

Mr. Know All

Bagrut Questions and Answers

Winter 2016 F exam

BRIDGING

"Our job on earth isn't to criticize, reject or judge. Our purpose is to offer a helping hand and mercy." – Dana Acruri, *Harvest of Hope*

Make a connection between the above quote and the story. Give information from the story to support your answer.

Answer: The story seems to have the same message as the quote does. The narrator criticizes, rejects and judges Mr. Kelada even before he meets him. He doesn't like his name, possessions (luggage, brush...), character traits and behavior. On the other hand, he regards Mrs. Ramsay as the symbol of modesty. He is wrong in both cases. Mr. Kelada, on the other hand, offers a helping hand and mercy. He loses his bet with Mr. Ramsay and becomes the laughing stock of the whole ship because he doesn't want to ruin Mrs. Ramsay's marriage. Even the narrator changes his mind about Mr. Kelada who is revealed as a true gentleman. Mr. Kelada seems to carry out the idea expressed in this quote.

Moed Bet 2015 F Exam

LOTS

1. Mr. Kelada tries to make friends with the narrator by (–).

- (i) telling the narrator about his family
- (ii) unpacking the narrator's luggage
- (iii) telling the narrator he is British
- (iv) agreeing with everything the narrator says

Answer: (i) telling the narrator he is British

2. The narrator thought Mr. Kelada was (–).

- (i) talkative
- (ii) unfriendly
- (iii) prejudiced
- (iv) unpatriotic

Answer:(i) talkative

HOTS

After seeing Mrs. Ramsay's reaction to the discussion about the pearls, Mr. Kelada "stopped with his mouth open. He flushed deeply. You could almost see the effort he was making over himself." Why does Mr. Kelada react this way? Explain

Answer: Mr. Kelada understands that Mrs. Ramsay has a secret, which will be revealed if he says the pearls are real. He realizes she probably had a lover who bought her real pearls. Once he understands it, he is embarrassed and flushes deeply. His conflict is whether to reveal the truth and justify his reputation as a "Mr. Know All" or to protect Mrs. Ramsay's marriage and say that the pearls are fake. This is a difficult decision for him and that is why the narrator sees the effort Mr. Kelada is making over himself

Explain why the narrator judges Mr. Kelada in one way at the beginning of the story and why he judges him differently at the end. Give information from the story to support your answer.

Answer: Explaining cause and effect. The narrator changes his judgement of Mr. Kelada because of what Mr. Kelada does for Mrs. Ramsay. The narrator sees how hard it is for Mr. Kelada to say that he has been mistaken, and realizes that Mr. Kelada is, after all, a true English gentleman who wants to protect a lady's honor. As a result, the narrator does not entirely dislike Mr. Kelada anymore and judges him differently.

Winter 2015 F Exam

LOTS

1) Why is the narrator not happy about sharing a cabin with Mr. Kelada?

- a) He doesn't like his accent
- b) He doesn't like his name
- c) He doesn't like Americans
- d) He doesn't like diplomats.

Answer: b) He doesn't like his name.

2) What annoys the narrator about Mr. Kelada? (5 points)

- a) Mr. Kelada doesn't talk to him at dinner
- b) Mr. Kelada doesn't know how to play cards.
- c) Mr. Kelada spends a lot of time with him.
- d) Mr. Kelada likes to talk to Ms. Ramsay.

Answer: C) Mr. Kelada spends a lot of time with him.

3) Why does Mr. Ramsay challenge Mr. Kelada's knowledge of pearls? Give information from the story to support your answer. (10 points)

Answer: Answer: Mr. Ramsay is an opinionated man who has to show that he is always right. In addition he doesn't like Mr. Kelada and thinks like many people on the ship that he is Mr. Know All. Therefore he challenges Mr. Kelada in order to fail him and show that he doesn't really know everything. He wants to humiliate him.

(Uncovering motives, Explaining Cause and effect)

HOTS

1) In the first half of the story, the narrator says clearly how he feels about Mr. Kelada. How does this relate to the narrator's statement at the end of the story? Give information from the story to support your answer. (15 points)

Answer: Cause and Effect

At the beginning of the story the narrator describes why he dislikes Mr. K before he even meets him, by only hearing his name. He also describes small things that Mr. Kelada does that make the narrator dislike him. For example, the rhetorical questions Mr. Kelada asks about magic tricks and his habit of arguing about everything all the time.

By the end of the story, the narrator says that he doesn't completely dislike Mr. Kelada. That statement shows how Mr. K's gentlemanly behavior towards Mrs. Ramsay affected the narrator's judgment and perspective. He realizes appearances may be deceiving

ALTERNATIVE QUESTIONS

During the discussion at the dinner table, Mr. Kelada looked at the pearls closely and smiled. "He was about to speak. Suddenly he caught sight of Mrs. Ramsay's face... You could almost see the effort he was making over himself." What could be the result of the moral conflict Mr. Kelada is facing? (7 points)

Answer: Mr. Kelada had a conflict he could either insist on the fact the pearls are real and thus, show his knowledge and prove he know all about pearl. Yet, showing this would reveal the acts of Mrs. Ramsay and will damage her good name. Therefore, Mr. Kelada chooses to shame himself rather than hurt Mrs. Ramsay.

After the discussion about the pearls, "...Mrs. Ramsay retired to her stateroom with a headache." What is Mrs. Ramsay's attitude towards Mr. Kelada at the end of the story?

Answer: Mrs. Ramsay is grateful to Mr. Kelada. She convinces her husband to give the bet money back and writes him a thank you note. She knows he saved her good name.

Moed Bet 2014 F Exam

BRIDGING

"Judgment prevents us from seeing the good that lies beyond appearances." Wayne Dyer
Make a connection between the above quote and the story. Give information from the story to support your answer.

Answer: Most of us are quick to judge others. But, as the quote says, judgment prevents us from really getting to know others and seeing the good in them. This is exactly what the narrator does in the story. In the end, Kelada's helping Mrs. Ramsay by lying and losing his reputation proves that he is really a good man and that the narrator has misjudged him.

Supporting information: The narrator dislikes Mr. Kelada even before he meets him. // He dislikes his name and the look of his luggage. // When he meets him, he dislikes him because of his appearance and the way he talks. He also thinks he is very loud and seems to know about everything. // The narrator says at the end, "I did not entirely dislike Mr. Kelada.

Winter 2014 F Exam

LOTS

Which of the following adjectives did the narrator use to describe Mr. Kelada? (5 points)

- (i) unfriendly
- (ii) prejudiced
- (iii) modest
- (iv) chatty

Answer: (iv) chatty

Some people at the dinner table admire Mrs. Ramsay's pearls. How does she react? Give ONE answer. (5 points)

Answer: Mrs. Ramsay turns red / blushes. Mrs. Ramsay is embarrassed / frightened. Mrs. Ramsay puts her pearls inside her dress / tries to hide her pearls. She is anxious / worried / afraid she will be found out.

How do the personalities of Mr. Ramsay and Mr. Kelada differ? Give information from the Story to support your answer. (10 points)

Answer: Mr. Ramsay is not a sensitive person. He is arrogant and selfish. Supporting detail: He doesn't listen to what his wife says and doesn't even notice the look in her eyes when he gives the pearls to Mr. Kelada. On the other hand, Mr. Kelada is sensitive. Supporting details: He is aware of Mrs. Ramsay's feelings and tries to help her. He sees the look on her face and realizes that she is hiding something from her husband. / He puts Mrs. Ramsay's reputation before his own. He keeps her secret. Mr. Kelada is a true gentleman. Supporting detail: He lies to protect Mrs. Ramsay's secret. Mr. Ramsay, on the other hand, is not a gentleman. Supporting detail: He is insensitive to his wife's feelings. He doesn't understand that she doesn't want to take off the pearls and he doesn't see the look in her eyes when he gives the pearls to Mr. Kelada. Mr. Ramsay thinks he knows everything but is actually an ignorant man. Mr. Kelada is also a know-it-all but actually is knowledgeable. Supporting detail: The narrator tells us that Mr. Ramsay argued with Mr. Kelada about pearls although he had no idea about them, while Mr. Kelada did because he worked in the pearl business

HOTS

After the discussion about the pearls at the dinner table, Mr. Kelada "took out his pocketbook and from it a hundred-dollar bill. He handed it to Ramsay without a word... Mr. Kelada's hands were trembling." Why do you think Mr. Kelada's hands were trembling? Give information from the story to support your answer. (15 points)

Answer: Inferring / Explaining cause and effect

Mr. Kelada's hands were trembling because it was very difficult for him to say that he was wrong about the pearls. Supporting detail: He knew that he was right but he was protecting Mrs. Ramsay. He knew people would make fun of him and they did that evening.

ALTERNATIVE QUESTIONS

The narrator thinks that Mr. Kelada “would not drop a subject, however unimportant, till he had brought you round to his way of thinking.” Make a connection between this quote and Mr. Kelada’s behavior at the end of the story. Give information from the story to support your answer. (8 points)

Answer: This is not true at the end of the story because at the dinner table Mr. Kelada drops the subject of the pearl necklace the moment he sees Mrs. Ramsay's face.

At the end of the story Mr. Kelada says, “No one likes being made to look a perfect damned fool.” Explain what he means by this. (7 points)

Answer: At the end of the story Mr. Kelada does not want to appear as a fool especially when he is right. The title of the story is Mr. Know All. The people on the ship all thought that Mr. Kelada really did know everything. Everyone on board now thinks that he does not know everything.

Moed Bet 2013 F Exam

BRIDGING

“A person has to have time and patience, and to observe people carefully in order to learn their true secrets. Eventually, people say or do something that reveals who they really are.” – Adapted from A Writer’s Notebook by Somerset Maugham. Make a connection between the above quote and the story. Support your answer with information from the story.

Answer: The quote says that to understand a person's character you must observe him for a long time. Even though the people in Mr. Know All are on the ship for only fourteen days, they spend most of their time together. The narrator at first considers Mr. Kelada to be a self-centered showoff. Mrs. Ramsay he sees as charming and modest. But the narrator understands what both of them are really like after he sees the look on Mrs. Ramsay's face during the discussion about the pearls and after he hears Mr. Kelada lie about the pearls to save her. He understands that Mr. Kelada cares about others and is not self-centered, and that Mrs. Ramsay isn't honest, because she lied to her husband. Can relate to either Mr. Kelada or Mrs. Ramsay.

Summer 2013 F Exam

LOTS

When the narrator enters his cabin for the first time, he sees Mr. Kelada's possessions.

Explain what the narrator thinks about one of these (5 points)

Answer: At least one of the following: He thinks there are too many labels on his suitcases. / His brushes are dirty. / His brushes are too fancy. (ebony with his monogram in gold) / His wardrobe trunk is too big. / He owns expensive perfume (Monsieur Coty).

After first talking to Mr. Kelada, the narrator says, "King George has many strange subjects."

What does he mean by this? (5 points)

- (i) Mr. Kelada doesn't like England.
- (ii) Mr. Kelada doesn't speak English.
- (iii) Mr. Kelada doesn't look British.
- (iv) Mr. Kelada doesn't have a British passport.

Answer: iii) Mr. Kelada doesn't look British.

How do the narrator's feelings about Mr. Kelada change from the beginning to the end of the story? (10 points)

Answer: At the beginning of the story he said that he did not like Mr. Kelada. He thought he was a loud showoff. At the end he said that he did not entirely dislike him. His feelings about him changed because he saw that Mr. Kelada was a sensitive person who was ready to lose a hundred dollars and look like a fool to help Mrs. Ramsay.

HOTS

What do we learn about Mr. Ramsay's character from the story? Give information from the story to support your answer. (15 points)

Answer: Inferring. Mr. Ramsay is really the ignorant showoff in the story. He is also insensitive to the feelings of others, especially his wife's feeling. Answer should be supported by one or more of the following: He pretends to know about pearls but really couldn't tell that his wife's pearls weren't fake. / He doesn't notice that Mrs. Ramsay doesn't want to take off her pearls. / He doesn't see how frightened she is. / He is not aware of where she got the pearls from

ALTERNATIVE QUESTIONS

While Mr. Kelada is examining the pearls, Mrs. Ramsay's face How does this affect Mr. Kelada?

Answer: Mr. Kelada understands that Mrs. Ramsay knows her pearls are real. He realizes that she has kept a secret from her husband but he decides to protect her and pretends he has made a mistake about the pearls.

How does our opinion of Mrs. Ramsay change at this point in the story? Give information from the story to support your answer. (8 points)

Answer: In the beginning we think she is a nice, modest lady. Our opinion changes at this point in the story because we learn that she lied to her husband about her necklace. We think that she is not so innocent and that she is keeping something from her husband.

Winter 2013 F Exam

BRIDGING

Somerset Maugham has an ability to see human weaknesses. He's realistic about people and knows well that human beings are not all good or bad. For this reason he doesn't praise or criticize them too much. – Adapted from The Collected Stories of Somerset Maugham

Make a connection between the above quote and the story. Support your answer with information from the story.

Answer: Mr. Kelada: Good qualities: He is sociable, generous, willing to share his things, an organizer. He is cultured. He has a very kind and human side. He is ready to look like a fool in order to help a woman he hardly knows. He is a true gentleman. Bad qualities: Mr. Kelada has many weaknesses: self-important, arrogant and bossy, argumentative, vain. He loves showing how smart, rich and cultured he is. He talks a lot.

Good qualities: She is modest. She has a nice sense of humor. She has pleasant manners.

Bad qualities: She lies to her husband. She is willing to let Mr. Kelada lose his honor

Winter 2012 F Exam

BRIDGING

Somerset Maugham felt that his stories had to have a moral and teach people tolerance, wisdom and compassion. Explain how this statement is relevant to "Mr. Know-All". Support your answer with examples from the story.

Answer: This quote definitely applies to the story "Mr. Know-All". First of all, we can see the story has a moral: Don't judge a book by its cover. People are not always what they seem and we should not be so quick to judge people, because they may surprise us for the good (and for the bad). The narrator from the start is prejudiced. He tells us repeatedly that he was prepared to dislike the man who shared the cabin with him because of his name, the tags on his luggage and his physical features. He believes Mr. Kelada is not a real gentleman ("I did not like Mr. Kelada."). However, Mr. Kelada is not an easy person to like. He is nosy, bossy, loud and domineering. He is, however, shown to have a heart of gold when he saves the honor of a lady on the ship and loses his reputation as someone who is never wrong. He makes a bet about the authenticity of Mr. Ramsay's pearls and, when he sees she is about to be exposed for having a lover, he shows compassion for her and purposely loses the bet

giving up on the \$100 in addition to his reputation. Unlike Mrs. Ramsay's husband, Kelada is aware that she is uncomfortable with the way the conversation is going. Despite his obvious faults, he is shown to be very wise in the ways of people. In addition, the narrator changes at the end of the story and becomes more tolerant of Mr. Kelada ("...I did not entirely dislike Mr. Kelada").

Moed Bet 2011 F Exam

LOTS

"I was prepared to dislike Max Kelada even before I knew him." Give TWO reasons why the narrator dislikes Mr. Kelada even before he meets him. (5 points)

Answer: His suitcases are too big. / His suitcases have too many labels on them. / He has a Middle Eastern name. / He has too many expensive toiletries in the bathroom. / His brushes look dirty.

How is Mr. Kelada's profession relevant to the story? (5 points)

Answer: Mr. Kelada is in the pearl business. He claims to be an expert in pearls and therefore he is the only one aboard ship who can tell if Mrs. Ramsay's necklace is real.

What does the narrator understand when Mrs. Ramsay says she can't undo the necklace?

Answer: The narrator understands that Mrs. Ramsay does not want to take off her necklace because she doesn't want Mr. Kelada to examine it. She is afraid that if she does Mr. Kelada will discover that the pearls are real and her husband will realize that she is lying about where she got the necklace.

HOTS

If you had been on the ship with Mr. Kelada, would you have disliked him as much as the narrator did? Explain. (15 points)

Answer: Distinguishing Different perspectives / Comparing and contrasting

The narrator's opinion of Mr. Kelada is very negative but I would have liked him. The narrator is very prejudiced against him because of what he thinks is his background. He also thinks he is a show-off. I think he is well-read and a good conversationalist. He is warm and friendly and tries to organize activities on the ship. He also turns out to be a sensitive, kind man ready to sacrifice his reputation to save Mrs. Ramsay's marriage.

OR The narrator's opinion of Mr. Kelada is very negative. He describes him as a show-off and as a pushy, vulgar person. He says he tries to control every conversation and all the activities on the ship. I agree with the narrator. I dislike Kelada's efforts to pretend he is an English gentleman when he obviously is not. I don't like people who try to pretend they are something they are not

ALTERNATIVE QUESTIONS

At the dinner table there is a discussion about cultured pearls and real pearls. How can the difference between cultured pearls and real pearls be seen as a metaphor in this story? Explain in connection to at least ONE of the characters.

Answer: Cultured pearls are made to LOOK like real pearls but they are NOT. They are an imitation. That is, things are not always what they seem to be. We can see this is true not only of pearls but of certain characters in the story as well: i. Mr. Kelada: The narrator at first considers him loud, vulgar and definitely not an "English gentleman", but Mr. K's sacrifice of his own pride to save the marriage of Mrs. Ramsay reveals him to be a true gentleman, quite different from the impression he had made on the narrator at first. He turns out to be a "real pearl", a truly decent and kind human being. ii. Mrs. Ramsay: The narrator sees her as modest and innocent but she turns out to be not quite as innocent as she seems to be: she's carrying on an affair behind Mr. Ramsay's back!

Summer 2011 F Exam

BRIDGING

"... I had an acute power of observation and it seemed to me that I could see a great many things that other people missed. I could put down in clear terms what I saw." – from *The Summing Up* by Somerset Maugham Relate this quote to Mr. Know-All. Support your answer with examples from the story.

Answer: We can see Somerset Maugham's "acute power of observation" reflected in two characters in *Mr. Know-All*: the narrator and Mr. Kelada. The narrator (although he doesn't seem too observant when it comes to his own prejudices) is a man who notices things about people that others in the story don't. For example, he sees that Mrs. Ramsay is in distress when Mr. Kelada asks to see her necklace, whereas her own husband doesn't seem to notice this at all. He also describes the passengers on the ship in great detail, in particular Mr. Kelada, to the point where we feel we can see him and know what he's like: his "exuberant" gestures, his "lustrous" dark eyes, his pushiness, his arrogance. But Mr. Kelada, too, is an observant gentleman: from Mrs. Ramsay's behavior at the dinner table he understands very quickly that she has something to hide and this is the reason why he agrees to lose face and "admit" the necklace is an imitation.