

## Chapter – 8 The Luncheon

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### Understanding The Text

**Q1. Although the author was not a vindictive man he was very happy to see the twenty-one stone lady who had impoverished him twenty years ago, and says he had finally had his revenge. What makes him says this?**

**Answer.** The statement that the author provided is a result of the earlier meeting of the author and that lady. It was the time when the author was not well off and neither did he have the sense to say no to that women. That time he had to part with all his money with the whole month ahead of him. This happened because the lady kept on ordering the most expensive items on the menu one after the another. Every time he had to say no for ordering for himself because that would double up the cost. The lady ordered salmon, asparagus, caviare etc and the author's heart sank with each order she placed. The author being a vindictive man did not say a word but now after 20 years, he remembered the embarrassment while the lady is now only twenty-one stone.

**Q2. There are quite a few places where the author uses the expressions 'my heart sank', 'panic seized' etc. What was the reason for this?**

**Answer.** The use of expressions like 'my heart sank' and 'panic seized' is used to show the author's inability to pay for the expensive items that the lady kept ordering. Through the entire story, these expressions have been used to establish the state of mind that the author was going through. It also deals with the humour element as the author was unable to refuse to the lady and cost him the entire money that he had.

**Q3. Locate instances of irony in the story.**

**Answer.** The story is full of an ironic element that is related to the difference between the statements and the actions of the young lady. The statement of the lady before ordering each expensive item that she did not like anything for the luncheon except.... And then this expect was the most luxurious item on the menu card that included salmon, asparagus, caviare being the major elements. Each time the author's heart skipped a beat when the young lady ordered something after saying that she would not like to have something. Every time he had to refuse for the order for himself for that he clearly could not afford double the cost.

### Talking About The Text

**Q1. People with foibles are often not conscious of them.**

**Answer.** Foibles are the minor weaknesses or the eccentricity in the individual's characters. This is true that the people with foibles are themselves unaware of the same as in the individual perspective they are perfect. It the people in the surroundings that

observe the difference in the behaviour while the person himself might be acting completely normal.

**Q2. The author's attempts at keeping up his pretence of friendliness while he was mentally preoccupied with the expense of the Luncheon.**

**Answer.** It was clearly observed in the entire story that how by every new order author's heart sank but still he maintained a friendly behaviour. He established the fact that he was a true gentleman as he did not even once have an objection on the repetitive expensive orders by the lady.

### Appreciation

**Q1. The author is a humorist. a. How does the story reflect his sense of humour? b. What makes his lady friend remark—'you are quite a humorist'? c. Give instances of the author's ability to laugh at himself.**

**Answer.** a. The entire chapter is an amalgamation of a series of humorous incidents that primarily revolve around the expensive items that were ordered by the lady despite stating in every line that she did not eat anything much on a luncheon. Thus the author uses the shield of humour to guard himself against the attacks made by one order after the other.

b. This remark was made by the lady friend after she gave at the horror to the idea to use the same comment- I don't have anything much on a luncheon except-. The author mockingly replied that if he to do so, that would result in him skipping dinner. This was when the lady made the comment that - you are quite a humorist as she understood the hidden fact behind him saying that.

c. Author's ability to laugh at himself is quite remarkable as that is seen from the starting itself. He's excited by the fact of visiting such an expensive place for lunch that too along with a woman. He also mocks at himself when the lady made repetitive orders that were way over his ability to spend as all that was not controllable.

**Q2. How does the first-person narrative help in heightening the literary effects of the story?**

**Answer.** The use of first-person narrative helps in heightening the literary effects as the authority has the direct over the elements of humour and irony that can be used in the best form when applied on one's own self.