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Class-XII

English

Vistas

Chapter-5

On The Face of It

Part - 3



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Neha Rajvanshi

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MR LAMB: It's a fine evening. You've got legs.

DERRY: Once I got home, they'd never let me come back.

MR LAMB: Once you got home, you'd never let yourself come back.

DERRY: You don't know....you don't know what I could do.

MR LAMB: No. Only you know that.

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DERRY: If I chose....

MR LAMB: Ah....if you chose. I don't know everything, boy. I can't tell you what to do.

DERRY: They tell me.

MR LAMB: Do you have to agree?

DERRY: I don't know what I want. I want....something no one else has got or ever will have. Something just mine. Like this garden. I don't know what it is.

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MR LAMB: You could find out.

DERRY: How?

MR LAMB: Waiting. Watching. Listening. Sitting here or going there. I'll have to see to the bees.

DERRY: Those other people who come here....do they talk to you? Ask you things?

MR LAMB: Some do, some don't. I ask them. I like to learn.

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miserable : दयनीय



DERRY: I don't believe in them. I don't think anybody ever comes. You're here all by yourself and miserable and no one would know if you were alive or dead and nobody cares.

MR LAMB: You think what you please.

DERRY: All right then, tell me some of their names.

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MR LAMB: What are names? Tom, Dick or Harry.

[Getting up] I'm off down to the bees.

DERRY: I think you're daft....crazy....

MR LAMB: That's a good excuse.

DERRY: What for? You don't talk sense.

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frightened : डरा हुआ

MR LAMB: Good excuse not to come back. And you've got a burned-up face, and that's other people's excuse.

DERRY: You're like the others, you like to say things like that. If you don't feel sorry for my face, you're frightened of it, and if you're not frightened, you think I'm ugly as a devil. I am a devil. Don't you? [Shouts]

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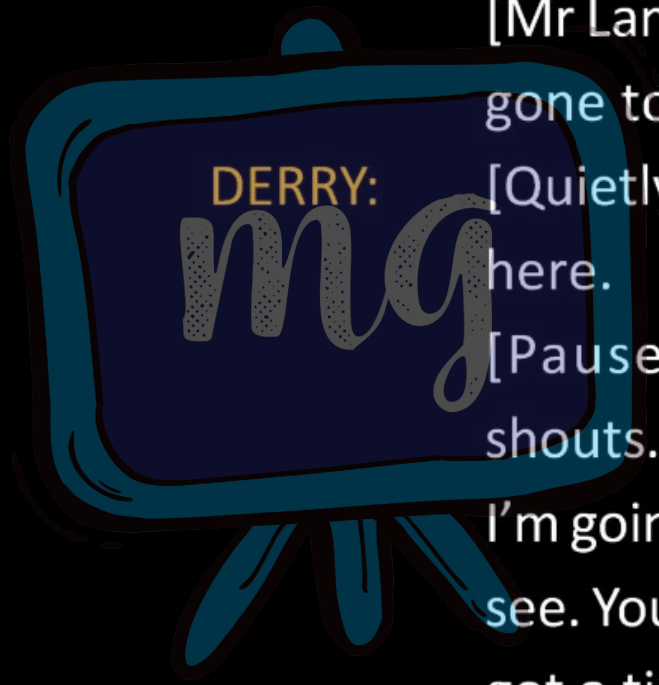

[Mr Lamb does not reply. He has gone to his bees.]

[Quietly] No. You don't. I like it here.

[Pause. Derry gets up and shouts.]

I'm going. But I'll come back. You see. You wait. I can run. I haven't got a tin leg. I'll be back.

[Derry runs off. Silence. The sounds of the garden again.]

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MR LAMB: [To himself] There my dears. That's you seen to. Ah....you know. We all know. I'll come back. They never do, though. Not them. Never do come back. [The garden noises fade.]

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Scene Two

Derry's house.

MOTHER: You think I don't know about him, you think. I haven't heard things?

DERRY: You shouldn't believe all you hear.

MOTHER: Been told. Warned. We've not lived here three months, but I know what there is to know and you're not to go back there.

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DERRY: What are you afraid of? What do you think he is? An old man with a tin leg and he lives in a huge house without curtains and has a garden. And I want to be there, and sit and....listen to things. Listen and look.

MOTHER: Listen to what?

DERRY: Bees singing. Him talking.

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MOTHER: And what's he got to say to you?

DERRY: Things that matter. Things nobody else has ever said. Things I want to think about.

MOTHER: Then you stay here and do your thinking. You're best off here.

DERRY: I hate it here.

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blame : दोष देना

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

DERRY: It's got nothing to do with my face and what I look like. I don't care about that and it isn't important.



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It's what I think and feel and what I want to see and find out and hear. And I'm going back there. Only to help him with the crab apples. Only to look at things and listen. But I'm going.

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panting: हांफना

MOTHER: You'll stop here.

DERRY: Oh no, oh no. Because if I don't go back there, I'll never go anywhere in this world again.

[The door slams. Derry runs, panting.]

And I want the world....I want it....I want it....

[The sound of his panting fades.]

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Scene Three

Mr Lamb's garden [Garden sounds: the noise of a branch shifting; apples thumping down; the branch shifting again.]

MR LAMB: Steady....that's....got it. That's it... [More apples fall]

And again.

That's it....and....

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Creaks: पेड़ की शाखा की टुटने की आवाज

[A creak. A crash. The ladder falls back, Mr Lamb with it. A thump. The branch swishes back. Creaks. Then silence. Derry opens the garden gate, still panting.]

DERRY: You see, you see! I came back. You said I wouldn't and they said....but I came back, I wanted....

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[He stops dead. Silence.]

Mr Lamb, Mr....You've.....

[He runs through the grass. Stops. Kneels]

Mr Lamb, It's all right....You fell....I'm here, Mr Lamb, It's all right.

[Silence]

I came back. Lamey-Lamb. I did.....come back.

[Derry begins to weep.]

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COMPREHENSION

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Question 1. Who is Mr Lamb? How does Derry get into his garden?

Answer : Mr Lamb is an old man with a tin leg. He lives all alone in his house. There is a garden near the house. Derry climbs over the garden wall to get into his garden.

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Question 2. Do you think all this will change Derry's attitude towards Mr Lamb?

Answer : Mr Lamb motivates Derry to come out of his inferiority complex. He encourages him to meet people and love life. All this makes him think of Mr Lamb as a person of great virtue.

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Question 3. What is it that draws Derry towards Mr Lamb in spite of himself?

Answer : Derry has an acid burnt face. He hates people staring at him and therefore avoids their company. He suffers from a kind of inferiority complex. Mr Lamb himself is handicapped in one leg. But he seems to have no inferiority complex. Instead, he loves meeting people. Mr Lamb's personality is an example for him to live life without feeling ashamed of himself.

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Question 4. In which section of the play does Mr Lamb display signs of loneliness and disappointment? What are the ways in which Mr Lamb tries to overcome these feelings?

Answer : In the end of scene one, Mr Lamb talks to himself. Though Derry has promised to come back, he is sure he will never come back again. He says that people never come back to him.

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He tries to overcome his feelings of loneliness and disappointment by keeping himself busy. He enjoys listening to the song of bees. He makes toffees with their honey. He gives toffees to the children. He gives them apples and pears too so that they may come to him again and again.

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

Answer : Derry suffers from inferiority complex due to his burnt face. Therefore, he avoids company. But Mr Lamb motivates him to live a normal life like all others. By his own example, he encourages him to meet people, and enjoy their company.

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I think, this brief association with Mr Lamb will make Derry live a normal life in future. He will come out of his seclusion. Now, his future life will be full of confidence.