

Questions:

1. What is the summary of this literary piece?
2. What lesson does the author want to convey?
3. What is the relationship of this story to the current time?

Answers:

1. Summary

The Gordon's Head by Anne Terry White is a short story about a young girl named Ellen, who lives with her mother in a house on the outskirts of a small New England town. One day, Ellen's mother discovers a strange object buried in the garden, which turns out to be a head made of a rare and valuable type of granite known as "Gordon's head."

The discovery of the head brings much attention to Ellen's family, as people from all over come to see the head and offer to buy it for large sums of money. However, Ellen's mother refuses to sell it and instead decides to donate it to a nearby museum.

As time passes, Ellen's mother becomes ill and eventually passes away, leaving Ellen to face the world on her own. Despite the loss of her mother and the head, Ellen learns to cope with her grief and begins to build a new life for herself.

The story is a coming-of-age tale that explores themes of loss, grief, and the power of material objects. It highlights the importance of family, community, and personal growth in the face of adversity. The Gordon's Head is a poignant reminder of the

complexities of life and the ways in which we must navigate them.

2. Lesson

The Gordon's Head by Anne Terry White teaches us several lessons. First, it reminds us of the importance of family and community in times of loss and grief. Ellen, the main character, loses her mother but is able to find strength and support through the people around her.

Second, the story highlights the dangers of materialism and the obsession with material possessions. Ellen's mother refuses to sell the valuable Gordon's head despite the large sums of money offered, which shows that material wealth is not the most important thing in life.

Third, the story shows the power of personal growth and resilience. Ellen is able to cope with the loss of her mother and the Gordon's head, and begins to build a new life for herself. Her experience teaches us that it is possible to move forward after loss and to find happiness and fulfillment in life.

Overall, The Gordon's Head teaches us the importance of valuing the people and relationships in our lives over material possessions, and the power of resilience and personal growth in the face of adversity.

3. Relationship of this story to the current time

The Gordon's Head by Anne Terry White was published in 1948 and depicts a specific time and place, but its message and themes remain relevant today.

One of the significant themes of the story is the danger of materialism and the need to prioritize relationships and personal connections over possessions and material wealth. This message is still relevant in today's world, where many people tend to place a high value on material possessions and financial success, often neglecting their personal relationships and emotional well-being.

Another message of the story that is still applicable today is the importance of community and support in times of loss and grief. The story highlights how Ellen, the main character, finds strength and support through the people around her during her time of need. This is a message that is still relevant in our current time, where people face various challenges, and the support of family, friends, and community is essential to cope with these difficulties.

Furthermore, the story emphasizes the power of resilience and personal growth in the face of adversity. This message is also relevant today, where people face many challenges and obstacles, and the ability to persevere and grow through these experiences is critical.

Overall, The Gordon's Head has a timeless message and themes that are still relevant today. Its emphasis on the importance of relationships, community, resilience, and personal

growth makes it a valuable read for people of all ages, even in our modern times.