds in the garden/man afraid of death/beauty and the beast etc./children calling him Lamey
- Lamb/no curtains in house/attitude of "waiting, watching, listening" [CBSE Marking Scheme, 2018-19] 5

Detailed Answer : Derry was a fourteen year old young boy who suffered from a sense of inferiority complex due to his acid-burnt face. He never accepted himself like that and therefore, he was never able to reconcile himself with his physical disability. He had a poor self-esteem and felt victimized. But there was a positive change in him when he came in association with Mr. Lamb. He was surprised to notice that Mr. Lamb, despite his physical impairment, was an optimistic and cheerful man. He had a positive bent of mind. He never felt miserable or pitiable. He played with children and always kept the doors and windows of his house open so as to welcome everybody. He was very warm and friendly towards Derry. He told him that he had a weed garden because he felt weeds are also green living plants like others. Why should, then, they be called weeds. He also said that children called him 'Lamey lamb' whenever he went out into the streets, but he didn't feel bad about it. He, on the other hand, made toffees to give them to the children whenever they met him. Derry was quite impressed with his attitude of 'waiting, watching, listening'. This provided confidence to Derry and he was a changed personality after meeting Mr. Lamb. Thus, we can say that optimism in one's attitude helps deal with all the changes in life.

