

FUMC ESL 2-4-2021 High Intermediate and Advanced Online Lesson

Introduce yourself. Tell where you are from and where you live now. Choose one of the questions below and answer it. Teachers, encourage the students to choose different questions.

1. Have you ever said or done anything you'd like to **take back**?
2. Talk about a time you were **taken by surprise**.
3. Describe a place you've been that **took your breath away**.
4. What is something you've **taken an interest in** lately?
5. Have you ever **taken out** a loan?
6. Have you ever **taken someone under your wing**?
7. What is something you'd like to **take home** with you when you leave the U.S.?
8. If someone said something bad about your country, would you **take it personally**?
9. Are you the type of person that **takes the initiative** to get things done.
10. There is a saying, "You have to **take the bitter with the sweet**." What do you think this means? Can you think of a time in your life when you took the bitter with the sweet? Do you have a similar saying in your language?

Part 4 Arthur and Maddy

Arthur is feeling a little subdued today, but as he approaches the cemetery, his pace picks up. He's brought peanut butter and grape jelly for lunch today, and one of those little fruit cups and a thermos of milk on account of the sticky peanut butter. When the day comes when he can no longer enjoy peanut butter and jelly, he'll be ready to reside in heaven with Nola. He hopes there really is a heaven. He hopes there's a way he can see her again. How he would love to see her again right now! If only he could, he wouldn't tell anyone. It would be his and God's little secret, but, oh, what he wouldn't give to see that face alive again just for an instant. It would sustain him for the rest of his days.

1. What does it mean when it says Arthur's pace picked up?
2. What does "on account of the sticky peanut butter" mean in the third line?
3. Does Arthur really enjoy peanut butter and jelly? What does he say about it?
4. What does Arthur hope?
5. What would Arthur and God's little secret be?
6. What does the last sentence mean?

Arthur is just about to start his lunch when he sees that girl again. She's watching him, her back against a tree, her arms crossed. He waves. She waves back then starts over to him. Arthur says, "Well, hello there."

"You come here all the time," she says.

"And you almost as often."

She nods toward Nola's headstone. "That your wife?"

"Yes, that's Nola. She died six months ago. Nola Corrine, the Beauty Queen." They sit in silence for a while, then Arthur says, "I miss her a lot. I come out here to have lunch with her every day."

"Was she a beauty queen," asks Maddy?

"She was to me."

"You talk to her, right?"

"Yes, I do."

"What do you talk to her about?"

"I tell her about my life, the weather, things I read in the paper. Sometimes I tell her funny stories. She used to like funny stories. Or human interest stories. Nola loved people."

The girl nods. They are silent for a while.

1. What does Arthur call Nola?
2. What things does Arthur tell Nola?
3. What do we learn about Nola?
4. How would you describe Arthur and Nola's relationship?

"I'm Arthur Moses," Arthur says extending his hand. The girl looks at it, pauses, and finally shakes it. Arthur isn't sure that she's ever shaken a hand before. He supposes it's possible. It's not something you see young people doing a lot. Seems like they mostly keep their hands in their pockets, something that used to be considered rude. That or they're tap tapping on their phones.

"I'm Maddy Harris," she says."

1. What is Maddy's reaction when Arthur extends his hand?
2. Do people in your country always shake hands when they meet? Is this something young people do, or mainly older people?
3. What used to be considered rude?
4. How do you think Arthur feels about young people texting on their cell phones?

A crack of thunder and then the rain starts. Fat drops land on Arthur's neck and run down the back of his shirt. "Looks like a monsoon here! Guess I'd better go." He starts to walk toward the bus stop. "Hey!" he says, "There's a bus coming in just a minute. Would you like to come over to my house and get out of the rain?" Arthur thinks maybe he's been too impulsive. Nola used to fuss at him about that. The girl might think it's odd to go to his house. But it's too late, he's done it now. Maddy doesn't move. Arthur can see her making up her mind. Finally she says, "Fine, I like riding the bus."

1. What is a monsoon? What are fat drops?
2. What does Arthur do impulsively?
3. How does Maddy react to Arthur's invitation?
4. Do you think it's odd for an old man to ask a young girl to his house?
5. Why do you think Maddy trusts Arthur enough to go to his house?

When they get on the bus, Maddy says, "Oh, wait. I don't have any money."

"Don't worry. I'm paying," says Arthur. "Thanks," she says.

He sneaks a glimpse of her as they ride. Such a pretty girl, but what a sad face. "We can have some soup at my house. I've got bean and bacon," Arthur says.

The girl wrinkles her nose.

"I've also got tomato."

"That sounds better. I am kind of hungry. Thanks."

1. What does Arthur see when he sneaks a glance at Maddy?

2. Why did Maddy wrinkle her nose?

When they arrive at Arthur's stop, the rain has let up. They walk to the house. As they head up the steps, the girl hesitates. Maybe she's having second thoughts, Arthur thinks. Then here comes the sound of Gordon meowing from the other side of the door.

"Do you have a cat?" Maddy asks.

"That's Gordon," he says. He gets mad if I leave him. When I come in he'll walk away and ignore me. Don't be offended if he doesn't let you pet him. He's got a mind of his own."

But when they walk in, Gordon comes over to Maddy and winds his body around her legs. She reaches down to pet him and he arches his back and purrs.

"Looks like you've made a friend," Arthur says.

Maddy looks down. "Well, that makes one."

"Two," Arthur says.

1. Why do you think Maddy hesitated before going in Arthur's house?
2. What does Maddy hear?
3. What does Gordon get mad about?
4. What does Arthur mean when he says Gordon has a mind of his own?
5. How does Gordon react to Maddy?
6. What does Maddy mean when she says, "Well, that makes one."
7. What does Arthur mean when he says, "Two."

Arthur finds the milk and shakes the carton. Oh good. There's just enough for the soup. He opens the can of soup, dumps the contents into the pot, then adds the milk, his hand shaking.

"Do you have kids?" Maddy asks.

"No. We couldn't have kids."

"You're better off," Maddy says.

"Now why in the world would you say that? Don't you like kids?"

"I do. But a lot of people don't. A lot of people have no idea what to do with kids. They think kids are just in the way."

Arthur studies Maddy a minute. "How old are you?"

"I'm eighteen. Well almost. How old are you?"

"I'm eighty-five."

"You're eighty-five and still having lunch each day with your true love. I'm going to call you Arthur Trulove."

While Arthur cooks the tomato soup, Maddy offers to make some toasted cheese sandwiches. Arthur thinks this is really nice having a young person around to talk to. And Gordon seems to think so too. After lunch, Gordon jumps up into Maddy's lap and settles down for a nap.

1. Explain how Arthur makes the soup.
2. Did Arthur and Nola have kids?
3. Arthur is surprised when Maddy says that Arthur is better off without kids. Why does she say that?
4. What does Arthur think about having Maddy there?
5. How does Gordon show his feelings about Maddy?
6. What nickname does Maddy give Arthur? Why?
7. What is something you enjoyed reading about in this part of the story?