

The Wife of His Youth – Worksheet

Questions and Answers - The Wife of His Youth – Set 1

1. Who are the main characters in The Wife of His Youth?
 - The main characters in the story are Mr. Ryder and his wife Liza Jane.
2. Who is the protagonist of the story The Wife of His Youth?
 - The protagonist of the story is Mr. Ryder, a man of mixed race.
3. Is The Wife of His Youth a true story?
 - The Wife of His Youth is not a true story and is a work of fiction. The settings are written to draw inspiration from the transition of slaves into free people in the continent of North America back in the 18th century.
4. What is the main idea or theme behind The Wife of His Youth?
 - The main theme behind this story is that colour and class prejudice not only exists between white and colored people but could exist even among members of Black and mixed-race.
5. What happened in the start of story The Wife of His Youth?
 - Mr. Ryder is planning to throw a grand ball in order to propose to Mrs. Molly Dixon.
6. What is the moral of The Wife of His Youth?
 - In the story, the author demonstrates the importance of overcoming divisions to forge solidarity between oppressed people.
7. What is the Blue Veins society?
 - The Blue Veins society is an association of mixed-race people who join together to try to improve their social conditions.

Questions and Answers - The Wife of His Youth – Set 2

8. What is the symbolism of the difference between the oppressed people and the privileged classes?
 - The ball that Mr. Ryder is planning as an occasion to propose marriage to Molly Dixon, symbolizes the refined social world that Mr. Ryder occupies now which is a sharp contrast to the brutal oppression faced by the black community in the era of slavery.
9. What happens at the end of The Wife of His Youth?

- Ryder acknowledges and accepts his wife, Liza Jane as advised by the fellow members of the Blue Vein Society.

10. What does the accent of and the presentation of Liza Jane represent in The Wife of His Youth?

- Liza Jane's accent and ageing represents the physical impact of slavery on African Americans during the 1800s. Not only that, her resolution to search for her husband without losing faith represents her resilience.

11. Write a brief summary of the wife of his youth.

- The Wife of His Youth is a short story about a man whose wife finds him after searching for 25 years after slavery was abolished and his conflict in whether or not to accept her.

12. Why is Mr Ryder throwing a ball in the wife of his youth?

- Ryder throws a ball for the Blue Veins society in honor of Molly Dixon whom he intends to propose to.

13. Who was the husband of Liza Jane at the end of the wife of his youth?

- Sam Taylor, the protagonist of the story is revealed to be the husband of Liza Jane at the end of the wife of his youth.

14. What was Mr Ryder's attitude toward Liza Jane when he first meets her?

- He immediately identifies who she is but is conflicted with his emotions. He does not embrace his former wife immediately and instead probes her with questions.

15. What is the name of Mr Ryder's other alias in the wife of his youth?

- Mr. Ryder is called the dean of the Blue Veins.

16. What is the historical context of the short story the wife of his youth?

- In the short story "The Wife of His Youth", the author explores the concept of race consciousness experienced among those of mixed race. Until this time, mixed races were quite rare and were an oddity because of the existence of systemic slavery. Mixed race marriages were unheard of in North America. In this story the whole point of focus is around the troubles and mental choices faced by the mixed race.

17. What is Mr Ryder's dilemma in the wife of his youth?

- Mr. Ryder's key dilemma is whether or not to acknowledge her as his former wife. If he does not, he would be a cruel man. Accepting her would mean completely reordering his identity and life plans.

18. Who is Liza Jane?

- Liza Jane is the wife of Mr. Ryder from his past before the civil war when she was a slave.

