

On the Face of It Previous Year Questions (with model answers)

Q1. Derry in 'On the Face of it' is a victim of self-pity. Analyse Derry's behaviour in the light of the above statement. [CBSE 2025]

Ans. Derry hates himself and dislikes people also because they pity him for the acid burn mark that spoiled his face. He feels that his mother also dislikes the burnt half face of his because she kisses him on the other side. Derry is low on self-esteem and feels that he cannot do anything in life. He doesn't even think that any girl can ever like him. He dislikes making friends and remains lonely and sad. He even gets afraid of himself when he sees his face in the mirror. Thus, Derry is consumed in self-pity and self-hatred.

Q2. Derry: It's got nothing to do with my face and what I look like.

You do agree with Derry that appearance doesn't define a person. Only one's potential and innate qualities gain one respect and dignity in society.

As Derry, write a diary entry regretting how you wasted your time indulging in self-pity and frustration and how your encounter with Mr. Lamb transformed your personality.

You may begin like this.

I do really thank my stars for bringing Mr. Lamb into my life [CBSE 2024]

Ans. Dear Diary

I do really thank my stars for bringing Mr. Lamb into my life. All these years got wasted in frustration due to my burnt face. I was full of self-pity and bitterness towards anyone and everyone who came across me. I would look at people's faces to judge their reaction on seeing me and then get bitter at them. I hated myself for this ugly appearance and felt that I could never achieve anything in my life.

However, my meeting with Mr Lamb has changed my perspective. He told me that despite being laughed at for a tin leg and limpy walk, he accepted the fact and did not mind the kids mocking at him. Mr Lamb told me that I am blessed with all four limbs, eyes, ears, brain and tongue and could achieve anything. No one had ever induced so much positivity and confidence in me. I had only received pity and hatred. When Mr Lamb showed acceptance for me, I felt so confident. I am full of joy and am thankful to him.

Bye dear diary

Q3. Physically impaired people have to suffer pain and a sense of alienation due to the behaviour of the people around them. It's ironical that people who should be treated with empathy are either avoided or pitied. Discuss. [CBSE 2024]

Ans. Physically impaired people often endure not only their disabilities but also the insensitivity and prejudice of those around them. This societal behaviour exacerbates their pain and sense of isolation. Instead of receiving empathy and

support, they are often met with avoidance or pity, which only deepens their alienation. The irony lies in the fact that those who need understanding and acceptance are often marginalized. This is evident in the character of Derry from "On the Face Of It," who experiences both direct and indirect forms of discrimination due to his appearance. Such treatment underscores a societal failure to recognize and respect the intrinsic value of individuals with disabilities. True empathy involves treating them with dignity and integrating them fully into the social fabric, rather than perpetuating their sense of otherness.

Q4. Derek wants to go back to Mr. Lamb's house against his mother's will. What does this tell you about Mr. Lamb? [CBSE 2023]

Ans. Derek wants to go back to Mr. Lamb's house, even though his mother doesn't want him to. This is because Mr. Lamb has taught Derek a new way to look at life. He has given Derry hope that he can get over his disability by having a positive view of life. Derry likes what he teaches and what he tells him, so he goes back to Mr. Lamb.

Q5. How does Mr. Lamb overcome his feelings of loneliness? [CBSE 2022]

Ans. Mr. Lamb lives alone but does not feel lonely. He welcomes visitors to his garden and shares the home-made toffees and jelly with them. He spends time with the bees whose humming sound sounds to Mr Lamb as if they are singing. He reads books, plucks crab apples planted in his garden, makes toffees with the honey and makes jelly with the apples. Thus, he remains busy to overcome loneliness.

Q6. How has Mr. Lamb kept himself open to everyone? [CBSE 2020]

Ans. Mr Lamb kept the gate of the garden open to welcome everyone. He shared toffee and jelly with the visitors. He did not have curtains in his house because he did not like to shut things in and out.

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