

FUMC ESL 2-1-2021 High Intermediate and Advanced Online Lessons

Introduce yourself. Tell where you are from and where you live now. Tell one thing you remember from previous lessons about Arthur or Maddy.

Part 3: Arthur

When Arthur gets home from the cemetery, he pulls the mail from the box and brings it into the kitchen, then tosses it all into the trash: junk mail. What a waste! He pours himself a cup of cold coffee from the pot on the stove and sits at the kitchen table. He and Nola used to drink coffee all day long. He finishes the coffee and rinses out his cup, turns it upside down in the drainer. He uses the same tan-colored cup with the green stripe all the time: for coffee, for water, for his occasional nip of Jack Daniel's, even for his Metamucil. Nola liked variety in all things; but he doesn't care, when it comes to dishes. Or clothes. Get the job done, that's all.

Questions:

1. List the things Arthur uses his tan-colored cup for? What do these items tell you about Arthur?
2. How does Arthur feel about variety in his life?
3. Do you think Arthur drank cold coffee when his wife was alive?

Here comes Gordon, the cat, walking stiff legged toward him, but looking for Nola. Still. "She's not here," Arthur tells him, and pats his lap, inviting the cat to jump up. Sometimes Gordon will come, but mostly he wanders off. Arthur has heard that elephants grieve, seems like cats do, too.

After a dinner of canned stew that looks like dog food, he heads upstairs to the unevenly made bed. She'd be pleased he does that, makes the bed. And surprisingly, so is he. There's a satisfaction in doing those things Nola used to do. The toilet seat, though, UP. And there are other grim pleasures since Nola's gone. A cigar right at the kitchen table. Slim Jims for dinner. What he wants on TV, all the time.

Questions:

1. What does Arthur think about cats?
2. What things about Arthur's life make you feel like he has a sad life?
3. What are some of Arthur's "grim pleasures"? Why are they grim?
4. We all make sacrifices when we live with someone. We don't do some things we might like to do. Is there anything you would do differently if you lived alone?

He thinks about that young girl. He feels bad for having scared her. If he sees her again, he'll apologize. He pictures her sauntering over. They could talk. He could introduce her to Nola. The girl would probably think he was crazy, talking to his dead wife. But the girl has her own strange ways. He might ask her if it didn't hurt, that ring in her nose. Why do pretty girls make holes in their face for rings and things?

Questions:

- 1-What does Arthur think is strange about the girl?
- 2-The author showed us Arthur at the cemetery and now Arthur at his house. Tell what things we learn about Arthur from watching him at his house? What do these things tell us about Arthur's character?

Idioms: Students take turns answering these questions.

1. If your lawyer tells you that you have an open and shut case, does he mean that it is really complex or straight forward without complications?
2. If someone is very arrogant and disdainful, are they haughty or naughty?
3. If your best girlfriend is chatty, is she talkative or shy?
4. If your brother skedaddles, does he tell on you or does he disappear quickly?
5. If you overeat on a regular basis, do you look gaunt?
6. Is a shockwave the same as a tidal wave?
7. If you won \$5,000, would you go home and rant about it?
8. If the doctor is a quack, does that mean he likes to hunt ducks?
9. What's the difference between a stowaway and a throwaway?
10. If she rubs you the wrong way, do you like her?
11. If someone leaves you in the lurch, should you call a cab?
12. If you're all thumbs, can you still wear gloves?
13. My friend is a basket case when she has to speak to crowds. Do you think getting her a new basket would help?
14. If you're asked to bite the bullet, should you expect something bad to happen next?
15. If you are chomping at the bit to start your new job, does it mean you are eager and ready to start, or nervous and anxious about it?
16. If I tell you that you can buy something for a song, would you start singing?
17. If your friend let's the cat out of the bag, should you try to put it back in?

Discuss:

- A. Are you a chatty person or do you usually sit quietly when in a social group?
- B. Were you a naughty child or were you the one who always behaved?
- C. Some people can do lots of things with their hands, such as sewing, crafts, playing a musical instrument or creating art. Are you one of these people, are you all thumbs.
- D. Have you ever been left in the lurch?
- E. Different doctors sometimes give different advice or treatment suggestions. How can you tell if a doctor is a quack?
- F. What do you rant about?
- G. Do you many people in your country own a gun?

