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On the Face of It

Fastrack Revision

Summary at a Glance

- ▶ "On the Face of It", by Susan Hill, is a story in the form of a play. It is about two people who are physically impaired but totally stand apart in their attitudes and approach towards life.
- ▶ The play deals with the theme of loss and isolation and how an individual should deal with it. One must face the challenges of life with bravery.
- ▶ Derry is a young lad of fourteen and has one side of his face burnt due to which he is sinking in the abyss of frustration because no one loves him. He would have doomed himself in mental desolation had he not met Mr. Lamb who is also physically challenged with one tin leg but has a positive outlook towards things.
- ▶ Mr Lamb lives by himself in a big house with a large spacious garden in front. It is here that Derry meets him when he enters his house thinking it to be empty. He is startled by a voice 'Mind the apples'. He feels embarrassed and wants to go home. But Mr Lamb reassures him by telling that he doesn't mind strangers entering his garden. He keeps all the gates open. When he tells him that he need not be afraid of anything, Derry reacts high headedly saying that people are 'afraid' of him rather because of his ugly face. Mr Lamb doesn't make any reaction. He stays cool and tells him that he is going to make jelly out of the ripe apples. However, Derry dislikes this change of topic. Mr Lamb

tries to build up the boy's confidence by telling him that he loves all creatures made by God and that nothing in this world is worthless that deserves to be considered as trash. Even weeds have their own value.

- ▶ At this juncture Mr Lamb tells him about his own handicap. He tells him that one of his legs got blown off in war and he has a tin leg. Children tease him by calling him "Lamey Lamb", but he doesn't mind it. He advises Derry not to mind what people say about him. Derry is full of bitterness towards this world and is critical of his mother who kisses him only on the good side of his face. Mr Lamb tries to deal with his negativity by advising him to think of the beautiful objects of the world. Realising that Derry takes interest in what he speaks—Mr Lamb narrates a story of a timid man who never came out of his house fearing that he would meet some fatal accident but died in his own room when a picture fell of the wall on his head and killed him. This story makes Derry change his attitude towards Mr Lamb as well as towards life.
- ▶ Mr Lamb assures Derry that whatever belongs to him is his if he likes it. Now for the first time Derry opens up and talks of Mr Lamb's handicap. He has developed a bonding with him. "If you fell from a ladder, and broke your neck you could lie on the grass and die, if you were on your own." Lamb says, "I could." Derry knows that his presence in his house would help him. Mr Lamb now realises that his conversation



has brought a positive change in Derry's thinking. Derry runs home and tells his mother about his decision to go back to his new mentor—Mr Lamb. He runs back to Mr Lamb's garden. But Mr Lamb has fallen down along with the ladder and doesn't respond to Derry's words. He is dead. But he has taught the next generation to carry on his good work before passing off to the next world.

Theme

The story leaves a message that the actual pain caused by a physical impairment is often much less than the feeling of alienation which the person goes through. The story tells us about the sense of loss and isolation. It also tells us how to overcome it.



Practice Exercise

Extract Based Questions ↘

Directions: Read the extracts given below and answer the questions that follow:

1. **Mr. Lamb :** Well that needn't stop you, you needn't mind.
Derry : It'd stop them. They'd mind me. When they saw me here. They look at my face and run.
Mr Lamb : They might. They might not. You'd have to take the risk. So would they.
Derry : No, you would, you might have me and lose all your other friends, because nobody wants to stay near me if they can help it.
Mr Lamb : I've not moved.
Derry : No
Mr Lamb : When I go down the street, the kids shout 'Lamey-Lamb'. But they still come into the Garden, into my house; it's a game. They're not afraid of me. Why should they be? Because I'm not afraid of them, that's why not. (CBSE 2023)

- (a) The kids tease Mr Lamb but still come into his garden. Why?
 (b) Choose the best option that describes Mr Lamb.
 (i) Headstrong (ii) Pessimist
 (iii) Negligent (iv) Positive
 (c) Choose the correct option with reference to the extract:
 What makes Derry tell Mr Lamb that if he comes, others would stop coming?
 (i) Mr Lamb would not let others come.
 (ii) They would be repulsed by Derry.
 (iii) Mr Lamb will have to choose between him and others.
 (iv) Derry would flare up.
 (d) What does Mr Lamb mean by 'They might, they might not'?

Answers

- (a) The kids tease Mr Lamb but still come into his garden because they are not afraid of him.
 (b) (iv) Positive
 (c) (ii) They would be repulsed by Derry.
 (d) Mr Lamb means that it is not necessary that people or children will look at Derry's face. It might be that they run away; or they might not run away.

2. **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. (CBSE 2023)

- (a) The description of the house indicates that Mr Lamb
 (b) The expression 'does not like shutting things out, shutting things in' suggests Mr Lamb's:
 (i) welcoming nature
 (ii) poverty-stricken existence
 (iii) lack of resources
 (iv) confused state of mind
 (c) Mr Lamb spends his time
 I. reading books
 II. cooking meals
 III. shutting things out
 IV. enjoying beauties of nature
 Which of the following options are appropriate?
 (i) I and IV (ii) II, III and IV
 (iii) I and II (iv) I and III
 (d) On the basis of the extract, study the two statements, I and II given below:
 I. Mr Lamb liked meeting people.
 II. Mr Lamb accepted life as it came.
 Choose the most appropriate option:
 (i) I can be inferred from the extract, but II cannot.
 (ii) II can be inferred from the extract, but I cannot.
 (iii) Both I and II can be inferred from the extract.
 (iv) Neither I nor II can be inferred from the extract.

Answers

- (a) leads a lonely life in a big house but he keeps himself happy by reading books and enjoying the beauty of nature.
 (b) (i) welcoming nature
 (c) (i) I and IV
 (d) (iii) Both I and II can be inferred from the extract.

3. You think..... Here's a boy?

You look at me.... and then you see my face and you think. 'That's bad. That's a terrible thing. That's the ugliest thing I ever saw.' You think, 'Poor boy'. But I'm not. Not Poor. Underneath, you are afraid. Anybody would be. I am. When I look in the mirror and see it, I'm afraid of me. (CBSE SQP 2020, Modified)

- (a) Who is speaking to whom?
(i) Derry to Lamb
(ii) Derry to his mother
(iii) Derry to neighbouring woman
(iv) None of the above
- (b) A 'terrible thing' referred to here is
- (c) Why does the speaker say 'you are afraid'?
- (d) How does the man being addressed react?

Answers

- (a) (i) Derry to Lamb
(b) Derry's burnt face
(c) The speaker says 'you are afraid because he has an ugly face.'
(d) The man being addressed talks to him in an encouraging tone.
4. Later on, when it's a bit cooler, I'll get the ladder and a stick, and pull down those crab apples. They're ripe for it. I make jelly. It's a good time of year, September. Look at them.... orange and golden. That's magic fruit. I often say. But it's best picked and made into jelly. You could give me a hand.
- (a) The author of the above extract is:
(i) Kalki (ii) Pearl S. Buck
(iii) Jack Finney (iv) Susan Hill
- (b) The speaker of the extract is
- (c) Why does the speaker need the ladder?
- (d) What does 'You could give me a hand' means?

Answers

- (a) (iv) Susan Hill
(b) Mr Lamb
(c) The speaker needs the ladder to pluck the apples.
(d) It means that 'Mr Lamb asks Derry to help him in plucking apples'.
5. You needn't think they haven't all told me that fairy story before. 'It's not what you look like, it's what you are inside. Handsome is as handsome does. Beauty loved the monstrous beast for himself and when she kissed him he changed into a handsome prince'. Only he wouldn't, he'd have stayed a monstrous beast. I won't change.
- (a) 'Handsome is as handsome does' means
- (b) The speaker says, 'I won't change.'
What does the speaker want to say here?
(i) He would change his habits
(ii) His burnt face would not be changed

(iii) Character and appearance are more important than behaviour.

(iv) He would not be cordial to Mr Lamb

- (c) Who is the author?
(d) Give an antonym of 'monstrous'.

Answers

- (a) character and behaviour are more important than appearance
(b) (iii) Character and appearance are more important than behaviour.
(c) Susan Hill is the author.
(d) An antonym of 'monstrous' is delightful or miniature.
6. Friends everywhere. People come in....everybody knows me. The gate's always open. They come and sit here. And in front of the fire in winter. Kids come for the apples and pears. And for toffee. I make toffee with honey. Anybody comes. So have you.
- (a) The speaker here is
- (b) Where do people come in?
(i) Derry's house (ii) Derry's school
(iii) Mr Lamb's garden (iv) None of these
- (c) Who is 'you' in the last sentence?
- (d) What does Mr Lamb do with honey?

Answers

- (a) Mr Lamb
(b) (iii) Mr Lamb's garden
(c) Derry is 'you' in the last sentence.
(d) Mr Lamb makes toffees with honey.



Short Answer Type Questions

- Q 1. Who is Mr Lamb? What sort of house does he live in?
Ans. Mr Lamb is an old man. He has a tin leg. He lost his real leg in the war. He lives in a large house whose windows have no curtains. A garden is attached to his house.
- Q 2. What is the disability that the old man suffers from?
Ans. The old man has lost his leg in the war. He has a tin leg. He cope with the disability with the tin leg in his daily life.
- Q 3. Why does Mr Lamb leave his gate always open? Why does he live in a house without any curtains?
Ans. Everybody is welcome there in his garden. So, Mr Lamb leaves his gate always open. He lives in a house without any curtains because he loves and likes the light and darkness and to hear the wind.
- Q 4. What qualities of the old man does Derry seem to have an admiration for, despite himself?
Ans. Despite himself, Derry admires the old man's power of tolerance, his practical wisdom and his understanding of things around him.

Q 5. Is there any proof of change in Derry's approach?

Or

How did Mr Lamb's conversation and company change Derry's desire to isolate himself from the world? (CBSE 2022 Term-2)

Ans. The old man affects a change in Derry's approach to things around. Derry says in the scene two, "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." Now he is not afraid of his disfigured face. He would live a normal life.

Q 6. The play ends tragically, yet leaves one with a sense of hope. Explain.

Ans. The ladder falls back. Mr Lamb with it. He dies. Derry weeps. The end of the play is tragic. But the play leaves us with a sense of hope. It is hoped that Derry would live a normal life like other people. He would not avoid people.

Q 7. People are insensitive to those who have disabilities. Give instances from the story 'On the Face of It'.

Ans. People are generally insensitive to the people with handicaps. They either take pity on them or hate them. For example, Derry hears derogative remarks from the women in the street like "who will kiss such a face except mother?" Even his family members were worried about him with a burnt face. Mr Lamb is another example. He has lost his one leg in the war and people stare at him and call him Lamey Lamb.

Q 8. Why does Derry's mother not want him to go back to visit Mr Lamb? (CBSE 2018)

Ans. Derry's mother does not want him to go back to visit Mr Lamb because she had heard many adverse things regarding Mr Lamb and had been warned about him by the people. Mr Lamb was living a lonely life and had no contact with the outside world. She thought, he would not be a healthy company for her son.

Q 9. What peculiar things does Derry notice about the old man, Lamb?

Ans. Usually when Derry met people, they seemed horrified on looking at his burnt face and withdrew from him. But he did not notice any such thing on the face of Mr Lamb, which surprised Derry. Secondly he noticed that Mr Lamb led a happy life despite his handicap. He had a zest for life and encouraged him also to lead a normal life. He made him aware of his strengths.

Q 10. Why did Derek (Derry) enter Mr Lamb's garden?

(CBSE 2023)

Ans. Mr Lamb had a large garden full of apple trees. While other children came to his garden to steal apples, Derry entered it out of curiosity. He wanted to explore it at a time when it appeared to be empty or deserted.

Q 11. Why does Mr Lamb leave the gate of his house always open? (CBSE 2020)

Ans. Mr Lamb leaves the gate of his house always open because he lives all by himself and doesn't mind strangers entering his house. Despite being physically impaired, he is a social person and is always ready to welcome anyone who enters his garden.

Q 12. How did Derry react when his mother stopped him from going to Mr Lamb? (CBSE 2018)

Ans. Derry says to his mother, 'It has got nothing to do with my face and what I look like. I don't care about that and it is not important. It's what I think and feel and what I want to see and find out and hear. And I am going back there.

Q 13. What kind of garden does Mr Lamb have? Why does he like it? (CBSE 2017)

Ans. Mr Lamb's garden is attached to his big house which is full of fruit-trees. The birds of different kinds sing all the day on them. Bees live in their hives which provides honey to Mr Lamb. He enjoys the humming of bees there, sitting for hours. He always keeps the gate open of his garden. There is long grass on the ground of his garden. Bushes can be seen here and there in the garden. The garden has walls around it. Thus, we see that Mr Lamb likes the garden because he gets fruits, flowers, honey and herbs from it besides passing his time peacefully.

Q 14. How do you think Derry's mother contributes to his sense of alienation and isolation? (CBSE SQP 2021)

Ans. Derry's mother contributes to his sense of alienation and isolation by keeping him home because of his burnt face and treating him with a sense of pity that robs him of dignity. He feels being treated like a perpetually helpless victim.

Q 15. Why was Derry startled as soon as he entered the garden? (CBSE 2023)

Ans. Derry thought that it was a lonely and deserted place. He had not expected anybody there. When he entered the garden, he found that somebody else was already present there. So, he was startled.

Q 16. Why does Derry not like being with people?

(CBSE 2023)

Ans. Derry does not like being with people because they constantly remind him of his ugliness, i.e. his burnt face. He does not like to see people shirking from him. He feels rejected and unwanted.

Q 17. What does the play 'On the Face of It' suggest about the importance of empathy in overcoming prejudice and stereotypes? (CBSE SQP 2023-24)

Ans. The play 'On the Face of It' suggests about the importance of empathy in recognising and overcoming prejudices, as it allows individuals to see beyond surface-level differences and connect on a deeper level.

The play highlights the damaging effects of prejudice and stereotypes on both the victim and the perpetrator. However, it also suggests that empathy and understanding can overcome these barriers.

Through the development of a relationship between the two characters, Derry and Mr Lamb, we see how their initial assumptions about each other are challenged and ultimately broken down.



Long Answer Type Questions ↘

Q 1. What is it that draws Derry (Derek) towards Mr Lamb in spite of himself? (CBSE 2016)

Ans. Derry (Derek) is an abominable, ugly boy with a huge and deep scar on one side of face. Nobody likes him, loves him or befriends him. He is rather an object of other people's hateful stares, ridicule and neglect. Everyone dreads his ugly looks and avoids him, including his mother who dare not kiss the scary side of his face. Yet this boy has a tender heart with a deep longing to love and be loved.

There is one more such person Mr Lamb who is considered to be a lonely eccentric lame old man, who lives in a neighbourhood house and parents don't want their children to go to him or to his garden to play. As a matter of fact Mr Lamb is a kind hearted man who longs for company. When Derek meets Mr Lamb for the first time he want to run away from him because he feels embarrassed about entering Mr Lamb's garden stealthily and fears that Mr Lamb too would make fun of him like other people. However, to his pleasant surprise, the old man speaks to him in a friendly manner and doesn't seem to mind his coming to the garden. Derek is further surprised when Mr Lamb says that he is not as frightful as believes himself to be. A little later Mr Lamb's talk about his interest in anything created by God including weeds and thorns makes little Derek like Mr Lamb. He has a good feeling for him.

Mr Lamb's conversation with him about everything and everybody being essentially the same, draws little Derry towards him. His encouraging words, "You have got two arms, two beautiful eyes, two ears and two legs....You'll get on the way you want, like the rest," have a magical effect on him. Before this Derek had only heard hateful, bitter remarks from people who only pitied him.

Slowly Derek is able to shed his complex about being ugly. He rediscovers the joy of life. He is able to enjoy the little things of life like raindrops falling on the roof. It is the loving words of Mr Lamb that draw Derek towards Mr Lamb.

Q 2. Mr Lamb calls Derek his friend while Derek refuses his affirmation. Would you consider their relationship with each other as friendship? Support your answer with reference to the instance(s) from the text.

Ans. Derek is a small boy whose one side of face is burnt by acid. Therefore, people dislike him and pass derogative remarks or ridicule him with pity. This attitude of people around him leads to his falling a prey to inferiority complex. He can't face people. One day, Derek meets Mr Lamb accidentally. It becomes a source of inspiration for him to live life as it comes Mr Lamb is a man of positivity. He has a very welcoming attitude towards everything in life. The optimistic approach and the maturity he possesses is reflected through his words. For instance, Mr Lamb is able to draw a difference between the noise and music in humming of the bees and triggers Derek indirectly which removes the blind of bitterness in Derek and makes him realise the existence of different perspectives towards everything in life. His persistence towards Derek can be seen through various instances during their conversation where Mr Lamb tries to exemplify positivity in everything and viewing things from every angle of perception for complete understanding before undermining oneself of judging others. He is full of optimism. He accepts Derek with all his imperfections and calls him his friend.

Derek gradually opens up. He finds his company appealing. He finds Mr Lamb's convictions and reasons behind the things besides he had contrasting and negative approach towards everything. At times, he argues with Mr Lamb towards the logics of Mr Lamb as he isn't able to rely to the convictions as Derek's situations have made him cold towards things around him. When Mr Lamb calls him his friend, he opposes this fact but later on considers that if Mr Lamb be friends with him, others won't consider him as their friend. However, Mr Lamb counters even this opinion of his which lays a profound impact on Derek's mind. He shares his disappointments with Lamb and how people behave with him. Mr Lamb fills him with confidence and he overcomes issues which hold him back. Even though Derek doesn't affirm out loud, the fact that Mr Lamb's words inspired trust enough to help him. He opens up. He also gets back to Mr Lamb's garden. He conquers his challenges and recognises Mr Lamb's impact on him. He had developed a bond which they shared. This bond can be called friendship.

Q 3. 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 behaviour that the person expects from people around him?

Ans. The drama 'On the face of It' centres around two persons who are physically challenged in one way or the other. Mr Lamb has an artificial tin leg and Derry has one side of his face burnt. Mr Lamb is a mature person who sees the positive side of things— an optimist. But Derry suffers not only on account of his physical impairment, but also from low-self-regard, self rejection and his belief that how much

people hate him for being so ugly. His feeling of loneliness is further enhanced by his feeling that nobody loves him. Once he heard someone saying, "Who will kiss him but his mother."

In some way or the other behaviour of the people like Derry is the by product of people's indifference towards them.

The victims of impairment do not want empty words of sympathy or pity because that way they feel more hurt when people continue to remind them of their being handicapped. What such people need is their love, time, space and understanding so that they may forget their handicaps and live life as fully as possible. The best others can do for them is to accept their handicaps without making fun of them.

This is how Mr Lamb successfully overcomes his handicap and the same he has done for Derry. He makes Derry to win over his inferiority complex.

Q 4. "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? (CBSE 2019)

Ans. After meeting Mr Lamb, a remarkable change is seen in Derry's perception and attitude towards life. He says to his mother that Mr Lamb had spoken to him about things that no one else had liked to him about. The 'things' that Derry refers to are Mr Lamb's words of wisdom and his healing touch which inspire him (Derry) to shed his inferiority complex. Derry got encouraged by Mr Lamb's unending enthusiasm and unstopping zeal to live life. Mr Lamb's optimism helped transform Derry completely. Thus, Derry's chance meeting with Mr Lamb proved meaningful for him.

Q 5. Will Derry get back to his old seclusion or will Mr Lamb's brief association effect a change in the kind of life he will lead in the future?

Ans. No, Derry will not get back to his old seclusion. Mr Lamb's brief association will effect a change in the kind of life he will lead in the future. The following points support this view:

- (i) Derry tells his mother that he wanted to be there in the garden of Mr Lamb. He will sit there and listen to things. He will listen to Bees' singing and him talking. He said things he wants to think about.
- (ii) Derry says to his mother, "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. And I'm going back there."
- (iii) Derry does not want to stay at his home. He has got clear perception of things. If he does not go back there he will never go anywhere in that world again.
- (iv) To be brief, Derry's coming back to Mr Lamb is indicative of the change in the kind of life he is likely to lead in future.

Q 6. Draw a character-sketch of Mr Lamb.

Or

Mr. Lamb stands as a symbol of optimism and hope. Support your answer with examples from the text.

(CBSE 2023)

Ans. Mr Lamb is an old man. He lost his leg in the war. He has a tin leg. He lives in a very large house with a big garden.

He behaves like a very practical civilian. He is a psychologist and a communicator. He draws out the best of the young Derry. He tactfully handles Derry—a withdrawn and defiant young man of fourteen. He asks him peculiar questions. He sheds his firm notions and comes to understand the things around him. He strikes a friendship with Derry. His brief association effects a change in the kind of life Derry will lead in future.

He is a prey of alienation due to his physical impairment. He lives a secluded and miserable life. He wants company and he wants to talk. He shares his thoughts even with Derry. Kids call him lamey-lamb but he ignores it.

Mr Lamb is pragmatic. His way of living serves as a model lesson for all the physically challenged persons. He undertakes meaningful activities which give his life some purpose and saves him from boredom. He is the protagonist of the play and stands as a symbol of optimism and hope.

Q 7. Is the title of the play 'On the Face of It' appropriate? Give reasons in support of your answer.

Or

Justify the title of the lesson 'On the Face of It'

(CBSE 2022 Term-2)

Ans. Yes, the title of the play 'On the Face of It' is quite appropriate.

It means that something seems to be good and true, but there should be change in the opinion when something more is known about it.

The play is an interaction between Mr Lamb and Derry. Both suffer from physical impairment. It is the drama of ideas, it has minimum physical action. Mr Lamb who is an old man tries to strike up a friendship with Derry, a young boy of fourteen. Derry is very withdrawn and defiant. He is the main issue. We find the effort of the old man worth appreciating.

The play deals with the mental anguish, emotional starvation and physical distress of the physically challenged persons who are unable to lead normal life among normal persons.

Derry says to his mother, "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."

Derry ignores that his face is disfigured from burns. He also forgets what people say about him. He has a clear perception of things. He is going to lead a

normal life like others. He has set his mind to get on better than all the rest.

Thus, we see the title of the play is quite appropriate and suggestive.

Q 8. In which section of the play does Mr Lamb display signs of loneliness and disappointment? What are the ways in which Mr Lamb tries to overcome these feelings?

Ans. Mr Lamb displays signs of loneliness and disappointment in the end of Scene one. It is evident from the last speech of Mr Lamb when he is alone and Derry had left for his home. Mr Lamb says to himself:

"There my dears. That's you seen too. Ah....you know. We all know. I'll come back. They never do, though. Not them. Never do come back."

Following are the ways in which Mr Lamb tries to overcome these feelings:

- (i) He seeks help from others in pulling down apples. He says to Derry: "You could give me a hand."
- (ii) At one place Mr Lamb says, "I like to talk. Have Company." When people come to him, he talks to them.
- (iii) People come to him in winter and sit in front of the fire in winter.
- (iv) Kids come to him for the apples, pears and honey toffees.
- (v) He has a hive of bees behind trees. He hears them singing and gets honey from the hive with which he makes toffees. Bees give him a pursuit and company.

(vi) He sits in the sun and reads books to while away his time. Books provide him company.

(vii) He looks after his garden. The trees, flowers and grass entertain Mr Lamb to some extent.

Q 9. How has Mr Lamb kept himself open to everyone?
(CBSE 2020)

Ans. Mr Lamb owns a very big house without curtains which shows that he did not want to be hidden from the eyes of the people. He needs society.

He has therefore the gate of the garden always open. People come to him. He talks to them. Kids come to get crab apples and honey toffees. Thus, he overcomes the feeling of alienation and loneliness. He teaches Derry a new approach to things around him. The approach is: waiting, watching, listening, feeling and thinking.

He keeps gate always open for everybody. Any one can enter his garden without permission. People come and sit in his garden and bask in front of the fire in winter children visit his garden for taking apples and pears besides getting toffees made of honey. Derry is afraid of his burnt face but Mr Lamb said to him, "Why should that signify? Do I have to write your particulars down and put them in a filing box, before you can be a friend?"

Further he tells to Derry, "When I go down the street, the kids shout 'Lamey-Lamb.' But they still come into the garden, into my house; it's a game. They're not afraid of me. Why should they be? Because I'm not afraid of them, that's why not."

All this shows that Mr Lamb has kept himself open to everyone.



Chapter Test

Extract Based Question

Q 1. You can't help the things you say. I forgive you. It's bound to make you feel bad things.... and say them. I don't blame you.

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. And I'm going back there. Only to help him with the crab apples. Only to look at things and listen. But I'm going.

(a) Who is 'I' in the first line of the extract?

- (i) Derry's father
- (ii) Derry's mother

(iii) Mr Lamb

(iv) Derry

(b) 'I' in the last line is

(c) Give a synonym of 'forgive'.

(d) What did Derry want?

Short Answer Type Questions

Q 2. Describe Mr Lamb's garden.

Q 3. Explain the end of the story 'On the Face of It'.

Long Answer Type Question

Q 4. How does Mr Lamb manage to overcome loneliness and disappointment?