

“Paid-up Member” Questions

1. How is the reader supposed to feel about Simon’s character? What are some clues that are given by the author to sway our opinion?
2. Explain Simon’s motivation for murdering Dickie. What was Simon’s ultimate goal?
3. Read the poem, “In Flanders Fields” on the next page. What do you think Mary and Dickie liked about it? What do you think made Simon dislike it?
4. Most stories with surprise endings contain foreshadowing – a hint of events to come later. How is the ending of “Paid-up Member” foreshadowed?
5. Dramatic irony occurs when the reader knows something a character does not know. Situational irony occurs when what happens is the opposite of what is expected. Identify one example of dramatic irony and one example of situational irony and explain why both are so crucial to understanding the story.
6. How would the story have been different if it was told from a different perspective such as Dickie, Hank, or third person omniscient?

“In Flanders Fields” by John McCrae

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.