

A Moral Problem

While we are waiting for him I'll set you a moral problem. You know what a moral problem is? It's a problem about right and wrong. I'll get you buggers thinking if it's the last thing I do. Now listen. There are four huts. Now there are two huts on one side of a stream and two huts on the other side. On one side a girl lives in one hut and a wise man in the other. On the other side Tom lives in one hut and Archie in the other. Also there is a ferryman that runs a boat across the river. The girl loves Archie but Archie doesn't love the girl. And Tom loves the girl but the girl doesn't go much on Tom.

One day the girl hears that Archie -who doesn't love her- is going to America, so she decides to try once more to persuade him to take her with him. So listen what she does. She goes to the ferryman and asks him to take her across. The ferryman says, I will, but you must take off all your clothes. Now the girl doesn't know what to do so she asks the wise man for advice, and he says that she must do what she thinks best. So the girl thinks about it and being so in love she decides to strip. So the girl strips and the ferryman takes her over -he doesn't touch her or anything- just takes her over and she rushes to Archie's hut to implore him to take her with him and to declare her love again. Now Archie promises to take her with him and so she sleeps with him the night. But when she wakes up in the morning he's gone. She's left alone. So she goes across to Tom and explains her plight and asks for help. But soon ever he knew what she'd done, he chucked her out, see? And there she is. Poor little girl. Left alone with no clothes and no friends and no hope of staying alive. Now this is the question, think about it, don't answer quick. Who is the most responsible person for her plight? Now she can't do anything. She's finished. Now, who is to blame?

QUESTIONS.

1. How many huts are there in the story?
2. Who is going to America?
3. On what condition does the ferryman take the girl across the river?
4. What makes you think Archie isn't honest?
5. Do you think Tom behaves like a good friend? Why?
6. Take out from the text all the adverbial clauses of time.
7. Vocabulary. Explain the meaning of:
 - Plight:
 - Strip:
 - Advice:
 - Rush:
 - Blame: