

NORTH-EX PUBLIC SCHOOL (Session 2020-2021)

CLASS: XII

SUBJECT: ENGLISH CORE

CHAPTER: 1- THE THIRD LEVEL

BOOK: VISTAS

*Note- Before attempting the question and answers you must check the link given below which will help you understand the chapter thoroughly.

You can download the assignment or if you do not have the facility to get printout then you can ask your ward to copy the assignment in a simple notebook and must do question and answers in the notebook.

Links

<https://youtu.be/fM37eF7xEJQ>

Part - 1 <https://youtu.be/QNGJr9qpHvw>

Part - 2 <https://youtu.be/18jZ4JwiDOK>

1. What does the third level refer to?

The third level refers to the subway of the Grand Central Station that takes passengers to Galesburg, Illinois. The third level on the station was a medium of escape for Charley, the narrator from the harsh realities of modern life. It provided him a base where he could interweave fantasy and reality.

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2. Would Charley ever go back to the ticket-counter on the third level to buy tickets to Galesburg for himself and his wife?

No, Charley would never go back to the ticket-counter on the third level to buy tickets to Galesburg for himself and his wife because third level was his imagination.

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Reading with Insight

3. Do you think that the third level was a medium of escape for Charley? Why?

Yes, I think that the third level was a medium of escape for Charley. Life in modern world is full of insecurity, fear, war, worries and stress. Man has to confront them all the times. The harsh realities of life make living quite unpleasant and even unbearable. So he wants to escape into a wishful world. Charley talks to his psychiatrist friend about the third level at the Grand Central Station. His friend calls it “a walking-dream wish fulfillment”. Charley possesses an escapist tendency. Even his stamp collecting is a ‘temporary refuge from reality’.

2. What do you infer from Sam’s letter to Charley?

The way Charley came across Sam’s letter was surrounded in mystery. Among his oldest first-day covers, he found an envelope. The envelope containing the letter bore the address of his grandfather. It was written on July 18, 1894. The postmark showed the Picture of President Garfield. Generally the first day covers have blank papers in them, but this one contained a letter. The letter was addressed to Charley. In the letter Sam had informed Charley that he was living on the third level. He had also told Charley and his wife to keep looking for the third level. Clearly, the letter was a product of Charley’s imagination.

3. ‘The modern world is full of insecurity, fear, war, worry and stress.’ What are the ways in which we attempt to overcome them?

We can overcome the anxieties and insecurities bred by our inevitable existence in the modern world by getting involved in some practical and beneficial activities. Cultivating hobbies, spending time with family and friends, going on trips and excursions, pursuing meditation and exercises help us live a balanced and healthy life. Reading good books is equivalent to having good friends with great insight. They not only enrich us with the vast store of knowledge but also help us to learn from other’s experience and stay rooted to some basic qualities of humanity. Joining hobby classes or gym, attending social events like birthdays and weddings, going for outdoor games, interacting meaningfully through social-networking sites and writing diaries etc can also help us relieve our worries and stay focussed and disciplined in life. Simple activities like listening to music, playing with pets, an occasional dinner out, watching cinema or plays or going to places like parks etc can go a long way in helping us get rid of stress, boredom and insecurities.

4. Do you see an intersection of time and space in the story?

Yes, there are certain instances in the story that show an intersection of time and space. Firstly, the first two levels of Grand Central Station were located in the present time while the third level existed in the 1890s. Secondly, Charley and his wife, Louisa, live in the present time yet he rushes to get old currency to buy two tickets to go to the Galesburg of 1894. Further, the old

architecture of the platform at the third level is different from the modern platforms of the first two levels. Besides, the archaic manner of dressing by the people, and the newspaper, The World, dated June 11, 1984 also overlaps with Charley's real time world and existence. Lastly, the letter that was mailed to Charley's grandfather on 18th July, 1894 highlights the intersection of time and space as the sender (Charley's friend Sam) and receiver (Charley himself) belong to the present time.

Assignment # 5

- 1. How does Jack Finney try to establish reality at the outset?**
- 2. How did Charlie, his wife and his friends react to the psychiatrist's observation?**
- 3. What curious experience did Charlie have one day when he went to Grand Central to take the subway?**
- 4. Who was Sam Weiner? What had happened to him?**
- 5. What did Charlie learn about Sam from the stamp and coin store?**
- 6. How did Charlie make sure that he was not in the present time?**
- 7. Why did the booking clerk refuse to accept the money from Charlie?**

ANSWERS

1. How does Jack Finney try to establish reality at the outset?

Jack Finney's story 'The Third Level' interweaves between fantasy and reality. The Third Level is a medium of escape for Charley from the present harsh realities of modern life which is full of insecurity, fear, war, worry and tension. It is a safe route for Charley to go to Galesburg in order to escape from trouble. So he tries to purchase two tickets for Galesburg, Illinois from the Third Level at Grand Central. The Third Level is merely a fantasy that exists in Charley's mind only.

His psychiatrist friend, Sam calls it a waking-dream-wish-fulfillment. In reality Charley fails to cope up with the modern world which is full of fears and worries. He just wants to escape. He takes it for a reality and plans to go to Galesburg. He even exchanges his new bills of three hundred dollars for old style bills. But he is never able to find the Third Level. It is because the Third Level has existed in his fantasy only. Hence it can be well ascertained that the Third-Level is a medium of escape for Charley. It is only his escapist fantasy.

2. How did Charlie, his wife and his friends react to the psychiatrist's observation?

Psychiatrist Friend's reaction

When Charley shared his third level experience with Sam, his psychiatrist friend, the latter explained it to be Charley's waking dream wish fulfillment. He further explained it could have happened because of his unhappiness.

Charley's wife's reaction

When Charley's wife heard that Charley was unhappy, she got angry as she thought he was unhappy on account of her; but then Sam explained to her he meant insecurity, fear, war, and worry of the modern world.

Charley's reaction

Charley himself was amazed and flabbergasted at this experience.

3. What curious experience did Charlie have one day when he went to Grand Central to take the subway?

Everything was considered unusual at the third level for Charlie. The room was smaller. There were some ticket windowpanes. The lights were shadowy and flickering because they were open-flame gas-lights. There were alloy spittoons on the grounds. The third level was

remarkably a means of escape for Charlie who was also a sufferer of the stressful life of the contemporary age

4. Who was Sam Weiner? What had happened to him?

Sam was a psychiatrist. He was also a friend of Charley. When Charley fantasied about the Third Level at Grand Central Station, he visited Sam for consultation.

One day he finds a letter from his friend Sam who had gone missing recently. Sam wrote that he always wanted to believe in the idea of third level and now that he is there himself, he encourages Charley and Louisa to never stop looking for it.

5. What did Charlie learn about Sam from the stamp and coin store?

From his grandfather's collection, Charley found an envelope. It had a letter from Sam the psychiatrist that asked Charley to join him in 1894's Galesburg as it was a wonderful place to live in.

Later from the stamp and coin store, Charley got to know that Sam had bought eight hundred dollars' worth of old currency. Sam had already gone there in 1894's Galesburg. Charley hoped Sam would set up a hay and feed business in old Galesburg.

6. How did Charlie make sure that he was not in the present time?

He made sure he was not in the present time by looking at the newspaper from a store. The newspaper was called The World that has been stopped from publishing many years ago and was last published on June 11, 1894. This also confirmed all his previous doubts.

7. Why did the booking clerk refuse to accept the money from Charlie?

The booking clerk refuses to accept the money because the notes Charley had given him were of old style. He did not pay in the currency notes that were in circulation in 1894. ... When Charley took out the modern currency to pay for the two tickets to Galesburg, the ticket clerk accused him of trying to cheat him.