

Grade 11 English

Identities

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Vocabulary Check

Match the following words with their meanings.

1. recrimination	a) cluttered, disheveled
2. accentuate	b) determined
3. accost	c) ill-fated
4. serpent	d) opaque, murky
5. meander	e) to highlight
6. hapless	f) snake, viper
7. glint	g) to confront
8. unkempt	h) to move about from place to place aimlessly

9. intent	i) accusation
10. obscure	j) to shimmer
11. adrift	k) disoriented

Discussion Questions

1. What do the following symbolize in the story?

- Grey stone gates
- The wallet
- The protagonist's unshaven face

2. Discuss the story's possible themes.

3. What type(s) of conflict (man versus man, man versus self, man versus nature, etc.) can be found in *Identities*?

4. Which other paragraph or paragraphs does the following paragraph tie in with? What does it reveal about the protagonist's relationship with his family?

“There have been no trees or drifting leaves, no stands covered in produce, no salmon tins, but time has run away with him. His wife, he realizes, will have returned from bridge, his children gathered for supper. He also knows that, at first, they have explained his absence on a neighbour's hospitality and gin. However, by the time he can return, annoyance will have blossomed into alarm. His safe return will, he knows from childhood and years of being locked in domestic grief, degenerate to recriminations and apology.”

5. How are the gang people described? What role do they play in the story?

5. Discuss the protagonist's encounter with the police officer. Why is it ironic?

6. Find instances of the following literary devices in the story.

- Personification
- Foreshadowing

Writing

Write an essay on the following topic.

How do you think stereotypes influence people's behaviors in society?

Are these influences positive or negative?