

Whose Face Do You See? Pre-Reading Characterisation

Before reading the story answer the following question:

“Whose face do you see?”

1. In which circumstances would you ask this question? Choose the best option:

When...

- a. Talking about a dream or a nightmare
- b. Looking at a photograph
- c. Looking at a mirror
- d. Looking through a pair of binoculars
- e.

Look at this picture. Whose face do you see?



The story revolves around three main characters: Marianne, her mother, Julie Sams, and her father, Ant. The three of them are dealing with a very difficult moment in their lives.

2. Read this extract from the story:

I don't know what I am. Not a person. Not a picture, although a lot of people look at me. Perhaps I am a window, or a decoration, or even a mirror.

People come in and out of the room where I lay. I can't move so I don't see them very well but sometimes, someone comes up close in front of me and then I can see them properly.

- a. Who do you think is speaking?
- b. What do you think has happened?
- c. Where is she?

3. Here is another short extract.

She's always holding things up in front of me- a teddy bear, a CD cover, clothes, photographs of people. She gets very talkative sitting next to me, ...

- a. Why, do you think, the woman does all these things?
- b. Which of the senses do you associate this passage to: Hearing? Sight? Feeling? Taste? or Smell? Justify your choice.

4. Hospitals are places that can make us feel uncomfortable. Marianne's mother says:

"Hospitals have always made me anxious"
"Surely if you go into a hospital you'll fall ill and die yourself"
"This hospital is different."
"This hospital is warm and smells of disinfectant and boiled cabbage- school meals' smell"

All the sentences show a change in Mother's feelings towards hospitals. Grade the nouns from the box according to her opinion.

familiarity acceptance anxiety apprehension conformism fear