Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Period: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

“Dr. Heidegger’s Experiment” p. 501

This short story is an example of an allegory. An allegory is a literary work in which characters, objects, and events represent abstract qualities and ideas. For example in “The Masque of the Red Death,” the partier that dressed up as the Red Death also represented Death and ultimately brought Death to everyone in Prospero’s fortress. The Masquerade Ball represented life, because it included people and their desire to escape death and the decorations throughout the party represented different stages of life. As you read this story, you will see each character represents something. Try to figure out what they represent and what the overall message is of the story.

Complete the following chart: (12 pts.)

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Character | Description | What he/she loses or wastes | What happens when he/ she is given a second youth | What he/she represents |
| Mr. Medbourne | “little better than a mendicant” | Wealth | Schemes to Make money again | greed |
| Col. Killigrew |  |  |  |  |
| Mr. Gascoigne |  |  |  |  |
| Widow Wycherly |  |  |  |  |

1. How are these four characters connected to each other?
2. Dr. Heidegger’s Study is described as “a dim, old-fashioned chamber, festooned with cobwebs, and besprinkled with antique dust…” (lines 38-70, pgs. 502-503) Complete the chart with details about some of the more unusual items in his study. (5 pts.)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Item | Description | Unusual Trait |
| Bronze bust of Hippocrates (ln. 45) | A statue of a Greek physician considered to be the father of medicine | He would talk to the statue about difficult cases. |
| The Mirror (“looking glass”) (ln. 48-50) |  |  |
| The Portrait (ln. 54) |  | None identified |
| The Greatest Curiosity (ln. 61-70) |  |  |

19. What did Heidegger take from the book? Who gave it to him? (Ln. 95-104)

20. What did Heidegger do with the Rose? Ln. 111

What happened to it?

21. Who searched for the Fountain of Youth? Ln. 130

22. Where is it? Ln. 135

23. What’s in the vase?

24. What does Heidegger suggest his guest do before they take a drink? Ln. 160-166

25. What is he trying to warn them about?

26. How do the four react to the warning? Ln. 167 -170

27. After reading lines 173-194, record what this description show the reader about the four guests before and after they drink.

1. How did they behave now that they drank the elixir? Ln 226-251 (4 points)

Describe each character:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Character | Behavior |
| Mr. Gascoigne |  |
| Colonel Killigrew |  |
| Widow Wycherly |  |
| Mr. Melbourne |  |

1. How do they treat Heidegger after drinking more? Ln 284 -296
2. Why do they start fighting? Ln 300 -303
3. What’s really going on as viewed through the mirror? Ln 311-315
4. The three men got into a fight and broke something. What? Ln 327
5. Can you infer how Dr. Heidegger feels about old age from the way he regards the rose? Lines 350-353
6. What lesson has Dr. Heidegger learned? (lines 369-373)
7. Where do the four people go?