

In His Own Write Study Guide

In His Own Write by John Lennon

(c)2015 BookRags, Inc. All rights reserved.



Contents

[In His Own Write Study Guide.....1](#)

[Contents.....2](#)

[Page 1-30.....3](#)

[Page 31-80.....5](#)

[Characters.....9](#)

[Objects/Places.....11](#)

[Themes.....13](#)

[Style.....15](#)

[Quotes.....17](#)

[Topics for Discussion.....18](#)



Page 1-30

Page 1-30 Summary

This book is a collection of short stories, drawings, and poetry created by the famous John Lennon of the Beatles. The first short story in the book is called "Partly Dave." It explains that Dave gets on a bus with a "coloured" (colored) conductor and Dave is a raving salesman that has the "gift of gob" (gift of gab). The story is very short and the reader will have to decide for themselves what has happened that causes Dave to jump off of the bus at the end. The next story is about a man named Frank. Frank is described as a man that is responsible and well thought of. It continually says in the story that there are "no flies on Frank." Frank goes in one morning and stands on the bathroom scales to find that he has gained twelve inches, which the reader may interpret as weight. He can't remember when he got the extra weight and he argues with his wife about how bad the situation is because of it. To save her the fate of having to see him this way he clubs her in the head until she is dead and leaves her lying on the kitchen floor. Several days later Frank notices that there are still no flies on him, but now there are flies on his wife. He puts her in a small sack because she is a small lady and takes her to her mother's house. The mother refuses to let the sack with her daughter in the house because she is a good housekeeper and doesn't want the flies. She doesn't even offer Frank a cup of tea. The story ends with Frank on the doorstep of his mother-in-law holding the sack realizing how rude she was to not have offered him tea. Neither Frank nor his mother-in-law are upset that the wife is dead.

There is a very short poem about a dog named Nigel and what a good dog he is. He is told to hop and wag his tail and beg and what a smart dog he is. The story of Nigel ends when he is told that that very day he will be put to sleep but there is no explanation given as to why.

"At the Denis" (dentist) is a story of a woman that goes to have her teeth taken care of because they hurt. This story is written in the style of a play. The "Denis" (dentist) tells her the last few teeth she has are bad describing them as "black and moody." She tells him she will have nothing to chew with if he takes them out, but he tells her that it will make her look "thirty years jungle" (younger) and so she excited tells him to take them all.

The next story is one about a man named Eric that has a fat growth on his head that begins to speak to him. The growth's name is Scab, and Eric refuses to get rid of him so he loses his job teaching spastics to dance. The story of the wrestling dog is about a place that has a celebration at harvest time. The mayor of the town, Perry, is responsible for getting entertainment. Perry had in past years got various entertainment sometimes that had a dwarf in it but this year he got a Wrestling Dog. This tale ends with asking who will fight the giant dog.



The last story in this section is about a man named Randolph and his "Chrisbus" (Christmas) party. Randolph is sad because no one is going to come to his party. He names off all the people that are his friends, Bernie, Dave, Nicky, Alice, Beddy, Freba, Viggie, Nigel, Alfred, Clive, Stan, Frenk, Tom, Harry, George, Harld and then sits to think about how alone he will be for the holidays. Suddenly there is a knock on the door, and when he opens it, all his pals Bernie, Dave, Nicky, Alice, Beddy, Freba, Viggie, Nigel, Alfred, Clive, Stan, Frenk, Tom, Harry, George, and Harold are there. When they get inside they tell him that they aren't his friend and do not like him. They begin to hit him and beat him. They tell him that he was never really one of them and kill him. The author explains that the good thing about this story is that Randolph didn't die alone at "Chrisbus" (Christmas) time.

Page 1-30 Analysis

There are many drawings to go along with the stories and poems that John Lennon wrote. The reader will find that his writings are somewhat hard to decipher at times and that the pictures don't always help a lot. The poems and stories throughout the story have words that are misspelled badly, such as "avague" for avail and "Poleaseman" for Policeman, but at other times the author replaces words completely such as the talk at the "Denis" (dentist) where the lady is told that she will look "thirty years jungle" (thirty years younger).

It seems that many of the stories end in death or defeat of someone. There are some of the stories that are confusing with the writing, and it is hard to understand what the author is trying to convey. The first story, "Partly Dave," ends with Dave jumping off a bus like a "burning spastic," but the reader will be left to decide what happened to him as a result. Even with the rest of the story taken into context it is hard to understand what exactly happened in this story. Others are much more easily understood, such as "Good Dog Nigel." The dog is happy and playing and they call him a good boy and then tell him that they are going to have him put to sleep even though there is no explanation as to why. Most of the stories are left for the reader to decide why things happened such as when Frank kills his wife and takes the body to her mother, but the mother doesn't care, and when Randolph is killed when people show up to his "Chrisbus" (Christmas) party. Later on in the other stories, the reader will see that the author also has drug references in the book. They are once again misspelled, but the meaning is clear in the context it is put in. There are also many times that the fact that people are colored will occur, and it seems to have an effect on the meaning of the character and the role they play.

The author was trying to convey humor, but often the stories seem more disturbing than funny. The word changes and choice of descriptions are very interesting and themselves can be funny, but the reader will have to decipher the meaning for themselves out of the author's own code. It also appears that many of the words stem from British terms.



Page 31-80

Page 31-80 Summary

"The Famous Five Through Woenow Abbey" is a tale of the famous five at holiday time. The famous five, Tom, Stan, Dave, Nigel, Berniss, Arthur, Harry, Wee Jocky, Matoombo, and Craig. They go on holiday but are warned not to go on the mysterious Woenow Abbey Hill. That very night they go to the Woenow Abbey Hill by the light of their faithful dog Cragesmure, but it doesn't explain why their dog is lit. They are asked to stay off the grass by a stranger, but Matoombo is able to overpower (overpower) the crypt. Harry tells the stranger that anything he says can be used against him, and it was. It appears that the famous five arrests the stranger, but no explanation is given as to why they have the authority to arrest or why they did so when they were on holiday.

The next story is called "Sad Michael" and is about a man named Michael that had no reason to be sad because everyone liked him. He had a wife named Bernie. He had everything and a good wife but was still sad. A Poleaseman (Policeman) tries to talk to Michael but Michael is "debb and duff" (deaf and dumb) and can't talk back. When the Poleaseman asks about Michael's wife Michael yells at him. This is odd since he has been mute his whole life. Michael then wonders what he will do with all his "debb and duff" books since he is not "debb and duff".

"I Wandered" is a poem about a man that sails on the seas to meet Doris King. Along the way he looks for "goobites sleep" (good nights sleep). He wanders to meet Bernie Smith, but it never explains why that is significant considering he had been looking for Doris King. The next excerpt in the story is called "A Letter" in which a letter written to a man called "Sir" from Afan, an admirer of the group Berneese und zee Rippers. In the letter Afan wants to know why there aren't more "pidgers and witty" (magazine articles it appears) about the group. The admirer asks for an envelope to the Bern and Ern dancing. There is no explanation given to the reader as to what the dancing is or why they person wants an envelope.

The following piece is one of the longest stories in the book. It is titled "Scene three Act one" and gives a description of the scene where the play will take place. The play has only three people in it, Fatty, Scruddy, and Mammy. The scene takes place in a room with a fireplace and a large desk with business papers on it. In front of the desk there are several chairs and in one of the chairs is a working man identified by the title Scruddy. Sitting behind the desk is a white man that is his boss and identified as Fatty. Fatty and Scruddy are talking about a strike that is going on, and Scruddy is the union official. Scruddy is complaining that the workers are being worked to death while the bosses all go on holiday to France. Fatty tells him that they only work two hours a day, three days a week and that the bosses are losing money but have no choice since they are owned by the government. After their argument goes on for some time, Mammy, a black woman, singing a black song and carrying a heavy sack comes on the scene. When Fatty asks Mammy what is in the sack, she tells him that it is what is left of



Fatty's daughter by his second wife. Fatty tells her that he isn't married, and Mammy gasps that she has eaten a bastard. Scruddy tells Fatty to get the black woman out of the factory before everyone finds out what she does or there will be a strike. The end of the scene is Fatty and Mammy standing together with many little Jewish children singing a hymn and standing around them. The reader isn't told why the black woman wanted to eat the man's child or why the other two men weren't more appalled by her actions.

"Treasure Ivan" (Treasure Island) is the next short story in the book. The story talks about a pub in Bristow where a sailor stops before he goes off to sail across the sea. A pirate named Large John Saliver enters the pub and walks over to some other sailors. Blind Jew asks him where his parrot is that is normally on his shoulder, and Large John Saliver asks Blind Jew where his white stick is. Blind Jew tells Large John Saliver that he is blind and can't see his stick so doesn't know where it is. The reader is not told how Blind Jew could see that there was no parrot. They sail to sea and Large John has starts to treat Small Jack Hawkins, the cabin boy, as a son when Small Jack heard Large John Saliver planning a botany (mutiny) against the Captain. They find land and several go ashore. When they go home they are all arrested, and Jack Hawkins turns out to not be a child but a thirty-two-year-old midget.

"All Abord Speeching" is a way to learn to speak providing you are not "debb and duff" (dumb and deaf). It tells you to write words "frenetically" (phonetically) and that the "bowel" (vowel) must be pronounced strangely. It is not explained that the author used this method for all the stories in the book, but it appears to be the guide lines.

"The Fingletoad Resort of Teddiviscious" talks about broadcasting and B.B.C. and the difference in how the same question is answered in different areas. It consists of several different boxes with what are fictional headline news announcements. "Alec Speaking" is a short poem. In it, the picture depicts an alien talking to a human. Most of the dialog is in jumbled phrases that do not consist of any English words.

"Nicely Nicely Clive" is a story about a man named Clive Barrow that was ordinary. Roger was getting married, but Clive said nothing. Roger is getting married to Anne who is in a wheel chair. Anne's father makes it home from sea and cancels the husband. There is no reason given why the story is named after Clive while only mentioning him or why Anne's father cancels the husband. "Neville Club" is a story that talks about a party that takes place with people that are doing drugs and getting high. There is a band there and a "coloured" (colored) man that is eating a banana. The story explains strange behavior due to the drugs that have been ingested, but it is unclear if the behavior is being done or only being seen by those that have taken the drugs.

"The Moldy Moldy Man" is a short poem about a man that is moldy from head to toe, inside and out, and he will not dance and he is humble. The author doesn't explain why the man is moldy or why it seems to be connected to his being humble. The next story is named "On Safairy with the Whide Hunter" (On Safari with the White Hunter). In it there is a safari expedition where people start killing animals. One of the men try to stop it but is unable because they won't listen to him. This is one of the stories that seems to



have an easily read message. "I Sat Belonely" is a short poem about a man that sits below a tree but hears a voice while sitting there. He can't figure out where the woman's voice is coming from and calls for her to show herself. After a time he sees where the voice is coming from, but it isn't a woman that it singing. It is a tiny little pig singing. Then the lady gets up and flies away. There is no explanation given as to why he sees a tiny pig or what it means that he then sees the lady fly away. The text does not say if the pig had turned into the woman or if there had been both there.

"Henry and Harry" is the story about a father and a son. Henry doesn't want to go into the family business, but his father tells him that it is the only thing he is allowed to do. Henry wants to get a golfing job. Harry looks for Henry in the house but can't find him anywhere; the mother tells the father that Henry might have ran away. The mother and the father argue. Henry can't get a golfing job anywhere and returns home to find his mother digging a hole in the ground. He tells her he is home but she ignores him. After telling her several times he finally asks what she is doing. She tells him she is burying his father. Henry says he just wanted a civil answer. The reader isn't told what the family business was or why the father dies. Both the mother and the son are fine with the fact that the father has died and that they are going to bury him at their home.

"Deaf Ted, Danoota, (and me)" is a poem about three people that ride on a horse around the world. It is described as a wondrous sight and at the end of the poem, it is amended that sometimes there might be a fourth person named Malcolm. Why they travel is not explained. "A Surprise for Little Bobby" is a story about a boy that gets a hook for his birthday. It is sad because the hook is a left hand hook and he is missing his right hand. To fix things, Bobby cuts off his left hand so the hook will fit and hopes for a hook to go on the right for his next birthday.

"Unhappy Frank" is the story of a man that is unhappy with everything in his life. He hates his home and the things in it and finds fault with everything around him. He still lived with his mother and went over to her and kicks her in the head. He decides to sell the house and everything in it including his mother. He leaves the country and moves to a different place but doesn't like it half as much as he liked his old home and his old mother.

"On this Churly Morn" is a poem that has many odd words. In the story he talks about being the "baggy Dutch man." The story is short and the reader will have to decide what the fictional words the author created mean. "Victor Triumphs Again and Mrs. Weatherby Learns a Lesson" is a story about a man that carries on with a widowed woman and the town that begins to gossip about it. A religious leader in the community helps to spread the gossip but in the end only does damage to his own name. "Remember Arnold" is a poem about a man that was always on time until he was dead on the line because he got hit by a train. There is a drawing to go with it to show how flat Arnold has become.



Page 31-80 Analysis

The reader sees that there continues to be a theme about death in John Lennon's stories and poems, as well as drugs. Some of the poems and writings are hard to understand because of the words that are made up. There are many mentions of "coloured" people in the story and people that are "normal" and "respectable" people. It appears that the author is spending much of the time making fun of what is considered "normal." The normal people in the book and the ones that are respectable, such as Arnold and Frank, wind up killing people or dead.

The writer uses some of his made-up words over and over again throughout the stories. Others are used only once in a story. The author doesn't give much information about his writings and what inspired them. There is an introduction at the front of the story by Paul and a brief introduction by Yoko Ono. The drawings in the book go with each of the stories, and they were all drawn by John Lennon as well. The writings in the book have been copied exactly as John Lennon wrote them. There are some of his writings that are not easily understood and it seems that John Lennon may have been trying to convey the feelings that he was experiencing. It is left to the reader to understand the meaning and reason behind much of the wording.

It seems that John Lennon was a creative poet and writer as well as a song writer. There are even some similarities between some of his writings in this book and a few of the songs that the Beatles wrote. There is a piece written on the back that is another one of John's writings. It wasn't included inside the book but is entertaining none the less.



Characters

Frank appears in No Flies on Frank

Frank is described as an ordinary man. In the story the phrase "no flies on Frank" is used to describe the fact that Frank is smart and responsible. The reader quickly sees that Frank is not completely reasonable despite the fact that he has a wife and a child. When Frank sees that the bathroom scales have him as weighing more than he did the previous day he becomes angry. When his wife speaks to him Frank offers to kill her if she speaks to him again. The wife continues to talk, and so he kills her. Three days later there are still no flies on Frank, but now there are flies on his wife. The reader sees that Frank isn't upset that his wife is dead or that he killed her but seems to notice that he has to now make his own breakfast.

He tries to get rid of his wife's body, not out of fear of being caught but that the body is attracting flies. When the wife's mother refuses to take the body or let Frank in because of all the flies he is upset only that she did not even bother to offer him a cup of tea.

Henry appears in Henry and Harry

Henry is the son of Harry. Harry is a cripple and his son asks him continually to tell him the story of his stumps because not everyone has a real cripple for a father. Henry wants to have a golf job when he grows up, but his father wants him to help run the family business that Harry runs and his father before him. Harry is a Brummer Striving, and the business is a fast dying business.

Henry can't stand the thought of the family business and runs away to find a golf job. When Henry gets out into the world, he finds that he can't find a golfing job and realizes he is a Brummer just like his father and goes home. When he gets home he finds his mother burying the father. Henry isn't upset that his father is being buried but is angry that his mother took so long to answer him. Henry doesn't weep for his father and continues to watch the mother as she buries her husband.

Nigel appears in Good Boy Nigel

A happy dog named Nigel. His owners tell him what a good dog he is and that he will be put to sleep that day.

Anna appears in Nicely Nicely Clive

The girl that Roger is going to marry. She is in a wheel chair, but her father comes home and cancels the husband.



Clive Barrow appears in Nicely Nicely Clive

Clive is the calm friend of Roger who is marrying Ann.

Large John Saliver appears in Treasure Ivan

The Sailor that takes up with Small Jack Hawkins. Tries to start a mutiny on the ship.

Small Jack Hawkins appears in Treasure Ivan

Thought to be a small cabin boy on the ship that sails to look for treasure. Turns out he is a small midget of thirty-two years old.

Marian appears in No Flies on Frank

The wife of Frank. There are no flies on Frank but there are on Marian after Frank kills her.

Dave appears in Partly Dave

He is a salesman with the gift of gab. Jumps off a bus.

Michael appears in Sad Michael

Michael is sad but no one knows why. It is thought that he is deaf and dumb, but when someone gets him angry he yells at them and then says he will have to sell his deaf and dumb books.



Objects/Places

Bus appears in Partly Dave

Dave jumps off the bus at the end of the story.

The Sack appears in No Flies on Frank

Frank puts his wife's body in the sack to take her to her mother's house.

Hallowed Tooth appears in At the Denis

The tooth that hurts the woman and causes her to go to the dentist.

Fat Growth appears in The Fat Growth on Eric Hearble

The growth on Eric's head that begins to speak to him. Eric loses his job over keeping the growth named Scab.

The Wrestling Dog appears in The Wrestling Dog

The entertainment provided by the Mayor of the town for the yearly harvest festival.

Cragsmure appears in The Famous Five Through Woenow Abbey

The dog that lights the way for the Famous Five.

White Stick appears in Treasure Ivan

The white stick belongs to Blind Jew. Blind Jew can't ever find it because he is blind.

Tiny Little Tiny Pig appears in I Sat Belonely

The little pig on a twig that is singing.



Hook appears in A Surprise for Little Bobby

For his 39th birthday, little Bobby gets a hook. It doesn't fit his right hand, because it is a left hand hook, so he chops off his left hand to put the hook on and waits for a hook to put on the right.

Table appears in Unhappy Frank

The table is the first thing that Frank looks at and becomes unhappy with. Finally he finds so many things to dislike he hits his mother and moves away.

Train appears in I Remember Arnold

The train that ran the man over and caused him to be dead on line instead of dead on time.



Themes

Humor

The reader sees that John Lennon ultimately thought that he was being humorous when he wrote these stories. There are moments when they go in depth, but there are many of his stories that are simply there to amuse and bring a smile to the reader. "At the Denis" is a very funny story that depicts a woman's trip to the dentist office and her reluctance to give up her last few teeth until the doctor tells her it will make her look younger. Upon hearing this she tells him to take them all. The humor is increased when Lennon begins to change his words with misspellings and replaces them, such as he does when he tells the woman that she will look "Thirty years jungle" instead of thirty years younger.

There is also a story in the book "Treasure Ivan" that makes fun of the very well known "Treasure Island." In this tale Lennon takes characters and words that everyone knows and changes them to the point that they are very entertaining. Lennon also makes fun of the pirates, and when one asks Blind Jew where his stick is he point out that he can't see it. Young Jack Hawkins isn't a young cabin boy but a thirty-two year old midget. Lennon may have had other reasons for his writings but it seems that he had a lot of fun with the creation of his works.

Reflection

Many of the stories in the books deal with subjects that were being dealt with in the world while John Lennon was writing these stories. Death and race were common newspaper subjects for many years. The reader sees that John Lennon made fun of these in his stories. The men in the stories that committed horrible murders of loved ones were men that had very common names, such as Frank, and led very common lives and were considered responsible and intelligent men with wives and children or perhaps lived at home. It seems that John Lennon was making fun of the things that drove them to insanity as they were things that made no sense in getting angry over. One gets angry over his weight and kills his wife, and one gets angry over his house and sells it and gets rid of his mother.

The subject of color comes up many times in Lennon's writings but the reader will ultimately be left to decide what the writing meant about the use of color and death in his stories. There is also mention of drugs in the stories and the effects that it is having on those that are doing them and those that are watching. The author put a lot of himself in the writings and it makes for an interesting read.

Death

John Lennon may have had a curiosity about death or perhaps it just made for a good read. The author uses it many times in his stories. The reader will see that there are deaths that come from trivial things and occasionally from unknown things. When Frank kills his wife in "No Flies on Frank," the reader is aware what killed the wife even if they don't understand fully why she was killed. The reader is never told why the dog Nigel is going to be put to sleep in "Good Boy Nigel." Lennon also portrays gruesome murders such as when Mammy kills the young child believing it to be the child of Fatty in "Scene three Act one." It says that she ate the child although we are not told why. In "Harry and Henry" the reader sees that the wife is burying the husband at the end of the story but we are never told why he died. It could have been sickness or murder or suicide. And again in the story "I Remember Arnold" the reader sees that the character in the story is presumably run over by a train.

There is no explanation given as to the reason that so many of John Lennon's writings ending in a death or why all the characters seem to be so unmoved by it. There were no signs that any of the deaths were accompanied by grief or remorse of any kind. Perhaps John Lennon was trying to voice a message with this as well.

Style

Point of View

The point of view in the stories varies with each one. John Lennon wrote some of them in first person, such as "I Sat Belonely" and others in third person. There are times in the stories when the reader has a limited point of view of the characters and other times when the reader is allowed to know what the person is thinking. Some of the stories are short narratives that don't have character emotions involved. Since the book is a mixture of poems and short stories as well as brief narrative descriptions of events, the point of views in the stories are wide in range. "The Wrestling Dog," for example, does nothing more than describe the fact that the town mayor got a wrestling dog for the events at the yearly harvest festival in the town. There is no dialog and the story is only a few short paragraphs. There are a few sections in the book that are written as you would see a play. In these sections the majority of the story is dialog with short bursts of narration to give the reader a sense of the surroundings and the events happening to the characters as well as background.

Setting

The settings in the book change greatly with each of the stories. The first story in the book "Partly Dave" seems to take place on his way to somewhere ending when he jumps off the bus. There are other stories that don't seem to take place anywhere such as "The Fingletoad of Resort of Teddiviscious." In this short narrative, the reader only sees information. There isn't a scene or a setting in which it takes place and in truth no specific characters. There are facts given about a group of people and organizations, but there is no setting to be described.

There are some stories in the book that have a very specific place such as "Neville Club" in which the reader is given a picture of a club and a party that goes on there. The people's actions are described more than the room's physical characteristics but in other stories, such as "Scene three Act one," the reader is allowed a mental picture of the room and the furniture in it. The fireplace, desk, chairs and even where the animals are at are described in detail to give the reader an idea of the surroundings. At times the author uses words that are unfamiliar to explain what things are, such as "Hernia" and "Odeon," but many of these words are understood in the context of the sentence.

Language and Meaning

The language in the story is fictional in many areas and there are times when words have been changed with other words to confuse the meaning. The author had intended his writings to both make the reader think about the meaning of words and to laugh. Often the pictures that are given from the story are dark ones that end in death, but the situations that the characters are in and the things they go through often qualify as



humorous. Some of the words that the author uses are easily understood such as when policeman is changed to poleaseman, but other times the reader will have to decide what a phrase means, such as "Amo amat amass," (which could be a play on a Latin verb conjugation.) There are times when the author didn't mean for the reader to glean anything from the writing but humor, but other times when the author seems to be trying to convey a mirrored reflection to the real world, and the way that things here don't always make sense. Frank is a character that the author uses to depict someone who would be considered "average" by the world's standards and a smart man. He goes insane and kills his wife because he gained a few pounds. While this is a stretch of events that would occur, the author uses this same type of symbolism several times in his writings with death as a focal point.

Structure

The book is eighty pages long. Although there are no chapters or parts, the book is separated by each individual story. Some of the poems or stories only last a few sentences while others may go on for two or three pages. The author has illustrations to correspond with many of the stories. On occasion the pictures take up more room than the story itself. There are thirty-two different sections including the introduction at the front of the book. While these stories and poems are not numbered, each one has an original title. The book doesn't include information about the choosing of the order of the stories. It is unclear to the reader if there is a reason they were put in the order in which they stand. It is not done in alphabetical order but may have been done in chronological order of the date written. The poems and stories are not separated either.

There is a short introduction by Yoko Ono in the book that was not originally there when the book was first published. There is also an excerpt on the back of the book that is not included in the stories. The book is written very informally and the reader will have fun going through John Lennon's writings and thoughts, even though the reader will be left to make sense out of it for him/her self.



Quotes

"His wife, a former beauty queen, regarded him with a strange but burly look." Page 18

"Once upon a time in a far off distant land far across the sea miles away from anywhere over the hills as the crow caws 39 people lived miles away from anywhere on a little island on a distant land." Page 26

"They killed him you know, at least he didn't die alone did he? Merry Chrustchove, Randolph old pal buddy." Page 29

"That night by the light of their faithful dog Cragesmure, they talked Craig and Mtoombo into foing the dirty worj." Page 33

"'Goodeven Michael,' the Poleaseman speeg, but Michael did not answer for he was debb and duff and could not speeg." Page 35

"In a little seashore pub in Bristow, a ragged gathering of rags are drinking and making melly (before sailing to sea in serge of grate treashy on a sudden Isle far across the ocean)." Page 42

"To Clive Barrow it was just an ordinary day nothing unusual or strange about it, everything quite navel, nothing outstanley just another day but to Roger it was something special, a day amongst days... a red lettuce day... because Roger was getting married and as he dressed that morning he thought about the gay batchelor soups he'd had with all his pals." Page 56

"All of a southern I notice boils and girks sitting in hubbered lumps smoking Hernia an taking Odeon and going very high." Page 60

"Jumble Jim, whom shall remain nameless, was slow but slowly asking his way through the underpants, (underware he was being washed by White Hungry.)" Page 63

"All his life Bobby had wanted his very own hook; and now on his 39th birthday his pwayers had been answered. The only trouble was they had send him a left hook and ebry doobby knows that it was Bobby's right fist that was missing as it were." Page 70

"One victor of these gossipity tongues had oft been Victor Hardly, a harmless boot, whom never halmed nobody." Page 77

"Arriving at the station Always dead on time For his destination Now He's dead on line (meaning he's been got by a train or something)" Page 78



Topics for Discussion

Throughout the book there are misspelled words and phrases as well as words used incorrectly. All of this was done deliberately. Think of at least two reasons the author may have chosen to do so. Do you think it was effective for the author to do this? Explain.

Why do you think the author uses death to end so many of the stories? Do you think death was used as the same metaphor in each of the stories?

The author is vague about meaning in some of his stories. Do you think this is deliberate or a lack of thinking it out? Explain your answers and provide examples of the writing to support your theories.

"All Abord Speeching" isn't given till page 45. Do you think that this piece was intended to help the reader figure out meanings of the writers wording and phrases? Why or why not? If so does it help? Explain.

Read through the stories and poems. Do you think the author intended the reader to see messages that relate to real problems in the world? If so, describe what you think it to be expressing. If not explain why they are nothing more than entertainment.

Take a look at the poem "Alec Speaking." Do you think that there is a message that the author intended to convey to the reader? If so what is it? If not provide your own interpretation of what this poem is about.

In the poem "I Sat Belonely," what does the little pig signify? What does it mean at the end when it says "to my surprise the lady, got up- and flew away."? Find items that could be used to replace the pig and the lady that would still hold the same meaning that the author was trying to convey. Explain your reason for picking these two objects or things.