

**BVP LKR**

**CLASS-12, SUBJECT-ENGLISH**

**DATE—22/06/2021,TEACHER-L.P.SINGH**

**On The Face Of It**

**--- Susan Hill**

### **Summary**

**The play 'On The Face of It' is about the friendship between an old man and a young boy who is withdrawn and defiant. Both of them had some physical impairment but the outlook of each of them towards life was very different. The old man had a positive outlook towards life whereas the young boy with the sacred face had become withdrawn and pessimistic. The play deals with the issue of disabled people. It does not deal with actual pain or inconvenience due to a physical impairment which distresses a disabled person. It rather deals with the behaviour of the people all around him. People discard the disabled person as a useless limb and refuse to accept him as a part and parcel of society. It makes him alienated from the human society and he wants to live in seclusion.**

**There are two disabled persons in the play, Derry, a young boy of fourteen who bears a burnt face, and Mr Lamb, an old man with a tin leg. Probably**

**Mr Lamb had served in the army where one of his legs was blown off in the war. Presently, he stays in a big house and has a big garden. He even keeps the gate of the garden open. Everyone is liked and welcomed in the garden. Most of his time is spent in reading books or sitting in the garden. He had, in fact, adjusted himself with his physical impairment, and had rather got over it with the passage of time. He has learnt how to keep himself steady on the ladder while plucking apples from the branches. When he goes down in the street, children call him 'Lamey-Lamb' but he is undisturbed, taking it as fun. Thus, Mr Lamb has a jolly good time.**

**Derry, on the other hand, suffered from a tremendous sense of inferiority complex due to his burnt face by acid. He was always conscious that his face was bad, terrible or the ugliest thing. People were afraid of him. He tries to escape people. He allows himself to be alienated from the world.**

**Derry, by chance meets Mr Lamb in his garden. The old man devises ways and means to overcome his feelings of isolation and disappointment. He even helps the boy to come out of his seclusion and infuses in him the courage and determination to live on successfully in this world without bothering about what others say and feel about him. Derry got impressed and so, he visited the garden again**

**to meet Mr Lamb despite stiff resistance from his mother. Derry, who regarded Mr Lamb as a crazy old man, initially was filled with love and admiration for him towards the end of the play. This becomes quite obvious as he wept over the death of Mr Lamb.**

**Thus, the interaction between Derry and Mr Lamb had been short but the impact on Derry was very powerful. The old man installed a new hope in Derry to live life on his own terms.**

**Thus, “Handicap is something immaterial and will not affect happiness or hamper an unable person's progress in life.”**