

“A Shocking Accident”

Response to Literature

Answer the following questions on a separate piece of paper. Follow the response to literature guidelines given by your teacher.

How did you react when you learned what had happened to Jerome’s father? Do you think your reaction was appropriate? Why or why not?

1. When Jerome first hears about his father’s accident, what does he assume has happened? Why? What actually has happened in the accident?
2. What does the narrator mean when he says every man creates God? If you don’t know exactly what would you guess? Explain.
3. What does it mean to brood? When have you done it?
4. Explain the paragraph about the Times Literary Supplement. What do you think it is?
5. What does “intrinsically interesting” mean? Does Jeremy succeed in making the story of his dad boring? What do you think he tries to make it boring?
6. What does the narrator mean when he says, “Jerome had studied the statistics and taken the average”.
7. Do you consider Jerome a round or flat character? Is he static or dynamic? Provide evidence to support your answer.
8. Find an example of situational irony in this story. Explain.
9. What theme or message do you think the author wants to convey with this story?

Extended Response:

Write a newspaper article about the “shocking accident” of Jerome’s father. In your lead, or first paragraph, answer the questions who, what, where, when and why. If necessary, invent details that are not included in Greene’s story. You may also want to invent quotes from such characters as Jerome, his aunt, and Mr. Wordsworth.

Your story must be typed, and 3 to 5 well developed paragraphs.

