



T H E I S L A N D

K S o h a i l

n a m e _____

T H E I S L A N D

b y

K S o h a i l

Are your parents alive?"

"Yes."

"When was the last time you met them?"

"Ten years ago."

"Do you have any brothers or sisters?"

"Yes, I do."

"When was the last time you saw them?"

"Seven years ago."

"Where did you see them?"

"In a supermarket."

"Do you have any friends?"

"No."

"Do you have a home?"

"No."

"Where do you live then?"

"On the street."

"Do you have any source of income?"

"Not at all."

"Then how do you live?"

"I just live."

"For how long have you been living like this?"

"For twelve years."

"What do you want in life?"

"Nothing."

"What's your aim in life?"

"I have none."

"Can I arrange welfare for you?"

"No thanks."

"How about a place to live?"

"Don't bother."

"You must need money for food?"

"No. I am fine."

"How can we help you?"

"Don't worry. I will be O.K."

My social worker felt helpless. She did not know what to say.

The police brought him to the hospital. He had been wandering around on the streets for weeks. He had no food; no shelter. He looked like a bagman. The weather too was getting cold. The winter had its first snowfall. The police became worried when they found him one night sleeping in a bus stand. He looked pale and weak. They thought he may freeze to death.

"Admit him doctor and look after him," one of the police officers had suggested.

"Do you want to be admitted?" I asked him.

"No thanks. I am not sick."

I felt helpless too. The social worker called his parents. They came and took him home to look after him.

After a couple of days the police brought him back. We were facing the same dilemma again. The social worker called his sister this time. She came and took him home but he took off after a week.

The police brought him to the hospital once again. They believed he was crazy and should be locked up in a psychiatric hospital for a few months. I did not agree. I thought he was an eccentric and non-conformist. The society and the police could not tolerate him. The social worker this time sent him to a boarding home. The police threatened him that if he was found again loitering in the city streets, he

would be put in the jail. He smiled. He didn't care.

A few weeks later, on a Sunday morning, a young man was taking his son for a morning walk in the city park. The child saw something floating in the pond in the middle of the park. He asked his father, "What is that, Daddy?"

The young man recognized the object. It was a dead body. The bloated corpse was floating upside down. He hurriedly called an ambulance from a nearby phone booth. The paramedics came and put the body in a body bag and placed it on a stretcher inside their ambulance. The young man and his son accompanied them to the hospital's emergency section.

While I was examining the body, the child stood there bewildered. He looked at his father and squeezed his hand. "Daddy," he softly asked.

"What is it my son?"

"Our teacher told us that if something is surrounded by water, it is called an island."

"That's true."

"Was this man an island, Dad?"

The young father picked up the child, smiled, and hugged him softly.

Q ' S : T H E I S L A N D

P A R T A : v o c a b u l a r y

Define the following words and use them in a sentence.

- eccentric
- non-conformist

P A R T B : c o m p r e h e n s i o n

-statement-	-true-	-false- (fill in correct answer)
He has an aim in life.		
He was wandering around the streets for days.		
The narrator did not agree with the police.		
Society and the police could not tolerate him.		
If he was found loitering, he would be put in jail.		

1. What are the characteristics of an island and do these characteristics suit the “eccentric and non-conformist” character in the story?

2. Imagine the setting of this story and describe it in detail.

3. Identify and explain the conflicts in this story (i.e. person v nature).

4. Why did the police want to lock him up? Do you agree with the police? Why or why not?

5. What did the narrator think of the man when he was brought into the hospital? Do you agree? Explain.

6. Why couldn't society or the police tolerate him? Is this true of our society? In your own experience?

7. How did the father describe the object floating in the pond? From the description and events in the story, do you think this is an accurate description of the object? Explain.

8. Write a theme statement that connects *The Island* to the following texts.

The Suitcase Lady

Lars and the Real Girl

The Mirror

9. K. Sohail's story, *The Island*, can be viewed – and read – as a metaphor or simile: The man is an island or the man is like an island. Write a 1st Person NARRATIVE Monologue stating either that

I am an island.

OR

I am not an island.

[illegible]

[illegible]

K N O W L E D G E / U N D E R S T A N D I N G

understands the plot and the plot elements of the story (Q 1-6)

1 2 3 4 5

T H I N K I N G

thinks critically and insightfully about the issues/themes in the story (Q 6-8)

1 2 3 4 5

C O M M U N I C A T I O N

writes clear, organized and detailed responses using proper form (i.e. paragraphs, grammar)

1 2 3 4 5

A P P L I C A T I O N

makes connections between multiple texts and explains the connections with insight

1 2 3 4 5

applies awareness of figurative language/imagery

1 2 3 4 5