

St. Andrews Scots Sr. Sec. School

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Session: 2026- 2027

NOTES

Class - VIII

Subject - English

Topic - THE FACE ON THE WALL

Q1. Answer the following questions briefly -

1. Dabney and his men were talking about events which cannot be explained by natural causes.
2. There were patches on the wall because the place was damp.
3. It resembled the face of a man.
4. The man was in a hurry and so gave the card as requested by the narrator.
5. The narrator surprises us at the end by saying he had made up the entire story half an hour ago.

Q2. RTC -

1.

(a) The search for the man whose face had mysteriously appeared on the wall became an obsession for the narrator.

(b) The face on the wall became an obsession with the narrator to such an extent that he began to visit places where large crowds gathered, hoping to spot the face. Consequently, people thought he was mad and the police became suspicious of him.

(c) The narrator did this because he was looking for a face of the man which resembled the one on his wall.

2.

(a) The phrase means 'not seeing or noticing anything, although able to see'. The narrator was in a state of deep shock on learning about the man's accident. He was confused and so when he looked at the wall, his eyes did not register anything; in that sense, they were 'unseeing eyes'.

(b) It disappeared because the man whose face it resembled died.

Q3. Answer the following questions in detail-

1. The narrator noticed that while the other patches on the wall kept changing in shape, the one that resembled the face of a man remained the same. When the narrator was down with influenza and bedridden, it was during this time that the face on the wall took a strong hold of him. When he got better, the face had become an obsession and he searched for it in crowded places. The people who saw him there thought he was mad and the police became suspicious of him. Finally, the narrator spotted the man in a taxi and was finally able to get his name and address.

2. The narrator finally saw the man whose face resembled the one that was on his wall. The man was in a taxi. The narrator followed him in another. The man, who was going to France, got down at the station and took a train along with two ladies and a little girl.

The narrator took a ticket to Folkstone, hoping to catch the man there on the ship. It was there that the narrator approached the man and asked for his card. The man, though surprised, gave the card because he seemed to be in a great hurry. From the card the narrator learnt that the man's name was Ormond Wall, with an address in Pittsburgh, USA.

3. According to the narrator, there were three extraordinary things about his story. The first was that a patch on the wall of a house in London not only had the appearance of a man in America but was also closely associated with his life. The second was the fact that the man's name should bear any relation to the spot on which his features were formed. The third and last extraordinary thing about the story was that the narrator had made it up half an hour ago.

Q4. Think and Answer -

1. It is true that imagination is the source of creation. It was the extraordinary imagination of the narrator that made him think of the whole story in his head and tell it to his guests. It was said with such conviction that no one doubted its veracity. The narrator's listeners were hooked from the very start and were eager to know about the mystery of the face on the wall. The narrator's style and the details he provided, including his illness; the obsession and subsequent search for the face; finding the man and discovering his identity; the newspaper report of Mr Ormond Wall's accident and death soon after, which coincided with the disappearance of the face from the wall all these things made the story interesting and believable for the listeners. So, it came as a big surprise when they came to know that the entire story was a figment of the narrator's imagination, something that he had made up half an hour ago.