

The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane Study Guide

**The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane by Kate
DiCamillo**

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Plot Summary

The *Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane* by Kate DiCamillo is the story of Edward Tulane, a china rabbit who becomes lost from the little girl who loves him. His travels span the course of more than 30 years as he tries to find love and happiness again, even if it means having a life without his former owner. As Edward goes from place to place he also changes emotionally. He meets new people that help him along his path and he not only finds the true meaning of love but he also finds his way home. This is a classic children's tale of hope, loss, change, but most importantly love.

Edward Tulane is a china rabbit who only loves himself. He lives with a little girl and her family, happily sitting in his chair in the dining room while the girl is in school and spending all of his time with her when she is at home. Until tragedy strikes when he is accidentally sent overboard on a cruise to London. Edward spends a good deal of time on the ocean floor before a fisherman comes along and catches him in his nets after a storm. At the home of the fisherman and his wife, Edward is dressed in dresses and his name is changed. In spite of that, he finds happiness with the couple until their daughter comes along to ruin everything by sending him to the town's garbage dump.

While in the dump, Edward becomes depressed as he is buried under piles of garbage. He is saved by a hobo and his dog who decide to keep Edward and travel with him. Edward again finds happiness in a simple life as he and his new companions travel and hide on train cars until they are caught and Edward is carelessly tossed off of the train by a railroad conductor. He is eventually picked up by an old woman who uses him as a scarecrow before being stolen by a little boy who gives Edward to his dying sister. Edward finds that he deeply cares for this girl and she cares for him until she dies of an unknown illness. The brother takes Edward and escapes to Memphis, but tragedy ensues once again when Edward is broken by a mean cook in a cafe.

Edward and the boy are parted when the boy takes Edward to a doll mender. The doll mender will only fix Edward if the boy leaves Edward with him and the boy unfortunately agrees. Edward is completely fixed, but he is put on a shelf to await a new owner. Over the course of years, Edward waits and meets other dolls. One in particular helps Edward to regain his hope and faith that he will someday find a good home. His hope is rewarded when, after all this time, he sees the little girl who loved him so long ago. She is all grown up and now has a daughter of her own and they just happen to be shopping in the doll mender's shop. The little girl who loved him so long ago and Edward are finally reunited, with Edward finding that love is the most important thing he could ever have.



Chapters 1 - 3

Summary

The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane depicts the life of a self-centered rabbit as he goes from cherished toy to being lost and passed around by several different owners. Along the way he not only meets incredible people, but he finds himself changing his ways in the process. He experiences a wide range of emotions, from pride to fear and even depression as he is passed from owner to owner. This is the tale of love and loss and learning about what is truly important in life.

In Chapter 1, Edward is introduced as a 3-foot-tall china rabbit with real fur on his ears and tail. The only thing that he does not like about himself is the fact that he does not know where his whiskers come from. Other than that, Edward feels that he is extremely special and that he should not be treated as anything less. His owner, Abilene Tulane, treats him as if he is a real person. She dresses him in fine silk clothing that was made especially for him and winds his watch to the correct time every day. While she is away at school, Edward sits on a chair in the dining room with the promise that she will be home soon. In the evenings he sits with the family while they eat, but that does not concern him, he is happy that he is special enough to have his own place at the table. Abilene includes him in the conversations, to the point that her parents also talk to Edward; although her parents make light of talking to Edward as if it is a joke. The only person other than Abilene to talk seriously to Edward is her grandmother, Pellegrina. She is the one who had Edward made for Abilene's 7th birthday and had all of the clothes tailored for him. At night, Abilene always asks Pellegrina to tell her and Edward a story, but Pellegrina tells her that she will tell Abilene a long story when the time is right. As Abilene sleeps, Edward lays in bed with her staring at the ceiling until morning comes again.

During Chapter 2, a neighborhood dog gets into the house and tries to chew on Edward. He is saved by Abilene's mother but he is upset when she calls him "it". Later, a maid mistakes Edward for a common toy and takes him out of his spot in the dining room to roughly clean him and shove him onto a shelf with Abilene's other toys. His prized possession, his watch, is lost in the vacuum until Abilene's father returns it to him. Edward's days continue to pass along quietly until big news from Abilene's parents comes on her 11th birthday.

Abilene finds out that she and her parents are going to sail to London in Chapter 3. Abilene insists on taking Edward and Pellegrina reassures her that Edward will be going with her. Later that night, Abilene asks Pellegrina for a story. Instead of declining, Pellegrina answers that the time has finally come for her to tell Abilene a bedtime story.



Analysis

Chapter 1 introduces the reader to the title character, Edward Tulane. He is a china rabbit standing 3 feet tall and his ears and tail are made from real rabbit fur. He is extremely proud of the way he looks, but there is one thing that troubles him. He does not like his whiskers because he does not know where they come from. Other than this small issue, he believes that he is extremely beautiful. How Edward views his whisker problem gives the reader a glimpse of how Edward is a bit of a perfectionist when it comes to his looks. He shows no concern over anything else, in fact he chooses not to even look at or think of anything else. To think of any other issues, people, or events is considered beneath him and not worth his time. The selfish attitude that Edward has is a key element in the introduction, and also a constant theme throughout the novel.

A 10-year-old little girl named Abilene Tulane owns Edward. The reader can see that Abilene is the only child in the home, therefore it may be guessed that Edward is more like an imaginary friend for her. She loves Edward very much and she takes extra special care of him. She always speaks to Edward as if he is a real companion for her and has the ability to talk back. Since Edward is just a toy, he has no ability to answer Abilene when she talks to him but he is constantly thinking. His thoughts do not go much further than how he looks as he does not want to be bothered with any other sort of distraction, except for Abilene. The reader can see that he clearly loves Abilene, but it is unknown if it is simply because she gives him so much attention. Other toys are not mentioned at this point, so there is no knowledge of if Abilene has other toys or how they interact with Edward. It can only be guessed that if there were other toys around Edward that he would either be demanding of their attention as well or he would simply ignore them. Every day Edward sits in a chair facing the window in the dining room. Abilene places him there to wait for her to come home from school. Edward spends each day silently waiting for her, but he really enjoyed waiting for her in the winter. Since days are short in winter, he is able to see a reflection of himself as evening settles in. Edward could never get enough of having the ability to look at himself, which is another prime example of his vanity.

The rest of the Tulane family is also introduced in Chapter 1. Mr. and Mrs. Tulane are not given any description, only that Edward does not care for them. He feels that they talk down to him if they even talk to him at all. Usually when they do speak to him, it is only because Abilene makes them. In Edward's mind, he pays only the slightest attention and that is because he loves Abilene so much. The only member of the family to have a proper description is the grandmother, Pellegrina. She is described as a very elderly French lady with dark eyes and a large nose. It is also revealed that it was actually Pellegrina who had Edward and his clothes made as a present for Abilene's 7th birthday. She is the only other person to interact with Edward the way he feels he should be talked to. When Pellegrina speaks to Edward, she looks him directly in the eyes and speaks as she would to any human. It is unclear why she speaks to him this way, but Edward appreciates the fact that she does it.



It is also Pellegrina who tucks Abilene and Edward into bed every night. Each night, Abilene asks her grandmother for a bedtime story, but Pellegrina refuses. She always replies that she will tell her a story soon without giving any clues as to when. At this point, the reader is left wondering why Pellegrina keeps refusing to tell a story and what kind of story will she tell when it is time. After Pellegrina leaves, Abilene falls asleep and Edward is left to stare at either the ceiling or at the window. When he is looking out the window, sometimes he can look at the stars. He finds comfort in the stars but it is unclear to the reader and to Edward as to why.

Little description is given to most of how Edward spends his days, but in Chapter 2 the reader is given the chance to see two of Edward's worst days. The first incident occurs when the neighbor's dog, Rosie, gets into the house and comes into the dining room. Rosie takes Edward out of his chair and begins to chew on him. By chance, Abilene's mother is walking by the dining room and sees Rosie with Edward. Although Edward is upset over being chewed on, he is more upset about the fact that when he is rescued by Abilene's mother, she refers to Edward as "it". This makes Edward into a meaningless object instead of the important person he thinks he is. Edward feels that it is the ultimate insult made by Abilene's mother, especially after she is more upset about the dog ruining the tablecloth than Edward being attacked. It is important to note that he did not suffer any hurt feelings, he was just angry about not getting more attention due to the situation. It is assumed that in Edward's view, the mother should have taken a more sympathetic attitude towards Edward and be more concerned with his well being than that of the tablecloth.

The second incident occurs when the maid mistakes Edward for a common toy. She is new to the house and has no clue that Abilene keeps him there during the day and she wants to make sure she does a good job. She takes him from his chair in the dining room and questions why this "bunny" is sitting in the dining room. Edward finds it quite offensive that he could be called such a common thing. The maid also handles Edward roughly, running the vacuum cleaner all over him and his watch gets sucked up into it. Afterwards, she takes him to Abilene's room and shoves him onto a shelf with the other toys.

At this point, the reader is made aware of the fact that there are other toys since Edward has been stuck with them. It is not known exactly what is said to Edward but they laugh at him and make fun of him for being there. This suggests that Edward does not have a good relationship with the other toys in Abilene's bedroom. It also shows the reader that out of all of Abilene's toys, Edward is the most important. When Abilene comes home from school, she immediately goes to find Edward since he is not in his usual space, which is another indicator of how much he means to her. She is relieved and happy that she finds Edward but he is so upset from the whole ordeal that he does not share Abilene's feelings. He continues to be irritated at the whole situation and only finds himself being comforted that the maid was fired shortly after the incident. Some time later, Abilene's father finds the watch and gives it back to him. Once again the father talks down to Edward, which the reader knows that Edward hates. The close of Chapter 2 the reader sees that those two dramas are the major things that has happened in Edward's life up to that point. The reader gets a hint of changes to come as the family



celebrates Abilene's 11th birthday. The family sits at the table as usual, but this night is different. The only clue that the reader gets is that a ship is mentioned, leaving the reader to wonder what will happen next.

More of the details of the upcoming voyage are given in Chapter 3. It is revealed that Pellegrina will stay in the house on Egypt Street and that the rest of the Tulane family will be travelling to London. The reason for the trip is unknown as well as the duration. Since it is not something that Edward cares to discuss, he does not pay attention to the conversation. It is only when Abilene holds him in her lap as the conversation continues that Edward listens to what is being said. The reader can see that the sudden news of this trip makes Abilene very nervous. It is doubtful that she has made any sort of long distance journey. She is also worried that Edward will not be allowed to come with her. Her mother feels that Abilene is getting too old for toys, but says that Edward will be coming along with them. Once again, the father jokingly makes a comment about Edward being a part of their plans. Here the reader can assume that Edward did not like that comment although nothing is said.

Edward gets his first glance at the entire dining table during this conversation. He is amazed by what he sees on the table, but he can also see the way Abilene's parents are looking at him. The parents are still looking down on him as if he is just an object but Pellegrina looks at him very coldly. She has never looked at Edward in this fashion before which makes the reader question why she is doing it now. Edward is made to feel uncomfortable by her stare as she speaks to him. This is a very clear foreshadowing that something is wrong although the reader will not be able to guess what it is exactly. The feeling that something is about to change is made even more evident as Pellegrina tucks Abilene into bed. Abilene asks for a bedtime story as usual. Usually, Pellegrina declines saying that she will tell her one later. On this night, Pellegrina says that the time for a story has come at last and she insists that Edward hears the story as well. The chapter ends abruptly with Pellegrina saying that the story is about a princess, leaving both Abilene and the reader to finally hear Pellegrina's tale.

Discussion Question 1

How do Abilene's parents act toward Edward? Why does it make him mad? How does he feel he should be treated? Why does Pellegrina talk to Edward as if he was a human? How does Pellegrina really feel about Edward?

Discussion Question 2

What is so offensive about the words "it" and "bunny" to Edward? What should he be called? Why do you think Abilene's mother and the maid call him those things?



Discussion Question 3

What clues suggest that Edwards life is going to change? How do you think Edward feels about the upcoming trip?

Vocabulary

ennui, condescending, commissioned, jaunty, indignities, diligence, derogatory, zeal, demented, inanimate, , cavalierly, excruciatingly, jovially, array



Chapters 4 - 6

Summary

Chapter 4 is the tale that is told to Abilene by her grandmother. The story is about a young princess who loves only herself and runs off when a prince asks her to marry him. The princess meets a witch who turns her into a warthog because the princess admits that she does not care for anyone else. As a warthog, the princess is hunted, killed, and eventually served as dinner at the palace. After Pellegrina is finished, she tucks Abilene into bed and as the night goes by Edward thinks of the princess in Pellegrina's story. He also thinks of Pellegrina's last words to him about how he disappointed her.

The voyage to London begins in Chapter 5. Abilene carries Edward all over the ship with her and receives attention from other passengers for being so unique. The other children want to play with him, but Abilene refuses to let anyone else touch Edward. Two boys ignore Abilene's refusals and stripped him of his clothing and start tossing Edward back and forth. Abilene becomes so angry that she tackles one of the boys, causing him to accidentally throw Edward overboard.

In Chapter 6 Edward is falling from the boat into the ocean. He is initially more concerned with where his hat is than falling, but he watches his hat blow away in the wind. He sinks into the water as Abilene is holding Edward's watch and screaming for him to come back. He sinks all the way to the bottom as the ship carrying Abilene and the rest of her family sails away.

Analysis

Chapter 4 finally reveals the story that Pellegrina has been waiting to tell. The story is of a young princess who, like Edward, only loves herself. She is so mean that when a prince asks her to marry him, she swallows the ring and runs off into the forest. After getting lost in the woods, she comes across a witch's house and demands that the witch help her. She interrupts the witch several times as the witch is counting coins, but the witch does not pay her much attention. Next, the princess threatens the witch, who in turn asks her who the princess loves. When the princess defiantly says that she loves no one, the witch tells the princess that she is a disappointment. The witch then turns the princess into a warthog and puts her out of the house. Men from the king's castle see the warthog, shoot it, then take it back to the castle to be eaten. In the end, the cook finds the ring inside the warthog and no one ever asks about the princess. This story confuses Abilene because it did not have a happy ending. The reader can safely guess that a child as young as Abilene would have only heard stories with happy endings up to this point. Pellegrina tells her that without love there can never be a happy ending. This is an important statement that carries through the rest of the novel as Edward changes over the years.



Pellegrina's story as a whole can be seen as a metaphor for Edward's life up to this point and beyond. Just as the princess never loved anyone but herself, so does Edward. Both the princess and Edward feel that what they want should come first no matter what someone else is doing or thinking. The author uses Pellegrina's story to illustrate Edward's attitudes in a way that is not obvious to Edward, but it is to the reader. Pellegrina also uses this story to warn Edward of his own doom if he continues on his arrogant path. Edward just thinks of this story as a creepy tale without giving it much thought. The author uses this tale to foreshadow and parallel the upcoming events in Edward's life, particularly in reference to the fact that the princess changes dramatically. As the reader continues further with Edward along his journey, it will be seen that Edward makes drastic changes as well. Pellegrina is clever as she picks her timing to tell this story as the reader knows that Pellegrina never tells Abilene any bedtime stories, but she chooses the night the trip is announced.

As Pellegrina tucks Edward in beside Abilene, she whispers to him that he is a disappointment to her, mirroring what the witch told the princess. Pellegrina did not comment any further on why she felt that Edward had disappointed her, but it can be guessed that in some mysterious way Pellegrina knew how vain Edward is. Pellegrina's statement is another key foreshadowing moment where the reader sees that something bad is going to happen before too long. The story does not seem to affect Edward. He thinks it was a horrible story and he does not give any thought to the fact that he has disappointed Pellegrina. He is more concerned that he has to lie on his back the whole night instead of lying on his side to watch the stars, so he comforts himself by thinking of the description of the princess and how her beauty was like the stars.

The Tulane family leaves for London in Chapter 5. It is not known how much time has passed from Abilene's 11th birthday to this point, nor is there much description of the packing process. After the Tulanes board the boat they stand at the railing to wave goodbye to Pellegrina. Edward could feel Pellegrina staring at him and the reader will wonder what kind of hidden message is in her gaze. Edward is not bothered by this, instead he is bothered by the fact that Abilene is holding him too tight. He puts more thought into the prospect of wrinkled clothing than he does to any subtle warnings Pellegrina is trying to give. Edward is only made happy when the ship moves away from the dock and Pellegrina is no longer seen.

Edward is very popular with the other passengers on board. People are amazed at how good he looks, which definitely pleases Edward. This is the kind of attention he has always wanted. Abilene does not allow other people to actually touch him. It is to be thought that Abilene is afraid that someone would accidentally break Edward if they are not careful. The only two children to disregard Abilene's refusals are brothers Amos and Martin. They are extremely curious about Edward and what he can do. After asking a few questions about Edward, the boys are disappointed to learn that all Edward does is wear fancy clothes. They do not like the fact that he cannot do anything and that he wears such fancy outfits. Edward does not pay any attention to the conversation, he is more concerned with how handsome he looks in his outfit.



It comes as a total shock to Edward as well as the reader that Amos and Martin snatch Edward up and strip him of all of his clothes. This instantly infuriates Abilene who demands that the boys give Edward back to her. The boys are very mean to Abilene by carelessly tossing Edward back and forth to each other. Edward is aware of how he is being roughly treated and does not like it. Abilene is terrified that Edward could be broken if he is dropped. Out of fear and anger, Abilene attacks Amos just as he is about to throw Edward back to Martin. The result of Abilene's attack sets the reader up for the major turning point in the novel. Abilene's charge into Amos makes him miss his aim. Instead of being caught by Martin, the reader is shocked to see that the chapter closes with Edward falling overboard.

Edward's descent into the ocean is covered in Chapter 6. He does not understand why Abilene is screaming for him to come back. The reader can see Abilene's shock as Edward falls over the side of the ship but there is no indication of any sort of reaction from Amos and Martin. Edward spends most of his time wondering where his hat is before he actually hits the water. It is important to note here that Edward does not think about Abilene at all or about being rescued. The last thing Edward sees before he plunges into the ocean is Abilene holding a shiny object. The object is his watch and instead of thinking about his own problems, he tells himself that he needs his watch back.

The author makes it a point to note that Edward keeps his eyes open the whole time as he is sinking into the ocean because he has no choice but to watch since his eyes are painted on. As Edward continues sinking to the bottom of the ocean, the Queen Mary sails on, giving the reader no indication of how Abilene feels at the loss of her favorite toy or of any attempts to rescue Edward. The most important thing to come from this short chapter other than the main action of Edward falling is that once he finds himself on the floor of the ocean, he felt the first thing in his life that was not selfishness. Edward feels what it is like to be afraid for the first time in his life. This is the first time the reader sees any sort of emotion other than pride from Edward. The author makes it a point to say that this is the first "genuine emotion" from Edward, giving the reader a chance to wonder whether he ever cared for Abilene at all.

Discussion Question 1

Why did Pellegrina tell Abilene the story of the princess? How did Edward feel about the story? How could this story be considered a warning for Edward?

Discussion Question 2

Could Edward have been saved? What should Abilene have done to keep Edward away from Amos and Martin? If Abilene had not run into Amos, would Edward have fallen into the ocean?



Discussion Question 3

What was Abilene feeling after she sees Edward fall? Do you think she tried to get someone to save him? Discuss why she would have tried to get him back. If Abilene did try, would Edward would have appreciated it?

Vocabulary

consequences, grotesque, billowed, mortified, blithely



Chapters 7 - 9

Summary

Edward begins believing that Abilene will come back for him in Chapter 7. He sits at the bottom of the ocean spending his days pretending that he is still in his chair at the house on Egypt Street waiting for Abilene. He also spent time thinking about the meaning behind Pellegrina's story. After a long time a storm moves Edward from his place and as he is about to sink to the bottom of the ocean again, he is caught in a fisherman's net. An old man named Lawrence and a boy catch Edward in a fish net. The old man decides to take Edward home to his wife, Nellie, as something for her to clean up and eventually give to a child.

As Lawrence the fisherman walks home with Edward in Chapter 8, he begins talking to Edward the same way that Abilene used to. As they walk, Lawrence begins telling Edward the names of the stars. Lawrence gives Edward to Nellie and she instantly falls in love with him. Edward instantly likes her as well after she remarks how nice looking he is. Unfortunately for Edward, Nellie does not know that he is a male rabbit named Edward so she names him Susanna.

In Chapter 9, Nellie makes all sorts of little dresses for Edward. Edward does not like the dresses at first but he decides that he will learn to like them because he has a better life at this point than being stuck at the bottom of the ocean. Nellie takes Edward into the kitchen to bake with her every day and while Nellie works she talks. She tells Edward about her three children. When Lawrence comes home in the evenings, the couple put Edward into a high chair at the dinner table and they eat together. Afterwards, Lawrence takes Edward outside to sit on the porch and tell him more about the stars. When it is time for bed, Nellie sings lullabies to him and he is happy for the life he has with Lawrence and Nellie. Life is good for Edward until an unexpected visitor arrives.

Analysis

Chapter 7 is a true turning point for Edward. He has been forever separated from Abilene and for the first moment in his life, Edward is terrified as to what is going to happen to him. In the beginning, Edward is hopeful that Abilene will come and rescue him. Nothing is mentioned of what Abilene is doing or how she is feeling now that she has lost Edward. Edward keeps this hope of getting out of the ocean alive as the days and months pass. When he is not daydreaming of his cozy spot in the dining room in the house on Egypt Street, he thinks of the stars. Stars still play an important role in Edward's thinking as they continue to comfort him even though he cannot see them. The reader is able to feel Edward's loneliness as he thinks about the stars and how far they are away.



This is also the first time Edward really gives thought to the story Pellegrina tells Abilene on her 11th birthday. Now the reader will see the first signs of the connection that Pellegrina possibly tries to make between her story and Edward. Edward starts to figure out that perhaps he and the princess in the story are similar in regards to their attitudes towards others around them. Edward feels that somehow Pellegrina is punishing him but he does not fully know how she is able to do it.

On the 297th day of being stuck on the ocean floor, a storm rages on and Edward is taken from his spot. Edward does make it to the top of the water but the waves pull him back under instantly. Each time he is able to float to the top he begs for someone to help him. Being stuck has changed Edward so much that all he wants is to be rescued by any means at all. Shortly afterwards, Edward is rescued by an old fisherman named Lawrence who has caught Edward by accident in his net. Lawrence is surprised to find Edward among the fish but picks him up anyways. He guesses that Edward is a rabbit given the shape of his ears. It is safe to assume that due to being underwater for so long, the fur on Edward's ears and tail has been severely damaged. Instead of being tossed aside as trash, Lawrence decides that Edward should go home with him and be given to Nellie, his wife.

Lawrence takes care to seat Edward so that he is sitting upright and looking out over the ocean. Edward is grateful for this action; even though it is a small gesture, it is the first kindness Edward is shown in almost a year. For some reason that is unknown to the reader Lawrence can sense Edward's happiness. This in turn pleases Lawrence although his partner just shrugs off the experience. When Lawrence mentions Edward being happy to the other fisherman, he refers to Edward as "it" but Edward is so happy about being rescued that he does not care about it at all.

A new life begins for Edward in Chapter 8 as Lawrence carries Edward home. Lawrence handles Edward carefully, even putting Edward on his shoulder like he is a child. Lawrence talks to Edward as Abilene talked to him in the past. Edward appreciates that not only is he finding a new home but he is with someone who actually wants to talk to him. As they get closer to Lawrence's home, he starts talking to Edward about the stars in the sky and pointing them out to him. It is almost as if Lawrence knew of Edward's love of the stars. Edward is also told the names of some of the stars and constellations, which he finds very useful. For an instant, Lawrence questions himself about talking with a toy, but he continues to talk to Edward as they enter the house. Lawrence presents Edward to Nellie, who falls in love with him instantly. She thinks that Edward is perhaps the finest thing that she has ever seen. Edward is pleased by Nellie's flattery and takes a liking to her as well, however the reader and Edward are confused when Nellie refers to Edward as "she". This begins Edward's time as a female rabbit named "Susanna".

Chapter 9 details the life that Edward lives with Nellie and Lawrence as Susanna. Nellie is quite happy making new dresses for Edward, although Edward thinks of the dresses as plain. Although Edward has changed quite a bit, he still misses the fine silk clothes that he had before he became lost at sea. After a while, he becomes accustomed to



wearing dresses to please Nellie. To Edward, wearing a dress to make a little old lady happy is far better than being stuck and alone at the bottom of the sea.

In this chapter, the reader also gets to know Nellie. When Nellie works in the kitchen, she always talks to Edward. Here the reader can finally assume why Lawrence gave Edward to her as a present to cure her loneliness while he is away fishing. Two of her children are grown and busy with lives of their own but the third child died when he was 5 years old. Nellie usually cries when she talks about her deceased child because she was unable to help him as he suffered. Like Lawrence, she questions why she is talking to Edward as if he is real, but in talking to Edward, Nellie feels a bit better.

This is also the first time that Edward actually takes the time out to listen to someone as they are speaking to him. He is truly interested in what Nellie says to him. Edward understands that in his life on Egypt Street he did not care what others were saying if the conversation was not about him. He credits this to having been on the ocean floor for so long that he has become somehow damaged inside. This is not the case really, it is more like Edward is slowly starting to understand how others feel.

When Lawrence returns from fishing at the end of the day, he and Nellie have a quiet dinner together. They always put Edward in a high chair so that he can see the top of the table and listen to their conversations. At first he does not like being treated like a baby, instead he feels that he still should be treated in a more dignified manner. As time passes, Edward gets used to this treatment and even comes to look forward to it. Edward enjoys being a part of the couple's evening. This helps to signify that Edward is truly a part of their family. After dinner, Lawrence carries Edward outside to look at the stars while he smokes his pipe. Lawrence tells Edward more star and constellation names and Edward is eager to learn all he can.

The past comes back to haunt Edward when he suddenly thinks of Pellegrina and her story. Once again, the mention of this story is a foreshadow that a change is unknowingly about to happen to Edward. The memory of Pellegrina's story is taken away when Nellie sings Edward to sleep at night. It is never mentioned how long Edward is with the couple, but the reader is cautioned that things are about to change as Lawrence and Nellie's daughter comes for a visit.

Discussion Question 1

How long is Edward left at the bottom of the ocean? How does he pass his days? Does his attitude change while he is stuck?

Discussion Question 2

How does Edward feel once he is rescued by Lawrence? Why is his name changed by Nellie? What is the relationship between the couple? How do Lawrence and Nettie feel towards Edward?



Discussion Question 3

Why does Edward think about Pellegrina's story? How does this affect his mood? Could this foreshadow any future events?

Vocabulary

pummeled, grizzled, heartily, umbrage, callused, discerning, pneumonia, muck, constellations



Chapters 10 - 12

Summary

Nellie and Lawrence's daughter Lolly comes to visit the family in Chapter 10. She accuses her parents of treating Edward like a real baby. She has also heard neighbors and other people in the town gossiping about how Nellie and Lawrence treat Edward. Lolly spends the night with her parents, which causes them to not complete their nightly routine with Edward. In the morning, Lolly wakes before her parents and goes to see Edward. She takes Edward out to the trash can and stuffs him in before putting the can on Lawrence's truck. Lolly tells Nellie that she is going out to do some errands as she heads out toward the town dump.

In Chapter 11, Edward finds himself at the dump. During the first night, he is on top of the garbage so that he can see the stars. In the morning a man named Ernest comes out and sings and dances on top of the garbage. On the second day a garbage truck comes in and dumps a pile of garbage on him, burying him underneath it. Edward spends 40 days plotting his revenge on Lolly but after that he gives up any hope of getting out of there. He thinks back to the story that Pellegrina told him and Abilene. Edward figures out that he did not love Abilene enough and now he is being punished. More time passes as Edward lies hopelessly in the trash pile, listening to Ernest continue to sing each morning. Finally, after 180 days of being buried in trash Edward is saved as a dog digs him up.

The dog, Lucy, carries Edward to her owner in Chapter 12. Lucy's owner is a man named Bull and he instantly takes a liking to Edward. He gives Edward the name Malone and he figures out that Edward is a toy who has been lost from his original owner. Bull tells Edward that they are lost as well and he asks Edward if would like to join him and Lucy on their travels. Bull moves Edward's head to make a nodding motion and the three of them set off on a new life together.

Analysis

Chapter 10 introduces the reader to Lolly, the daughter of Nellie and Lawrence. She is a secretary who is described as loud and wears too much makeup. The reader can see that she has an instant hate for Edward just in the way she picks him up and talks to him. She does not like the fact that Nellie has made clothes for Edward. She thinks of Edward as just a simple and useless toy as she throws him on the couch. Lolly thinks that Nellie and Lawrence are crazy for the way they treat Edward. The reader should be able to see that Nellie and Lawrence are intimidated by their daughter. They are shy when they answer her questions and they do not look up from what they are doing when Lolly is talking to them, as if they are somehow ashamed of themselves. Lolly does not understand how much Edward means to Lawrence and Nellie. Because Lolly is with them, Lawrence and Nellie are unable to carry on with their evening like they usually do.



Unfortunately, they end up neglecting Edward as he lies in an awkward position on the couch all night.

In the morning, Lolly finds Edward still lying on the couch. She tells him that she has heard the neighborhood gossip about how Lawrence and Nellie treat him as if he is a real child. Both the thought of her parents treating Edward like a child and the fact that her parents are the topic of local gossip disgusts Lolly. There is no known reason why she does not like Edward, the reader can assume that Lolly is jealous of all the attention that Edward receives. Out of spite, Lolly grabs Edward and tells him that they are going for a ride. Before Nelly can see what Lolly is doing, she shoves Edward into the trashcan. Lolly lies to Nelly when she says that she is just going to run out to do some errands. As Lolly loads the trash can onto the truck and heads out, the reader should note that this is the last time Edward will see Nellie and Lawrence. It should be noted that Edward was truly happy living with Nellie and Lawrence. As Lolly drives off, Edward is for the first time heartbroken. Unfortunately, the reader does not learn how Nellie and Lawrence will react when they find that Edward is missing although it can be guessed that they will be heartbroken as well.

Edward is in the town dump in Chapter 11 after Lolly steals him from Nellie and Lawrence. On the first night, he lays on top of a trash pile which gives him the ability to see the stars. Being able to see them comforts Edward as they have in previous chapters. In the morning, Edward notices a man on top of the highest pile of trash. He is Ernest, the dump's manager, and he sings very loudly about the world is made of garbage and he is the king of it. Edward listens to Ernest sing this song and he thinks to himself that it is true that the world is made of garbage. On Edward's second day at the dump he is buried under a new pile of trash and loses the ability to be comforted by the stars at night. As time passes, he is so angry that he thinks about how he will get revenge on Lolly for being so cruel to him. This is the only thing that gives him hope as he lays there alone and helpless.

By the fortieth day of being buried under trash, Edward loses hope that he will ever be found. It is here that the reader sees Edward's depression and his loneliness. Edward also knows that he has changed although he could not pinpoint what about him has changed. The reader knows that Edward has transitioned again from being happy in his life with Nellie and Lawrence to being full of despair. For Edward, being in the dump among the foul smells and the dirt is worse than being at the bottom of the ocean.

As he lies in the trash pile, Edward once again considers Pellegrina's story. The reader sees that Edward has finally made the connection between himself and the princess. It is at this point he realizes that Pellegrina is right in saying that he is a disappointment. Edward figures out that as much as Abilene loved him, he did not truly love Abilene enough. This realization is the most important thing to note at this point. This shows that Edward is capable of feeling remorse for his prior attitude and actions. He knows that he can never make things right with Abilene since she is so far away from him now. Edward also misses the life he shared with Nellie and Lawrence and he finally acknowledges that he truly loved the couple. Edward is relieved to be rescued after 180 days as a dog



comes by and luckily digs Edward out of the pile, marking the start of another point in Edward's life.

In Chapter 12 Edward is finally saved from his place deep within the trash pile. A dog named Lucy digs Edward up and is chased out of the dump by Ernest. Ernest is so obsessed with the trash in his dump that he wants absolutely nothing disturbed and considers all items as his, including Edward. Lucy ignores Ernest and runs to the railroad tracks. Edward is so excited about being rescued finally that he does not care how dirty he looks or smells and that he is in the mouth of a dog. When Lucy arrives at the tracks she happily drops Edward in front of a man. Bull is a tall bearded hobo who owns Lucy. He is amused that Lucy has given Edward to him and he explains to Lucy that Edward is not real. The reader finds out that Lucy has rescued Edward because she thinks he is a real rabbit. Bull explains that eating rabbit pie is a particular treat for them but he cannot cook Edward because he is made of china.

As Bull examines Edward, he figures out that Edward belonged to someone who really loved him. There is no indicator as to how he comes to that conclusion, but he also guesses that he was separated from the child who loved him. This makes Edward stop and think about Abilene for a moment. He remembers his life on Egypt Street and how Abilene would always come find him every evening after school. This makes Edward realize that Abilene truly loved him. The thought saddens him for a moment as he realizes how much he misses her. Without giving much thought to anything, Bull calls Edward Malone and informs Edward that he and Lucy are lost as well. At this point, it is unknown how Bull and Lucy became homeless although the reader sees that Bull is not ashamed or sad about it. Bull invites Edward to join them. As if Bull knows what Edward is thinking, he reaches out and moves Edwards head so that he is nodding. Lucy, Bull, and even Edward are all happy by this decision and so they set off on the road together.

Discussion Question 1

Why does Lolly hate Edward? Why did she throw him away? How does she feel about her parents?

Discussion Question 2

How does Edward's attitude change when he in the trash pile? How does Pellegrina's story influence his thinking? What does Edward realize about himself?

Discussion Question 3

How does Lucy find Edward? How is this encounter with a dog different from the first one? How does Bull know that Edward belonged to someone who loved him? Is Edward happy to be going along with Bull and Lucy?

Vocabulary

abiding, skivvy, bewitched, tremulous, rancid, rubble, savor, ferocity, exhilarated, surmised



Chapters 13 - 15

Summary

Bull, Lucy, and Edward travel various places with no set direction in Chapter 13. Bull is careful to make sure that Edward is comfortable in his bedroll when he walks. At night, they sleep under the stars and sometimes Lucy curls up beside Edward to sleep. As Bull and Lucy sleep, Edward watches the stars and recognizes the constellations. Next, he thinks about the people that have come in and out of his life until it is morning. Sometimes Bull meets up with other hobos and Bull tells stories and sings songs around their campfires. One night, Bull tells Edward that he does not think Edward should be wearing a dress. Bull makes Edward an outfit from his own clothes and tells Edward that this look suits him much better.

Other hobos initially think of Edward as a joke in Chapter 14. Eventually they get used to seeing Bull with Edward and even take to talking to him themselves. Different hobos whisper names of lost loved ones and how they came to be in their situations to Edward. Edward travels with Bull and Lucy for seven years and he is happy being with them. One night Bull, Lucy, and Edward decide to sleep in an empty rail car. A train conductor comes along and catches Bull sleeping. Just as the train starts moving, the conductor gets mad and angrily throws Edward out of the car and he is once again lost.

In Chapter 15, a little old lady finds Edward. She takes him home and hangs him up on a post to be used as a scarecrow. The old lady calls Edward Clyde and tells him that he is going to be used to scare off the crows that keep gathering in her garden. Edward thinks of Pellegrina as the crows surround him. He tries looking at the stars but he finds no comfort in them. The next day, the lady comes back but she has a small boy with her.

Analysis

Although the location is never clear; Edward, Bull, and Lucy are always on the move in Chapter 13. This chapter depicts only a bit of their daily life as they either walk or ride in boxcars. Bull always makes sure to carefully put Edward in his bedroll so that Edward can see out of it as Bull carries him along. They get along together very well, even Lucy has come to adore Edward. She keeps him warm at night by curling up beside him as she sleeps. The trio sleeps every night under the stars, which delights Edward. He looks up at the stars and remembers the names of the constellations that Lawrence told him in the past. It is during this time that Edward also thinks about his past and the people that are in it. The most important person he thinks of is Abilene. She is the first person he thinks of and the last. As he thinks of them, he also thinks of Pellegrina's story again. This time he is convinced that he is not like the princess because he has now figured out what love is. He knows that everyone who has come into his life has loved him whether he loved them back or not.



Sometimes Bull would meet up with other hobos on his travels. When they all gather around the campfire, Bull always sets Edward on his lap as he sings and tells stories. Edward is amazed at Bull's voice and loves when Bull gets a chance to sing. Edward notes that there is a sort of sadness in Bull's voice although there is no background information that would explain his sadness. Bull seems to be very wise as he realizes that Edward does not really belong in a dress. Bull thinks that the dress does not suit the kind of rabbit Edward is plus the dress is very badly damaged. Bull takes his hat and makes a shirt for Edward, then takes a few handkerchiefs and makes a pair of red pants. This changes Edward back into a male rabbit after being Susanna with Nellie and Lawrence. Bull is very pleased with the way Edward now looks. Edward has the look of someone who truly fits in travelling with Bull and Lucy. This act shows Edward that he has found a home with Bull and Lucy.

Chapter 14 shows some of the interactions Edward has with other hobos. At first they think Bull is just carrying Edward along with him as a joke. This does not seem to bother Bull, but it infuriates Edward. He still does not like to be thought of as a joke. Eventually, these hobos grow accustomed to seeing Bull with Edward and they become sort of celebrities and they are always welcomed wherever they go. Edward feels that the time he spent with Nellie has changed him to care more about what other people have to say. He actually listens to the the stories the hobos tell him and Edward constantly wants to hear more. The hobos are also convinced that Edward is intently listening to them. They feel comforted by this and also take to having Edward sit with them. When they hold Edward, the hobos whisper the names of families they have left behind and other items from their pasts. It is unknown why they feel the need to do this, but Edward enjoys hearing them. This causes Edward to care a good bit for the hobos, especially since he knows what it is like to be lost as well.

The reader learns that Edward travels with Bull and Lucy for 7 years. This is the first time that any specific amount of time has been mentioned about Edward staying with anyone. These years are happy years. Edward loves travelling with Bull and Lucy. He adopts the hobos feelings of restlessness when not travelling and he finds the ability to go from one place to another exciting. Edward wants to stay with Bull and Lucy forever, but as with all of his former companions, he cannot. One evening, Bull decides that they will sleep in an empty rail car. A railway conductor finds Bull asleep and instantly is mean to him, not caring that Bull has no where else to go. Lucy tries to defend Bull but she is kicked by the conductor. This enrages Edward, as for the first time he actually wants to defend someone else and does not think of his own safety. Edward is upset that he has no ability to defend his friends even though he desperately wants to. The conductor continues to yell at Bull before his attention turns to Edward. As the train starts to move, the conductor grabs Edward, opens the train car door, then cruelly kicks Edward out. Edward hears Lucy howl as the train car moves along, knowing that she already misses Edward. Edward is heartbroken as he lands and the train moves further on. He starts to name the stars thinking that they could once again comfort him, but they do not and he stops trying. It is here that Edward sinks further back into depression. It is unknown what happens to Bull and Lucy afterwards although it can be guessed that they are thrown off the train as well but are unable to find Edward.



In Chapter 15, an old lady finds Edward lying in the road. She picks Edward up and says that she has a use for him, but no further discussion is given. If the lady did say anything, Edward is not paying attention to her. He is so depressed and heartbroken over being lost from Bull and Lucy that he no longer cares what is said to him. The lady sings about her troubles and Edward halfheartedly listens thinking that no one fully understands the troubles he is going through. Once the lady reaches her home, she ties Edward to a post along with some old pans. She tells Edward that he will be scaring off the crows that are always in her garden. The lady calls him Clyde and she is convinced that because of his appearance he can scare off the pesky crows. Edward wishes that someone actually knew his real name. He is getting tired of everyone always calling him a new name, but he is unable to do anything about it.

There are no acts of kindness found in this chapter as have been found in the previous chapters. The little old lady does not care about Edward the way people like Nellie or Bull do. As Edward stays on the post, he is constantly attacked by crows. In his weariness, Edward thinks once again about Pellegrina. He is so confused by this time that he thinks one of the crows actually is Pellegrina. He thinks that she should just go ahead and turn him into a warthog like the princess from Pellegrina's story. He has stopped caring what happens to him. So far, this is Edward's lowest point. This is especially true when the stars come out in the evening. Usually, he finds comfort in looking at the stars, but now he cannot. He feels like they are looking down on him and making fun of his position. Edward tries to tell the stars that there were people who loved him. The stars do not care and remind him that he is now all alone. The next day, the old lady returns to her garden, but this time she has an unknown boy with her as Edward continues to be stuck to a post.

Discussion Question 1

How does telling Edward the names of their children help the hobos? Why is Edward so popular among them?

Discussion Question 2

How does Edward feel when Lucy is kicked?

Discussion Question 3

What is different about the old lady who takes Edward to her garden compared to every one else he has met? How does this affect the way Edward feels?

Vocabulary

consumption, muzzle, resonate, garb, makeshift



Chapters 16-18

Summary

A young boy named Bryce works for the little old lady in Chapter 16. Bryce constantly wants to look at Edward, but the old lady keeps telling him to get back to work. As Bryce and the old lady work, Edward hangs from his post wishing that he could be one of the birds. He loses hope that he will ever find a home. The afternoon goes on with the birds constantly pecking at Edward. In the early evening, Bryce comes back to Edward saying that he is going to rescue him. As Edward falls into Bryce's arms, Edward regains his hope that he can be saved.

In Chapter 17 Bryce tells Edward that he is a present for his sister Sarah Ruth. She is very sick and once had a china doll but her father broke it. Bryce wakes Sarah Ruth up to give Edward to her. She begins to cough violently as she reaches out to hold Edward. When she gets a hold of him, she hugs him and Edward becomes happy again. Sarah Ruth names Edward Jangles and rocks him back and forth like a baby. As Sarah Ruth lays in bed rocking Edward and rain comes down outside, Bryce continues to play his harmonica.

Bryce and Sarah Ruth's father comes home in Chapter 18. He immediately grabs Edward and says that having Edward is not going to help Sarah Ruth's situation. Bryce tries to contradict what his father says, but his father slaps Bryce. The father angrily leaves the house and does not come back for the rest of the day. In the meantime, Sarah Ruth spends time in bed showing Edward her box of buttons while Bryce is at work. She still coughs uncontrollably even when she is alone with Edward. In the evening, Bryce comes home with some food for Sarah Ruth and a ball of thread. Bryce ties Edward up with the string to make a puppet and he dances for Sarah Ruth. Later, Bryce carries Sarah Ruth and Edward outside to look at the stars. Sarah Ruth points out a falling star and both she and Edward make a wish on it.

Analysis

Chapter 16 introduces Bryce, a young boy who works in the old lady's garden. Although the old lady is quick to tell Bryce to get away from Edward, Bryce is extremely curious about the rabbit. Bryce whispers a quick hello to Edward before being told to get to work by the old lady. The old lady is not someone who is keen on having a polite conversation or showing any kindness at all. As Bryce goes to start his work, he promises Edward that he will eventually get back to him. All Edward can do is silently watch from his post as the boy works with the old lady. Anytime the old lady is not paying attention to Bryce, he likes to look at Edward and give a quick wave. Bryce seems very intent on getting to know Edward. In the meantime, Edward wonders what it would be like if he had working wings. Edward figures that if he had wings he would not have gotten lost in the ocean. He plots his revenge on Lolly for leaving him in the trash



dump and on the railroad conductor that kicked him out of the train car. As the day wears on, he stops thinking of this as the birds tapping on his face are a constant reminder of how stuck he truly is.

When it is dark outside, Edward listens to the birds singing and he is saddened by how they sound. He soon hears the sound of Bryce's harmonica as he comes out of his hiding place. The boy wonders if Edward believes that he would come back, but no evidence is given that Edward has any thoughts of being rescued prior to this. It is unknown if Bryce has permission to take the rabbit or if he is just stealing it from the old lady. The reader sees how badly Edward is depressed as he thinks that it is too late for him to be saved. As Bryce unties Edward from the post Edward continues to think that he is beyond any sort of help. It is only when Edward is safely in Bryce's arms that Edward at last feels safe and he is hopeful of the times to come.

The reader is introduced to Bryce's sister, Sarah Ruth, in Chapter 17. She is described as being around 4 years old with platinum blonde hair and brown eyes. She is extremely sick although her disease is not named. Sarah Ruth once had a china doll, but Bryce tells Edward that their drunk father destroyed it one night. Since that night, Sarah Ruth has had nothing to keep her company and comfort her. Once again, Edward's arrogance gets the better of him as he despises the fact that he is just going to be a replacement for a common toy. This turns into just a brief thought as Edward remembers that he has come from worse places recently.

Bryce and Sarah Ruth live in an extremely small house that is poorly furnished and probably does not have any electricity. As Bryce wakes Sarah Ruth, she begins coughing violently. Bryce tries to help her as much as he can. He is very loyal and loving to Sarah Ruth and the reader should note that he is willing to do whatever it takes to make her happy. Edward hears how badly she is coughing and he feels sad for the girl. As soon as she is done coughing Bryce informs her that he has a surprise for her. Sarah Ruth closes her eyes and Bryce hands Edward to her. When she opens her eyes, she is so excited to see Edward. She cannot believe that Edward really belongs to her. It can be assumed that she rarely receives any kind of presents. Sarah Ruth is very happy to have Edward, but she is unable to say much. Saying anything more than a word or two at a time causes Sarah Ruth to have coughing fits.

Once Sarah stops coughing from a second fit, she begins gently rocking Edward back and forth like a baby. He has never been rocked like this by anyone else who has come into his life. Edward feels comforted and secure by Sarah Ruth doing this although this is new to him. She names him Jangles. Bryce plays his harmonica in tune to the rain outside as Sarah Ruth lays in bed rocking Edward, giving the reader a sense that everything is now peaceful for Edward.

In Chapter 18, the reader is introduced to Sarah Ruth and Bryce's father. There is no description of the man and no name is given. He is an absentee father, he does not show any concern for his sick child and the fact that the house is small, dirty, and has no electricity. He has no kind words for Sarah Ruth, he just insists that having a toy will not matter. Although it is not said, the father does not think that Sarah Ruth will survive



her illness and so having a toy is meaningless to him. This is an insult to Bryce and when he tries to say something to his father about it, his father slaps Bryce for being sassy. Bryce does not appear to be affected by the hit, as he assures Edward that everything will be okay. The father does not come back to the home for the rest of the day but it is not known where he actually goes.

Bryce works all day, presumably for the little old lady he stole Edward from. While Bryce is gone, Sarah Ruth lies in bed showing Edward her collection of buttons. These are the closest things she has to toys. She has coughing fits during the day, and as she coughs and wheezes she squeezes Edward tightly. Edward gets a bit scared that he will be crushed because she is squeezing so hard. When she is not coughing, she is sucking on his ears. Any other time, Edward would be having fits about how he is being treated, but he finds that he does not feel that way towards Sarah Ruth. Edward feels that if squeezing him and sucking on his ears make her happy then he is happy as well. In fact, Edward cares so much about Sarah Ruth in such a short time that he finds himself wishing that could do more for her.

At the end of the day Bryce comes home with some yarn and a biscuit for Sarah Ruth. This is probably the first and only bit of food she has all day and there is nothing for Bryce. As Sarah eats, Bryce takes the yarn and ties Edward up so that he looks like a puppet. Bryce tells Edward that when Sarah Ruth was younger, their mother would dance with Sarah Ruth frequently. This is the only mention of their mother and it is not known why she is not in the house with them now. After Sarah finishes eating, Bryce makes Edward dance with his string with one hand and plays a harmonica with the other. Sarah Jane really enjoys this but she has another coughing attack because she is laughing so much. Bryce decides to carry his sister outside to get some fresh air and to watch the stars, leaving Edward alone on the bed. Edward starts thinking of having wings again and instead of wishing he could get away, he wishes that he could carry Sarah Ruth high in the sky so that she can breathe peacefully. Soon, Bryce comes back into the house saying that Sarah Ruth wants Edward. The three of them spend the evening looking at the stars. Sarah Ruth sees a falling star and Bryce tells her that it is her star to wish for anything she may want, but the author says that Bryce's voice is high and tight as he says it. This is to show that he is holding back his emotion, perhaps sadness at Sarah Ruth's condition or happy that she is able to see and wish on a falling star. As Sarah Ruth makes her wish, Edward makes a wish as well, although both wishes are not revealed.

Discussion Question 1

Why is Edward so important to Bryce? How would the old lady react to finding Edward missing?



Discussion Question 2

Why is there no parental supervision in the home? What has happened to Bryce and Sarah Ruth's mother or any other family members? How do Sarah Ruth and Bryce survive most of the time?

Discussion Question 3

What does Sarah Ruth wish for? What does Edward wish for? Is he comforted by the stars again?

Vocabulary

flecks, loathed, singular, sass, intrusive



Chapters 19 - 21

Summary

Edward is content to live with Sarah Ruth and Bryce in Chapter 19. Sarah Ruth continues to get worse as time goes by. By the 6th month she is no longer eating and is coughing up blood. Bryce quits working so that he can spend all of his time with Sarah Ruth. On a September morning, Sarah Ruth dies. The father comes home and he and Bryce get into an argument over Sarah Ruth. The father wins the argument and carries Sarah Ruth out of the house. Bryce picks Edward up off the floor and tells him that they are running away to Memphis as he walks out the door.

In Chapter 20, Bryce tells Edward that they will make money by playing the harmonica and having Edward dance on the street corners of Memphis. Bryce does this, but the people that pass by him do not give him very much money, if any. Bryce cries because things are not turning out as he has planned. All Edward wants to do is go back to Sarah Ruth, but he knows he cannot. As the day gets longer, he thinks he sees Pellegrina. An old lady stands in front of him staring at him and he thinks to himself that Pellegrina has gotten her wish to punish him. As Edward thinks this, Bryce continues to play his harmonica even more, hoping someone will come along and help him. Evening comes and Bryce packs up his things and tells Edward that he thinks he may have enough money to buy something to eat.

Bryce goes to Neal's diner in Chapter 21. Bryce sits down at the counter, sets Edward beside him and orders a large meal. Bryce tells the waitress that he and Edward are in show business. The waitress brings the check at the end of Bryce's meal, but Bryce is unable to pay for it. Bryce goes to talk to Neal, the owner and cook, about finding another way to pay for his dinner. Bryce offers to make Edward dance to entertain Neal and the other people in the diner. Neal becomes angry by Bryce's lack of money and takes his anger out on Edward by bashing his head into the counter.

Analysis

Tragedy falls on Edward and Bryce in Chapter 19. Edward lives contentedly with Sarah Ruth and Bryce for 5 months when Sarah Ruth unexpectedly quits eating. In the 6th month she begins coughing up blood and she is having more coughing fits. Edward is extremely concerned for Sarah Ruth. The reader can see how much Edward wants to help Sarah Ruth, but he is unable to do anything. Bryce quits working so that he can help Sarah Ruth in any way he can. He holds her to keep her warm as she coughs but nothing seems to help her. There is no attempt to find a doctor or any sort of medical treatment. Given their living situation, it is fair enough to assume that they do not have any access to any medical care.



On a September night, Sarah Ruth drops Edward from her arms. She is so sick that she cannot ask for anyone to put Edward back into her arms. In the morning, Sarah Ruth passes away, leaving Bryce and Edward heartbroken. Edward is still on the floor as Bryce cries over his little sister's body. Edward has no visible way to grieve the loss of his friend but Edward is very upset about Sarah Ruth's death. The father comes in and he is filled with grief. Bryce immediately gets angry and claims that his father never loved Sarah Ruth at all and has no right to cry about her death. The father insists that he did truly love Sarah Ruth but there has been nothing that clearly shows this. Edward also thinks to himself that he truly loved Sarah Ruth. Edward has never experienced the death of anyone he loves and this is very hard for him to understand how he can go on living without her.

The father decides that he will be in charge of Sarah Ruth's funeral arrangements. This upsets Bryce even more and in his grief he does not want the father to take Sarah Ruth out of the house. Bryce does not understand that the father could be genuinely feeling grief over losing his daughter. All Bryce knows is that the father never showed caring for Sarah Ruth when she was alive. Another argument breaks out between them and it is not known if it becomes physical, but the father takes the girl anyways and carries her out of the house. This is the last time that the reader sees Sarah Ruth or her father as it is not revealed how or where she is buried. Shortly after the father leaves, Bryce decides that he is going to take Edward and run away to Memphis.

Bryce is hopeful that he can make a change in his life in Chapter 20. He walks all night to reach Memphis, with no mention of stopping to rest or eat. He is convinced that he can be a street performer in Memphis and have Edward dance while he plays the harmonica. Edward is so full of grief that he barely hears Bryce talking to him as they walked. He is not enthused about being dancing on the street for money, he prefers to only dance for Sarah Ruth. Bryce does not know how Edward feels and it is unsure if knowing how Edward feels would change any of Bryce's decisions. Bryce has placed Sarah Ruth's button box on the ground as he and Edward perform, hoping that people passing by will throw money into it.

As Edward dances people come by to stare at Bryce and Edward. A little boy comes along, wanting to touch Edward. The mother finds Edward to be so dirty that she pulls her child away before he gets the chance. It is to be assumed that Nellie was the only person to keep Edward clean and that he hasn't been properly cleaned for quite some time. An older man comes by and informs Bryce that it is a sin to dance, with dancing rabbits even more of a sin. The man silently prays but walks away soon. Both incidents set the reader up to know that Bryce will not be making very much money. The whole day passes and no one really seems to pay Edward and Bryce any attention. This is a major disappointment to the boy as he had his hopes up that he could make a bit of money. Bryce cries throughout the afternoon because he knows at this point he will not earn very much. Although he is disappointed, he is still hopeful and he keeps Edward dancing all throughout the day.

Pellegrina's story comes back into play as Edward is convinced he sees her again. This may be because Edward is becoming tired as Bryce has him continuously dancing. An



old lady looking like Pellegrina comes to watch Edward dance. As if Pellegrina can read his thoughts, Edward quickly tries to establish her identity. It is unknown if the lady truly is Pellegrina, but she nods when Edward asks her name. Edward is so depressed that he hopes the lady is happy that he is in this low position. He thinks that Pellegrina's wish to punish Edward for his ways has been fulfilled. Edward says that he is now a broken rabbit. He also claims that he has now fully learned how to love. Edward is afraid of being the princess in Pellegrina's story, plus it is quite evident to the readers that after all of his adventures, he has come to learn about love. As the old lady walks away, Edward demands to be fixed and to not be left alone. Although he is with Bryce, it is amazing to the reader that he still considers himself lonely. He wants the old woman to change everything back to the way things used to be. Bryce is upset because the old lady left without dropping any money to help him and Edward. He cries more and through his determination makes Edward dance faster, hoping for anyone to notice. Bryce does not finish playing his harmonica until he is unable to do as it has gotten dark. In his despair, he declares that he is not going to cry about his situation any longer. The reader will wonder if this means that he is not going to cry over his sister's death or his penniless situation. Bryce picks up the button box and looks in it but the reader does not know exactly how much money is in it. Bryce says that they have enough money to eat and the reader can assume that Bryce did pick up a small bit of money to order a meal with.

Chapter 21 shows Bryce being optimistic as he is sitting in a diner called Neal's. Because he has not eaten in a long time, he orders a very large meal with coffee. Bryce has no idea how much this will cost, and the reader has no clue how much money Bryce really has. Edward sits on the stool beside him, but he does not care about what is happening around him. The waitress asks Bryce about Edward and touches his ears. Edward does not care because he is still depressed over the loss of his friend. It should be noted here that not only is Edward missing his friend, he is feeling the despair that he feels every time he is snatched away unexpectedly. Even the way he is sitting, with his head leaning over onto the counter suggests that he is extremely forlorn at the life he has had to lead up to this point.

Bryce tells the waitress that he and Edward are going into show business. Bryce still believes that he and Edward can make a go of using Edward as a puppet and playing the harmonica. The waitress says nothing about this, perhaps because she is not interested in hearing about what Bryce really has to say. Bryce eats his entire meal and the waitress is surprised at how fast and how much he has eaten. He tells the waitress that show business is hard work, without going into the details of his failed first day out on the streets. The waitress hands Bryce the check and the reader is shocked to find that Bryce is unable to pay his bill. The waitress does not seem pleased or willing to help Bryce in any way except to tell him that he must talk to the diner's owner, Neal.

Bryce goes to Neal to talk to him about his situation. Neal is a large man who automatically seems as if he is furious about Bryce having no money. He is not very sympathetic and is very demeaning to Bryce. Bryce seems scared to talk to Neal as Neal's attitude is so uncaring. The entire restaurant is paying attention to this conversation, embarrassing Bryce even more. By this time, Bryce is so frightened and



embarrassed that he grabs Edward and holds him closely to somehow shield him from Neal's words. In an instant, Bryce gets an idea that he thinks will save the day. He offers to pay for his meal by giving him a performance of Edward dancing and Bryce playing the harmonica. This is met with even more anger as Bryce tries give Neal a sample of what he can do. Bryce is hopeful that this will satisfy Neal but all it does is to infuriate Neal further. Suddenly, much to the horror of the reader and Bryce, Neal grabs Edward by the legs and bashes his head into the counter. Neal does not think twice or have any remorse over doing this to a child and his toy. As Bryce screams, the chapter ends with Edward being shattered and blacking out.

Discussion Question 1

Why does Edward say that he is broken? What would make him feel whole again?

Discussion Question 2

Why did Bryce say that he is done crying? What was he crying about?

Discussion Question 3

Why did Bryce order so much food if he could not afford it? What was Neal's reaction to Bryce's inability to pay? Could this have been solved another way?

Vocabulary

ragged, prevailed, shuffled, encourage, hobbled



Chapters 22 - 24

Summary

In Chapter 22 Edward is walking down Egypt Street until he gets to Abilene's house. There he is met first by Lucy, then Bull as Edward walks inside. Lawrence, Nellie, Abilene, and Bryce are waiting there to welcome him. Edward looks around for Sarah Ruth but everyone tells him that he has to go outside. Once outside, Bryce points to a constellation and he tells Edward that it is Sarah Ruth. Edward wishes that he had wings so that he can go to her and magically they appear on his back. He starts to fly upwards to Sarah Ruth, but everyone shouts that he needs to stay on the ground. Bull jumps up and pins Edward to the ground so he will not get away as Lucy licks his face.

Edward wakes up in an unknown shop in Chapter 23. A man named Lucius Clarke says that Edward was broken into 21 pieces but now he is fixed. Lucius explains to Edward that Bryce brought Edward in shortly after being hit by Neal. Lucius also reveals that the arrangement between him and Bryce is that Bryce has to give Edward to the shopkeeper in exchange for his service or Bryce has to pay cash. Since he has no money, Bryce chooses to leave Edward with Lucius.

Bryce returns to Lucius' shop on Chapter 24. Lucius reminds Bryce that he agreed to part with Edward in payment for his services. He also tells Bryce that this is the last time he is able to come into his shop to stare at Edward. Lucius will not let Bryce hold Edward one last time or touch him in any way. Forced to leave, Bryce tells Edward a tearful goodbye.

Analysis

Chapter 22 is the only chapter in the novel that is not a direct set of events for Edward. This is really a dream as Edward has blacked out from Neal shattering him. The extent of the damage is not known here, but it is enough that Edward is unconscious and possibly dying at this point. Edward's dream takes him back to the place where he was the happiest. He is on Egypt Street going towards Abilene's home. This shows that Edward still thinks of that house as his true home. He is wearing a suit of red silk, something that is more to his preference in clothes. Edward is met in this dream by Lucy, who is excited to see him. Edward is excited to see her as well. Edward also sees Bull who tells Edward that he has been expected. This is a homecoming of sorts for Edward. Everyone who has ever cared about him is gathered in Abilene's house. This is a happy reunion, although it is just a dream. Everyone calls him by the name he was given by each person. Even though Edward is happy to see everyone, he notices that someone is missing.

Bryce knows that Edward is looking for Sarah Ruth. She is the only one who is not physically in the house with the rest of the group. This may be because she has already



passed away and even though it is a dream, Edward knows she cannot truly be there. Bryce tells Edward that to see her, he must go outside. The whole group goes out and Bryce points at the sky. Lawrence shows Edward a constellation like he used to do when Edward lived with him and Nellie. He says that the constellation is Sarah Ruth. This can be seen as a comfort to Edward as he has never lost his love of the stars and he also loves Sarah Ruth. He has a moment where he is sad because he cannot actually touch his friend and he wishes that he had wings to fly to her. This goes back to an earlier chapter where he wishes that he has wings so that he could fly to wherever he wants to go.

Since this is a dream, Edward's wish is fulfilled and he sprouts a pair of extremely beautiful wings. The author takes note to describe them as multicolored and marvelous showing that Edward still loves to look good. Edward is happy with these new wings as they represent a sense of freedom he has never had before. He finds that now he can do anything his heart desires and the biggest thing he wants to do is to fly upwards so that he can touch the constellation that is now Sarah Ruth. For some reason, the group gets upset by Edward flying upwards. Edward's flying can be seen as a manifestation of his own death as he ascends towards heaven and Sarah Ruth. The group does not want him to fly upwards, in this case, they do not want him to die. Bull jumps up and grabs Edward before it is too late telling him that it is not time for Edward to go away from them all. Abilene wants Edward to stay with all of them and not fly off into the unknown. All Edward wants to do is to fly to Sarah Ruth and nothing else matters to him. Bull keeps Edward pinned to the ground as Edward cries, longing to be free. Both the dream and the chapter end with Lucy licking Edward's face, as if to console a heartbroken Edward.

Edward wakes up to unfamiliar surroundings in Chapter 23. An unknown male voice is speaking to Edward and praising him as a work of art. This shows that the man who is speaking to Edward has an appreciation for such items as Edward. The man can feel that Edward is listening to him, although the reader knows that since Edward is not a living creature he has no ability to hear. The man goes on to explain that he is the one who brought him back to life by fixing his head. This does not console Edward because he is now too heartbroken and depressed to care about the man's words. The man also states that when Edward came to him he was in 21 pieces after his destruction at the hands of Neal. The man who has fixed Edward is named Lucius Clarke, a highly skilled doll mender and shop owner. Lucius informs Edward that he is one of few doll repairmen who has the capability to fix Edward given the damage done to him. Edward does not care about what Lucius has to say. All Edward knows is that he is now naked and in a strange place.

Once Edward has let Lucius' words sink in, he remembers that he was with Bryce and he also remembers how he was damaged. Instantly, Edward is worried about what has happened to Bryce. Lucius senses Edward's concern and tells him that he and Bryce came to an agreement for fixing Edward. The reader learns that Bryce came to Lucius begging him to fix Edward. The reader knows that Bryce has no money, especially after the diner incident. Bryce explains this to Lucius but Lucius is firm in saying that in order to fix Edward he requires cash or the ability to keep Edward. If Bryce could do none of



these things, he is to take Edward somewhere else to be fixed. It is a great sacrifice on Bryce's part that he chooses to leave Edward permanently with Lucius, although this greatly saddens him and the reader. This also saddens Edward as well, since now he will be once again without the comfort of someone who loves him. Lucius once again feels Edward's emotions but assures Edward that things will turn out all right in the end. He promises that he will totally restore Edward, complete with real fur ears and tail and fine suits. This should please Edward, but it can be assumed that since Edward is so depressed that even this will not give him peace. This whole process of repair is seen to be an investment, as Lucius says that he expects to be repaid greatly for his efforts.

Edward's time with Bryce truly comes to an end in Chapter 24. Lucius completely repairs Edward, dresses him in a suit which is similar to the styles he wore with Abilene, and he is put on a shelf. From here, Edward can watch the goings on of the outside world and see the people who come in and out of his shop. Shortly after Edward is placed there, Bryce walks in. It is clear in Lucius' manner that he does not want Bryce in his shop any longer as he tells Bryce that he has to honor their deal. There is no kindness to Lucius' expressions or words. Bryce begs to see Edward, even if it is for the last time. Lucius is reluctant to let the boy see Edward, he is possibly annoyed that Bryce has no money to purchase anything in his shop and does not want to waste any time on someone who isn't willing to purchase anything. Lucius even tells Bryce that he will let Bryce see Edward, but it will have to be for the last time.

Although Lucius does not want Bryce to keep coming to his shop, he allows Bryce to see Edward for a final time, but he holds Edward instead of letting Bryce do so himself. It is to be considered that Lucius knows Edward's true value and is worried that Bryce will try to run out of the store with him if he is allowed to hold Edward. Bryce is pleased with how Edward now looks. It is to be assumed that Bryce has never seen Edward in his former glory of being neat, clean, and sharply dressed. As Bryce is reminiscing with Edward, Lucius cuts him off. The reader will wonder why Lucius is being so cold in his conversation with Bryce, especially since it is clear that Bryce loves Edward. Bryce is sad by the fact that he will no longer be able to see Edward any longer. Lucius firmly states that his end of the bargain has been met and that it is time that Bryce meet his. Lucius instructs Bryce to say a final farewell and to leave his shop permanently. Bryce wants to hold Edward one last time as he will never be able to do so again, but Lucius denies his request. Tearfully, Bryce makes his way to the door. For the first time in this Chapter, the reader sees Edward's reaction to this conversation. Edward is scared of being left alone in this shop. He does not feel that he can handle being taken from someone who actually cares for him. Even though Lucius has repaired Edward, the reader will understand that Lucius does not care for Edward the same way that Bryce or anyone else on his adventure has cared for him. Lucius sees Edward as a financial investment only and has very little caring for anything else. Lucius prompts Bryce once again to leave after Bryce stops at the door to look at Edward again. Silently, Bryce walks out of Edward's life forever, leaving Edward alone, depressed, and scared once again.



Discussion Question 1

Why is Sarah Ruth not with the others in the house on Egypt Street? Why do the others want Edward to stay instead of letting him fly away?

Discussion Question 2

What is the deal that is made between Lucius and Bryce? Is it a fair deal? Could something else have been done?

Discussion Question 3

Why is Lucius so cold to Bryce? If Bryce was not poor would Lucius' attitude be different?

Vocabulary

magnificent, lunge, oblivion, considerable, extraordinary, threshold, gesture, mooning



Chapters 25 - 27

Summary

In Chapter 25 Edward sees that the shop is filled with many other dolls. A doll with a green dress is beside him and she is mean to him. She is not beside Edward for long as she is bought by a lady to give to her grandchild. Afterwards, Edward is on the shelf by himself for a long time. Edward silently watches as other dolls from other shelves come and go with the passing of time. During this time, Edward has come to prefer being alone and decides that he is better off being hopeless. Soon, another doll comes to join Edward on his shelf.

Edward gets a new shelf mate in Chapter 26. She is a doll who has been broken and wears a baby bonnet. She introduces herself to Edward and begins to have a conversation with him. The doll informs Edward that she is over 100 years old and that she, too, has been repaired by Lucius. Edward and the doll talk about hope and love while they are sitting together. Since Edward is inconsolable, she offers to push Edward off the shelf to kill himself. Edward politely declines and the doll tells him that he disappoints her. Edward remembers Pellegrina once again and he realizes that he is capable of love and hope as much as he has tried to deny it.

The next day a little girl comes into the shop, wanting to purchase the doll. Lucius tries to talk her out of it, but the girl is firm in wanting that particular doll. As she is leaving, the doll tells Edward that he must continue to hope and that she is sure that someone will eventually come for him. After the doll leaves, Edward thinks about her words and he begins to feel hopeful again.

Chapter 27 concludes the novel after Edward sits on his shelf for several years before a little girl and her mother enter Lucius' shop. They are just looking for a new doll without wanting to actually buy anything, but the little girl immediately picks up Edward and will not let him go. Lucius tries to get the mother to control her daughter, but when the mother goes over to the little girl to see what she has, Edward recognizes her. The lady grabs the item at her neck and Edward finds out that it is his pocket watch and that the lady is Abilene. After all this time, Edward finally is reunited with his long lost friend.

Analysis

Chapter 25 shows how time passes for Edward as he sits on his shelf. A pretty doll in a green dress sits beside Edward and this is the first time that the readers see any interaction between Edward and any other dolls. The doll is very vain herself and tells Edward that he will not be bought because customers only want pretty dolls like herself. Edward maintains that he no longer wants to be bought, but the doll cannot believe it. She thinks it is stupid to not want to be purchased and loved by someone. Edward gets angry with the doll and tells her that he has been loved by several people. He recounts



the people who has come into his life and here it is firmly established that Edward knows how much he has been loved by others. The doll is quiet at first, but she gets the last word in the conversation when she reminds Edward that he is just a rabbit and so no one will want him. The doll's manner is rude and it causes Edward to become silent towards her as he does not like her. He does not have to worry about her for long, as she is sold two weeks later. Edward is happy to see her go so that he can continue with his depression in peace and quiet.

No one else is put beside Edward and he sits on his shelf for days on end afterwards, watching the time pass by. The reader can see that he is extremely lonely although he tries not to admit it to himself. Other dolls get excited when a new customer comes into the shop to buy one of them. Any conversations with the other dolls are unknown, but the reader sees how hopeful they get anytime the door opens. On the contrary, Edward decides that he wants to be left alone. He comes to the conclusion that he is finished with having any sort of hope. In his despair, he stops feeling any sort of emotion so that he is no longer hurt by any more disappointments. The reader knows that since Edward has been hurt so many times before he no longer wants to take any more chances with his emotions. After many days and nights of being on his shelf alone, Lucius decides to put another doll on the shelf with Edward, leaving the reader wondering what this new shelf mate will be like and whether it can help Edward get over his depression.

A new doll is placed beside Edward in Chapter 26. She is not an extremely stylish doll like the first doll, her face shows obvious signs of age and cracks. She is a nice doll who instantly wants to strike up a conversation with Edward. She inquires how long Edward has been sitting in his spot and it is revealed that Edward has been sitting there for many months by himself. He also says that he no longer cares about sitting there in the shop. He no longer cares about having a loving home and has no desire to go anywhere else. The doll is astonished to learn this about Edward. This causes her to tell Edward more about herself. She has lived for over 100 years and she has been passed around by many owners. She is always excited about the prospect of new owners because for her it means she goes through changes to suit the needs of whoever owns her. The doll is quite comforted by this idea and she wants to know why Edward does not feel the same way. Edward cannot feel the same way as his heart has been broken too many times, leaving him to shut everyone and everything out of it. The doll is still disappointed by this and tells him that Edward should just kill himself and get it over with. The doll reminds Edward that there is no life or happiness without love, something that Pellegrina states earlier in the novel. The reader will be amused when she asks Edward if he would like the doll to give him a push over the side of the shelf. The reader and Edward know that the doll is incapable of movement and so this becomes a silly suggestion.

Edward ponders everything he has heard from the old doll. It is strange to Edward that the doll's words are beginning to have a deep effect on him. Edward thinks back once again to Pellegrina's story. This is where Edward finally fully realizes the point of what Pellegrina was trying to teach him about how to love and be loved in return. Through this, Edward starts to feel his emotions again and he wonders if he should dare to think that being hopeful is possible. For a while, Edward tries to deny his feelings, but overall



he begins to accept the doll's words and he realizes that it is possible to feel love and hope for things once more.

The next morning finds a new customer in Lucius' shop. At first it seems as if the little girl gives great consideration to Edward as she is choosing which doll to buy. The little girl finally chooses the doll sitting next to Edward, but Lucius tries to talk her into another doll. He feels that the doll is perhaps too old and fragile for the little girl to handle. Determined to have this particular doll, the little girl firmly states that this doll needs her and she will not choose another. The old doll seems relieved to be chosen so quickly as she has only been in the shop for a short time. As the little girl carries the doll out of the shop, the doll has some parting words for Edward. She assures him that someone will come for him and that he must never lose hope in that thought. Edward still tries to keep himself from believing in the doll's words, but it is too late. Edward can no longer deny that he still has hope in finding a home.

Chapter 27 is the final chapter in the novel and it shows that Edward has remained in the doll shop for several years. He still clings to his hope that someone will come to get him. He has never gotten over the old doll's words to him and they have been a comfort to him this whole time. The reader is surprised to learn that on a rainy day in the spring, another customer comes into the shop. A 5-year-old girl comes in with her mother to only look around and see if there is a doll that is right for the little girl. The girl is immediately attracted to Edward and Edward is attracted to her. There is something familiar about the girl as she instantly grabs him and hugs him tightly. Contact with another person is something Edward has not felt in many years and he is delighted by this. This is a definite turn around from the novel's beginning as he did not like to be squeezed tightly a long time before.

As the girl is hugging Edward, Lucius becomes concerned that the girl will break Edward. He asks the mother to control her daughter as Edward is an expensive doll that should not be mishandled. Lucius is quite agitated that the little girl is touching his merchandise, but the little girl does not seem to care. The mother does not look at the child but is trying to close her umbrella as she is explaining to her that they are there just to look around and that they will not purchase anything. She does not notice what exactly the little girl has in her hands, as the lady is barely paying attention to her daughter. Lucius becomes more upset that the little girl continues holding Edward. Edward does not mind that the girl holds him, he is enjoying every minute of it. It can be assumed that it will be a long time before he will be held again if he is not purchased by this girl's mother just as it is unknown exactly how long it has been since Edward has been lovingly touched.

Finally, the mother comes to be near her daughter and ask her what she has found. The little girl is pleased to show her mother that she has a china rabbit in her hands. As the mother gets her first glimpse of Edward, he is automatically shocked. He wants to recognize this woman but he believes that her identity is impossible, as who he thinks she is truly cannot be here. The woman is shocked and speechless herself, giving the reader the notion that she knows exactly who Edward is. Edward notices that she grabs the locket on her neck, but the reader finds out that it is not a locket, but something else.



Both the reader and Edward are joyful once they find out that it is not a locket, but a pocket watch instead. Edward is filled with emotion as he realizes that it is not an ordinary pocket watch, it is his pocket watch and the lady holding it is truly Abilene. After all of this time, Abilene has kept the watch and her hopes that she will be reunited again with Edward. As the story concludes, Abilene asks Edward if it is truly him and she learns that he is indeed the friend she lost so long ago. Edward knows that he has finally found his way back to the girl who loved him the most after many years of being lost but learning the truth about love and hope.

Discussion Question 1

What was the interaction between Edward and the first doll that was placed beside him? How does this differ from the second doll?

Discussion Question 2

What advice does the old doll offer to Edward? How does this change his point of view on being found by someone?

Discussion Question 3

How has Edward changed over the course of the story? How does this affect his reunion with Abilene?

Vocabulary

obvious, impassioned, riddance, immobile, acquaintance, expectancy, solemnly, ferocious



Characters

Edward Tulane

Edward Tulane is the title character of the novel. He is a china rabbit who stands 3 feet tall and has real fur on his ears and tail. He does not love anyone, only himself at the beginning of the novel. When he is accidentally thrown overboard from a ship during a trip to London, Edward begins a life changing journey to find his way back home. Edward is stranded at the bottom of the ocean where he begins to think that he has been cursed by Pellegrina.

He becomes "Susanna" while living with Nellie and Lawrence, where he learns how to listen to others. When he is put in the garbage dump, he becomes depressed as he begins to lose hope in ever finding a home again. After he is found by Lucy and Bull and renamed "Malone", he finds peace as he travels around with his companions on a never ending road with no set destination. As a scarecrow named "Clyde" he realizes that over time he really has been loved but he loses hope that he will ever be loved again. When he becomes "Jangles" for a dying girl, he learns that he actually wants to help someone other than himself.

He becomes physically broken at the hands of a mean diner owner named Neal after already having been emotionally broken after the little girl's death. He is fixed by an old doll mender who says he is extremely valuable but he learns his true value from another doll in the shop. Finally, his hope emerges just as he is found again by the daughter of the girl who loved him and never gave up hope herself that Edward would finally come home. This character is the culmination of all emotions as he takes on his adventure. Edward starts out arrogant, but over time changes take over him as he learns that he can be nothing without love.

Abilene Tulane

Abilene is an 11-year-old little girl who lives on Egypt Street with her parents and grandmother. She is given Edward as a present for her 7th birthday. She loves Edward with all of her heart and takes special care of him. She has a special wardrobe made for Edward and she winds his watch for him every day. Edward always waits in the dining room chair for her to come home from school. When she and her parents sail to London, she loses Edward when she is trying to get him back from a pair of naughty boys. Not much is known about her between losing Edward until she finds him again in an antique shop when she is an adult with a child of her own. It is revealed that after all of this time, she has kept Edward's watch, hoping she would find him again.



Pellegrina

Pellegrina is the grandmother of Abilene Tulane. She is described as very elderly with a long nose and black eyes. Pellegrina is the one who had Edward created for Abilene's 7th birthday as well as the clothes that he wears. She is the only other person in the Tulane house who speaks to Edward as if he were a human. She does not accompany the rest of the family on their trip to London. Pellegrina is the one who tells Abilene and Edward the story of the selfish princess and then tells Edward that he is a disappointment to her. Whenever Edward is about to go through another change he thinks of the story that Pellegrina told him and he is convinced that she is somehow punishing him for being selfish. He also is convinced that she shows up in different forms, such as a crow or a little lady in Memphis.

Lawrence

Lawrence is an old fisherman who catches Edward in his nets after the storm. He is the first person that shows Edward any kindness after being lost from Abilene. Lawrence takes Edward home with him so that his wife, Nellie, can fix him up. As they are walking, Lawrence tells Edward the names of some of the constellations. He comes to care for Edward as much as Nellie does. He fixes a highchair for Edward to sit in at dinner time and afterwards he carries Edward outside to talk to him as Lawrence smokes his pipe. He is visibly intimidated by his daughter, Lolly, when she comes to visit.

Nellie

Nellie is the wife of Lawrence the fisherman who gives Edward a home after he is saved from the ocean. She changes Edward's name to Susannah and makes dresses for him. She cares for Edward much like Abilene once did. Nellie talks to Edward as if he is real and takes him all throughout the house with her. She especially talks to him while she is in the kitchen. Nellie tells Edward about her children and how one of them died of pneumonia. For Nellie, Edward serves as a way for Nellie to talk about her emotions, helping her to cope with her sadness. She is a sweet old lady who is intimidated by her daughter, Lolly. Nellie has no idea that Lolly steals Edward and takes him to the garbage dump.

Lolly

Lolly is the daughter of Lawrence and Nellie. She is a secretary who is described as a loud woman who wears too much lipstick. She instantly hates Edward the minute she steps into her parents' house. It is unknown why she hates Edward so much except that Lolly knows about the neighborhood's gossip over how Lawrence and Nellie treat Edward. She scares her parents with her hateful manners and does not see how much Edward has helped Nellie and Lawrence. She thinks that her parents are crazy for showing Edward so much attention. After she spends the night at Nellie and Lawrence's



house, she steals Edward, lies to Nellie about where she is going, and gets rid of Edward at the local trash dump.

Bull and Lucy

Lucy is a dog who digs Edward up from the trash pile and carries him off to Bull, her owner. Bull is a tall, bearded hobo with an amazing singing voice and a love for telling stories. He changes Edward's name to Malone and makes an outfit of pants and a shirt out of his own clothes. Bull takes Edward everywhere with him and Lucy and they spend almost 7 years together walking and hitching rides on rail cars. Bull loses Edward when he, Lucy, and Edward are caught in an empty rail car by one of the train conductors and Edward is tossed out of the door.

Bryce

Bryce is a young boy who works for the old lady who uses Edward as a scarecrow in her garden. As he is working and the old lady is not noticing him, he tries to get Edward's attention. He tells Edward early on that he is going to rescue him. When it is dark enough outside, he comes back to the garden and takes Edward home to his sister, Sarah Ruth. He is extremely protective of his sister, even standing up for her when their father when he says something hurtful about Sarah Ruth.

After Sarah Ruth dies, Bryce takes Edward to Memphis. Once there, he uses Edward as a puppet and makes him dance while trying to play the harmonica. He earns very little money doing this but he enters a cafe and orders a meal. When it is found out that Bryce is unable to pay for his meal, the owner shatters Edward's head. In order to save Edward, he asks a doll mender to help in. In exchange, Bryce has to give Edward to the mender and leave, never to return.

Sarah Ruth

Sarah Ruth is a blond haired, brown eyed, 4-year-old girl who is Bryce's sister. She has an undisclosed disease which causes her to violently cough frequently and is stuck in bed most of the time. Bryce steals Edward for Sarah Ruth as a replacement for a doll that was broken by their drunk father. She has a sweet disposition but does not say much due to her coughing. She loves Edward dearly and calls him Jangles. She rocks him like a baby and shows him her box of buttons to pass the time while Bryce is working. Edward comes to love Sarah Ruth dearly as well and he finds himself wishing that he could do more for her. Sadly, Sarah Ruth passes away on a September morning due to her coughing disease and lack of medical care.



Neal

Neal owns a diner in Memphis on a street close to where Bryce and Edward performed earlier in the day. He is described as being quite large with red hair and a red face. Bryce goes to him when he finds out he cannot afford his dinner. Instead of being kind to the young boy, Neal gets very angry at Bryce. The only thing he cares about is the money that Bryce owes him. When Bryce tells Neal that he can perform to pay for his meal, Neal becomes even angrier, and in a fit of rage he bashes Edwards head against the counter top, shattering him.

Lucius Clarke

Lucius Clarke is a doll shop owner and repairman. He completely fixes Edward back to the way he originally was, complete with real rabbit fur. He knows that Edward is valuable and he keeps Edward in exchange for the repairs done on him. When Abilene and her daughter enter his shop, he is extremely worried that the little girl will drop Edward, which causes Abilene to finally recognize Edward.

Old Doll

Lucius repairs a doll that is more than 100 years old and sets her on the shelf beside Edward. The doll tells Edward that she has been with many different owners over the years. She also reminds Edward that without love there can never be happiness. She renews Edward's faith and hope that someday he will be found by someone who will really love him although she is not able to spend much time with him, as she is sold shortly after she arrives.



Symbols and Symbolism

Edward's Watch

Edward's watch is very important to him as it is a custom made watch to go with his wardrobe. Every day Abilene winds this watch and shows Edward what time to expect her home. After Edward is accidentally thrown overboard, Abilene still has Edward's watch in her hand. When she is reunited with Edward in the antique shop, Edward learns that Abilene still carries the watch with her wherever she goes, proving how much she has always loved him.

Pellegrina's Story

Pellegrina never usually tells Abilene bedtime stories. Usually, when Abilene asks, Pellegrina declines and then promises her that one day she will have a story to tell. Pellegrina finally agrees to tell Abilene a story on the night Abilene's parents announce their trip to London. It is unknown why Pellegrina chooses to tell Abilene this story and why she chooses that particular evening to tell it. When Pellegrina is finished, she whispers to Edward the same thing that the witch told the princess, that she is disappointed. This haunts Edward in every place that he travels to, especially since he is usually forcefully taken away from his new owners against his wishes. Edward feels that this story is meant to somehow punish Edward for being like the selfish princess. This story is a key element to the novel, as it symbolizes Edward's attitude and how he never loves anyone.

Queen Mary

The Queen Mary is the ship that the Tulane family sails on to London. This is an important item in the story as Edward is accidentally thrown from this ship and lost to Abilene, starting a long adventure of both the body and spirit. The ship is a physical symbol of a journey which Edward is on to find what the meaning of love is.

Highchair

Lawrence fixes an old highchair for Edward to sit at while Lawrence and Nellie eat dinner. The couple enjoys having Edward sit there as if he is a real baby and part of their conversations. Edward at first does not like this spot, but comes to enjoy it after a while. It gives him a feeling that he is an equal part of the family and he can see the top of the table, which is something he was never usually able to do while he was with Abilene.



Stars

Stars are an extremely important item in the novel. Edward looks at them at night first in the house on Egypt Street and they become a constant presence in his life. He is comforted by the stars, although no clear reason is given as to why. Edward becomes depressed when he cannot see them both at the bottom of the ocean and at the bottom of the trash pile. Lawrence tells Edward the names of the stars and the constellations, giving Edward knowledge he has never had before and creating a bond between them. Sarah Ruth sees a falling star and as she makes a wish, so does Edward. When Edward is dreaming after he is shattered, Sarah Ruth is a constellation and he tries to travel to her to touch her.

Button Box

Sarah Ruth has a box of buttons which are her only toys. She is quite content with having them as she puts the buttons in different arrangements. While Bryce works, she plays with them and shows them to Edward. After she dies, Bryce takes the box and uses it to collect money that he hopes to earn as he and Edward perform on the streets of Memphis.

Harmonica

Bryce has a harmonica that he uses to play for his dying sister. After she passes away, he takes Edward to Memphis where he plays the harmonica with one hand and makes Edward dance as a puppet with the other. He offers to play his harmonica and have Edward dance for Neal, the diner owner, when he is unable to pay for his dinner.

Wings

As Edward is attached to the post as a scarecrow, he fantasizes about having wings. In this context, wings symbolizes a freedom that Edward cannot have. In Edward's dream after he is shattered he grows a pair of wings so that he can fly up and touch the constellation of Sarah Ruth. They are described as quite beautiful and multicolored. These wings also represents freedom, but this freedom may actually be Edward's death.

Crows

Crows come to peck at Edward while he is a scarecrow. They are a constant reminder that Edward is trapped, adding to his sorrow, especially since they are free to roam wherever they please. Edward is so downtrodden that he believes Pellegrina is one of the crows and is haunting him for his arrogance.

String

Bryce brings home a string one night and uses it to make Edward into a puppet. As a puppet Edward is able to entertain Sarah Ruth and make her happy. Bryce continues to use the string to keep Edward as a puppet as he performs on a dirty street in Memphis. It is also as a puppet that Edward is almost completely destroyed by Neal.



Settings

Egypt Street

Egypt Street is the first setting of the novel. Here, the reader is introduced to Edward and the rest of the Tulane family. Not much is said about the entire house, as all of the time is spent either in Abilene's bedroom or in the dining room. Edward sleeps with Abilene in her bed, where Pellegrina tucks her in and tells her the story of the princess. In the dining room, Edward sits in a chair facing the window and waits for Abilene to come home from school every day. He also sits in there with the family at meal times, listening to but never caring about their conversations until one night when Abilene's parents inform her that the family is going on a trip to London.

Ocean

The ocean is the first place that Edward stays in after he is separated from Abilene. Edward stays on the bottom of the ocean for 297 days before being swept up in a storm and rescued by the fisherman, Lawrence. It is during Edward's time on the bottom of the ocean that Edward begins to think that he has been cursed by Pellegrina.

Nellie and Lawrence's Home

While in the little green home of Nellie and Lawrence, Edward is called Susanna and he wears frilly dresses. He does not like this at first, but he grows accustomed to it as he comes to love Nellie and Lawrence more and more. The couple treat him as if he was a real child by including Edward in everything they do. Lawrence takes him outside at night to show him the stars and to talk while he smokes his pipe. Nellie talks about her life, especially of her deceased child and she sings lullabies to Edward. It is here that Edward begins to feel love for someone else for the first time. It is not said exactly how long Edward is with the elderly couple, but he is eventually stolen away by their daughter, Lolly, and taken to the city garbage dump.

Garbage Dump

Edward is placed in the garbage dump by Lolly because she does not like Edward's relationship with Nellie and Lawrence. At first Edward is on top of a trash heap but he winds up at the bottom of it. Every day he hears the dump's manager sing and dance about how he is the king of the world. In time, Edward begins to lose hope as he waits for someone to come and rescue him. Edward is eventually rescued when he is dug up by a dog named Lucy and taken to her owner, Bull, to live the life of a hobo.



Garden

Edward is made into a scarecrow named Clyde by an old lady and put in her garden. It is here that Edward feels that he is broken spiritually and mentally. A young boy named Bryce works for the old lady in this garden. He takes a liking to Edward and steals him from the garden when it becomes dark outside.

Shack

Bryce and Sarah Ruth live in a shack that has no electricity and very little furnishings. Sarah Ruth spends most of the day inside, laying in her bed due to her severe illness. When she passes away, Bryce runs away from there with Edward headed to Memphis to be a street performer.

Neal's Diner

Bryce orders dinner at a local diner after a long day of trying to perform on the street. When Bryce finds out that he doesn't have enough money for the meal, he begs for mercy from Neal, the owner. In a fit of rage, Neal smashes Edward on the countertop into 21 peices.

Doll Shop

This is the final destination for Edward after he is smashed by Neal. Bryce is forced to give Edward up to the shop owner in exchange for the owner's help in fixing Edward. After Edward is repaired, he sits for many years on a shelf as he watches other dolls come and go. It is here that he is found by Abilene's daughter and Edward and Abilene are reunited.



Themes and Motifs

Vanity

Vanity is one of the most important themes in this novel as the focus, especially in the first few chapters, are what Edward thinks of himself and how he feels that others do not share his thoughts on how important he is. The reader first gets a glimpse of his vanity when he is physically described. He loves the fact that he has real fur ears and tail, but he is unhappy with his whiskers since he does not know where they came from. He is proud of his wardrobe as well, since it is made of fine materials and they fit him perfectly. He also takes offense at the thought of being considered anything other than important. Edward is offended quickly if anyone refers to him as "it" or even "bunny".

The reader can see that Edward's vanity makes him hard to please and extremely arrogant. This is especially important at the beginning of the novel. It sets up how Edward's whole life is changed from a pampered and conceited rabbit to becoming broken emotionally. Edward's vanity causes him to not care about others, even though they love him. It is because of Edward's vanity that Pellegrina is disappointed in him and Edward believes that Pellegrina has cursed him because of this.

This vanity is stripped away from him over the course of the novel as he finds himself in unfamiliar and scary circumstances. This is a gradual descent with each new situation he enters. As he is falling into the ocean, he worries more about his hat than being lost at sea. After he is rescued, he is so grateful to be out of his situation that he does not mind that his whole identity is changed to Susanna and has to wear a dress. When he is stolen and thrown in the dump by Lolly, his vanity appears as he is angry at being tossed out like a piece of garbage but is once again gone as he tries to survive in the dump.

There is only one time where Edward's vanity gives way to compassion. As Sarah Ruth clings to him and drools on him, Edward at first is disgusted by this as he is too fine of a rabbit to have to go through this. Once he hears her coughing, he lets go of his pride and becomes accustomed to Sarah Ruth doing this because he feels such pity for her. Although there are only a few brief glimpses into Edward's vanity after this, he is ultimately broken both physically and mentally, which destroys his arrogance completely. By the time Edward comes to his last destination on his journey, his vanity is totally gone as he slides into desperation and depression.

Love

At the core of the novel is Edward's change from being unable to love anyone but himself to realizing the importance of being loved and loving someone else in return. Pellegrina tells Edward and Abilene that there cannot be a happy ending to a story if there is no love when she tells the story of the princess who never loved anyone.



Edward does not understand that this story is a warning to him that he will soon suffer because he does not love anyone as he totally disregards Pellegrina's words. Although Abilene dearly loves Edward, he does not love her as much. It is only through hardship that Edward comes to realize what love is and how to love in return.

Love comes to Edward from many sources as he learns how to love others in return. It is a feeling that is originally foreign to Edward, but over time the feeling grows on him and he is comforted by this. It is clear that Abilene loves Edward very much, but other people come to love him as well. Everyone he meets, with the exception of the old lady in the garden and Lucius Clarke, loves Edward in their own special ways. Nellie and Lawrence love Edward as a missing piece of their family. Bull loves Edward as a traveling companion. Sarah Ruth and Bryce love Edward as a comfort and joy in their dark lives.

Edward also discovers that he has the ability to love others in the process. He also finds that love can hurt as well with each time he is snatched away from the people that love him. He is most hurt by the loss of Sarah Ruth as her love for him was an innocent one and he truly feels he loves her in return. Ultimately, love prevails as something that cannot be broken or taken away permanently and is eternal as Abilene is eventually reunited with Edward.

Change

Change is a central motif in the novel, as not only do Edward's surroundings change, but his heart and mind changes as well. The changes are a mixture of good and bad as the novel progresses. The changes that occur mentally and physically are closely linked as each location results in a change of Edward's mental status. At the heart of the novel is Edward's emotional change as he goes from an arrogant and spoiled rabbit to someone who feels love very deeply. The author places Edward in locations that are in accordance with the changes that come over him. For instance, Edward is stuck at the bottom of the sea when he first experiences loss. Edward finds love and comfort when he is in the arms of a dying child but he also discovers regret and grief when she passes away and he leaves the home.

Another important item to note is the change to Edward's identity with each new person he encounters. Edward becomes Susanna for Lawrence and Nellie as he changes to be more attentive to others. He becomes Malone as he, Bull, and Lucy aimlessly travel and Edward finds peace in sharing his life with others who are lost. Edward begins to succumb to despair as he is a scarecrow named Clyde. Edward feels love and warmth and the need to protect and help someone else as he is a dancing puppet named Jangles. All of these changes culminate in the more mature and caring individual that Edward becomes.



Depression

Depression is an underlying theme on the journey towards Edward's change of heart. Edward always becomes depressed when he is forcefully taken away from his companions by circumstances out of his control. Edward is constantly brought to depression as he loses hope that he will find a loving home. Edward's depression shapes who he is at various moments in the story's progression. Edward describes himself as being "broken". The reader can assume that this means he is heartbroken and that his spirit is damaged.

Edward's belief that Pellegrina has cursed him also adds to his depression. He feels that he is being punished for his cold attitude toward others. It is depressing for Edward that even though he tries to change for the better, he continues to have bad things happen to him. The reader also sees that Edward misses the people that he has recently been with, which is another contributing factor to his depression. This is especially evident when Sarah Ruth passes away. He really cares for the little girl in ways that he never had before and her death was particularly saddening for him.

Every time Edward is saved by someone, he has momentary relief from his depression but he is always pulled back into it. This deepens the feeling of depression as he thinks about every situation the he has been in. The longest bout of depression that Edward has is where he is stuck on the store shelf for so long. This is the culmination of all of his trials and now Edward has finally fully succumbed to his depression and says that he is completely done with any feelings whatsoever. Eventually he is redeemed and he breaks free of his depression and becomes hopeful again by advice given to him by a much older doll.

Hope

After Edward is lost in the ocean, hope becomes a large factor in the evolution of Edward. In each situation that Edward faces, he loses and regains his hope. His hope is intertwined with his depression as when he loses someone in his life he loses hope and becomes depressed. When he is found, Edward regains this hope that he will finally have a permanent home. It is a cycle that continues until he is put in the doll shop and spends years waiting for someone to find him. During this time, he loses all of his hope and decides that hope is not worth having. The only thing that helps him to regain his hope is the advice of another doll who is more than 100 years old. She informs Edward that a life without hope and love is not worth living and that it is up to him to open his heart and be hopeful. It does take Edward a bit of time and thinking in order for him to do this, but eventually he does. Soon after, he finds that the doll was correct in her advice as he is reunited with his former owner, Abilene.



Styles

Point of View

The story is told in the third person omniscient point of view with a focus solely on Edward. The reader sees Edward and his interactions with others, but the reader also gets to see Edward's thoughts. This is effective, as it is the only way to know what Edward wants to communicate to the reader. The focus of the novel is always on current events with Edward briefly thinking about the past in various situations. The story is not told from any other view point, although there are a number of other characters in the novel. The point of view is limited as Edward not only cares about himself throughout much of the novel, but because due to the fact that he is inanimate, he is unable to move freely.

Actions or dialogues not directly related to anything that is not in Edward's direct view are not mentioned. There is no "backstory" given for any of the other characters and there is no mention of them once Edward has left them, except for brief memory flashes and the dream in Chapter 22. There is also no information on the characters' actions or feelings after Edward leaves. The novel does not give any insight into other characters' thoughts or feelings, only actions and dialogues occurring within Edward's view. This keeps the novel focused squarely on Edward.

Language and Meaning

The language style of this novel is fairly simple to understand by youth in elementary or middle school. There are no overly complicated or long words that will confuse the reader. Sentences do not run on or become hard to understand. The novel does not lend itself to overly describing people, places, or events. The flow of the novel keeps mainly to the actions and dialogues that are taking place right at that moment. There is no jargon that would suggest any set time period, trade, or culture. There is also no use of slang words in any of the dialogues.

Dialogue is very limited in this novel. As Edward cannot speak until the last part of the book when he talks to other dolls, dialogue is limited to his companions talking to him and Edward thinking in reply. Only a small amount of conversation occurs between other central characters. The dialogues are normally very short, keeping between 2-3 sentences per character made up of very few words. There are no long monologues to distract the reader from the main topics. The novel is also not cluttered with minor characters to get in the way of the main characters.

Structure

The book is broken up into 27 chapters. They are all short, with some of them lasting only 2-3 pages. Each chapter focuses on an event in Edward's life with the exception of



2 chapters. The first 3 chapters of the novel introduce Edward and gives the reader a depiction of his carefree life on Egypt Street. Chapter 4 focuses on the story that Pellegrina tells Abilene and Edward. Chapter 5 gives the reader the catalyst of his journey as he is accidentally thrown off of the Queen Mary. Chapters 6 -8 tell the reader of his life at the bottom of the ocean and of his rescue. It is in these chapters that Edward's attitude begins to change from arrogant to scared yet hopeful. Chapters 9 and 10 show Edward's happy life with Nellie and Lawrence and the cruel theft by Lolly. Chapters 11 - 15 place Edward in a dumpster before being dug up by the dog Lucy and living a hobo's life with Bull. Although there are bouts of depression in each of these chapters, the real hopelessness comes in Chapters 15 and 16 as Edward is made into a scarecrow by an old lady. Edward finds that his whole attitude has changed and that he wants to love and help others as he lives with a dying girl and her brothers throughout Chapters 17 - 19. Edward grieves for the little girl as he is carried off to Memphis in search of a better life for the girl's brother in Chapters 20 and 21. Chapter 21 is especially important as Edward is destroyed, with this action becoming the climax of the whole novel as he is now not only mentally damaged but physically as well. Chapter 22 is a dream that Edward has of all the people he has known after he is shattered by Neal. Edward is brought back to life but is drawn further into depression and despair in Chapters 23 - 25. The realization that Edward has changed and the renewal of his hope occur in Chapter 26. The resolution of Edward's journey comes in Chapter 27 as he is finally reunited with the girl who loved him many years ago.

Each of the other chapters work to link each event in Edwards life together. The chapters are ended just as Edward is about to undertake a new part in his journey. Before each chapter begins, there is an illustration to give the reader a hint at the upcoming main action within. There are also a few illustrations throughout the novel to give the reader a better view of a specific moment that is taking place. Within each chapter, paragraphs are not very long, with some paragraphs only lasting a sentence. The flow of each paragraph is smooth, keeping the movement at a consistent pace and making the novel as a whole easy to understand. There is no transition between other places, characters, or times except during the few occurrences where Edward thinks of his past. This keeps the progression of the novel focused only on the actions that occur to and around Edward.



Quotes

What an elegant figure he cut! Edward never ceased to be amazed at his own fineness.
-- Narrator (Chapter 1 paragraph 9)

Importance: This quote is extremely important as it is a glimpse into what Edward thinks of himself. It sets up the fact that Edward is self-centered and selfish. Edward sees only himself and he has such a fine opinion of himself that he is constantly amazed by it.

But answer me this: how can a story end happily if there is no love?
-- Pellegrina (Chapter 4 paragraph 40)

Importance: This sets up the whole premise of the novel since Edward and the princess in Pellegrina's story are quite similar. It is a foreshadowing of the events to come for Edward for he loves no one but himself. This sets the reader up to know that Edward's journey is not going to be a pleasant one as there is no love in Edward's life. This makes the reader question whether Edward himself will have a happy ending as he finds love along his travels or if his tale end badly.

Never in my life, he thought, have I been farther away from the stars than I am now.
-- Edward (Chapter 7 paragraph 5)

Importance: This begins Edwards change from being selfish to feeling other emotions. The reader can clearly see Edward's sadness and his bad situation with this quote. Edward was always comforted by the stars when he watched them from Abilene's bed in the house on Egypt Street. He never gave any thought to a time where he would not be able to see the stars. Now that he is stuck on the ocean floor, he cannot find the comfort that he is so used to, which is scary and depressing for Edward.

It was worse, much worse, than being buried at sea. It was worse because Edward was a different rabbit now. He couldn't say how he was different; he just knew that he was.
-- Narrator (Chapter 11 paragraph 6)

Importance: This is an important quote as the reader sees the beginning of a dark change coming over Edward. No longer is he highly opinionated of himself, he is starting to be come depressed and to lose any hope he has of finding happiness. He knows that being buried at sea was very rough on him and that it changed him, but what he is going through at this moment only makes matters worse for Edward.

How many times, Edward wondered, would he have to leave without getting the chance to say goodbye?
-- Narrator (Chapter 14 paragraph 33)

Importance: This quote shows that Edward is starting to feel like he is losing hope that he will finally have a home. Every time he gets comfortable in a new situation, Edward is



torn away from his new companions without any warning. This saddens him as he truly begins to love with each new person he meets.

Perhaps, he thought, it is not too late for me, after all, to be saved.
-- Narrator (Chapter 16 paragraph 19)

Importance: After all that Edward has been through previously, he has lost his hope that he will find a home. His depression has gotten the better of him and he feels that there is no hope. When Bryce gets Edward down off the post, Edward does not want to believe in hope. It is when he felt Bryce's arms around him does he begin to warm to this thought of redemption, which allows Edward to believe that he can find happiness again. This quote shows Edward coming out of his depression and regaining his will to live and love.

How Edward loathed dolls. And to be thought of as a likely replacement for a doll offended him.
-- Narrator (Chapter 17 paragraph 7)

Importance: Edward's pride and arrogance make a brief return when he is introduced to Sarah Ruth. He does not like the fact that he is to be a replacement for a doll that was broken by her father. It is a short lived thought, as Edward quickly grows to love Sarah Ruth and she loves him.

The coughing was the saddest sound that Edward had ever heard, sadder even than the mournful call of the whippoorwill.
-- Narrator (Chapter 17 paragraph 13)

Importance: This is a description of what Edward thinks of Sarah Ruth's coughing. Once he hears it, his previous notions of being offended over being a replacement toy are gone. It is here that Edward begins to feel sorry for Sarah Ruth and wants to do more for her as he comes to truly love her. This also shows how severe Sarah Ruth's illness is and that she is dying.

You got your wish. I have learned how to love. And it's a terrible thing. I'm broken. My heart is broken.
-- Edward (Chapter 20 paragraph 14)

Importance: Edward is still convinced that Pellegrina is punishing him for not loving anyone. This is a crucial quote as Edward admits the error of his ways and that his arrogance has caused him nothing but trouble. He is saying that mentally and emotionally he is now at the end of caring what happens to him because of all of the tragedies that have come to him.

In the doll business, we have a saying: there is real time and there is doll time. You, my fine friend, have entered doll time.
-- Lucius Clarke (Chapter 24 paragraph 18)



Importance: Edward is repaired and brought back to life by Lucius Clarke. This sets up Edward's next phase in his life where he sits in the shop for years, hopelessly waiting for someone to come along and want him.

If you have no intention of loving or being loved, then the whole journey is pointless.
-- Old Doll (Chapter 26 paragraph 18)

Importance: This is meant to somehow encourage Edward back into hoping for a new owner as Edward says it is now hopeless to wish for a better life. The doll feels that if Edward feels hopeless then he should not be alive as love and hope are necessary for being alive. She wants to show Edward that life is more about love than it is anything else. This goes back to Pellegrina telling Abilene that a story without love does not have a happy ending.

Someone will come; someone will come for you.
-- Edward (Chapter 27 paragraph 5)

Importance: This is the last piece of advice from the old doll and Edward repeats it to himself frequently. This is what helps Edward to have hope during the years that he spent on the shelf. He keeps repeating this to himself when Abilene's daughter finds him and Edward and Abilene are finally reunited.