

Curative Shorts Questions

Once More To The Lake

By E. B. White

Notes About Answering Questions Curatively: These questions are meant to deepen your understanding of the story and its curative aspects for you, others and the world around you. They are also meant to spark recall and cognition. All questions will not be reviewed in the group and answers do not have to be shared. Curative Reading goes beyond understanding a story from pure literary analysis to a place where your imagination gets to reshape a meaning that supports you and inspires you to move forward through challenging change. There are no right or wrong answers, only Curiously Curative ones. Consider re-reading the story aloud as a way to engage your vagus nerve and place you into a parasympathetic healing mode.

“The vacation was a success and from then on none of us ever thought there was any place in the world like that lake in Maine.” Did you have an experience like this with a special place growing up, or in your adult life? If so, write a line or two about it and use the following sentence from the story to spark your memory. “It is strange how much you can remember about places like that once you allow your mind to return into the grooves which lead back.”

Are you a lake person or a salt-water person and why?

“I began to sustain the illusion that he was I, and therefore, by simple transposition, that I was my father.” Put yourself in the shoes of our narrator and experience this illusion as him. Travel back in time in your own imagination. Who do you select to travel with? Where do you go?

“There had always been three tracks to choose from in choosing which track to walk in; now the choice was narrowed down to two... I missed terribly the middle alternative.” Is there a “track” or “middle alternative” from your past that you miss? If so, write a line or two about it.

Why else would the people who drove up for Sunday dinner be turned away other than the fact there wasn't enough chicken?

“Peace and goodness and jollity.” Where do you find this today?

What is the one thing that is “wrong now” in the story?

What is the role of the red squirrel in the morning?

“As he buckled the swollen belt suddenly my groin felt the chill of death.” What does this last sentence mean to you?

Has reading this story been curative for you in any way? If so, write a line or two about why.