

Pre-reading Questions

1. What do you think 'sun' and 'shadow' mean in the context?

- The 'sun' stands for joy, clarity, or truth, while 'shadow' represents sadness, confusion, or suffering. They coexist, making us appreciate one by understanding the other.

2. What does the 'night' represent?

- The 'night' represents difficult times, uncertainty, or pain — something we must go through to understand light or hope.

3. How are good times and bad times related to each other?

- Good and bad times are interdependent. Bad times make us value the good, and good times help us endure the bad.
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While We Read

a. Why does the sight of the old man frighten Pelayo?

- The old man looks strange and pitiful, lying in the mud with enormous wings, which makes Pelayo frightened.

b. Why was the old man unable to get up?

- He was weak and his wings, entangled in the mud, made it hard for him to rise.

c. The couple consider the old man a 'lonely castaway'. Why?

- Because of his appearance, dialect, and helplessness, they assume he is a shipwrecked sailor from a foreign land.

d. Why was the neighbour woman sure that the old man was an angel?

- She believed in superstitions and saw his wings as proof that he was an angel sent for the sick child.

e. Why did Pelayo arm himself with a club?

- He was afraid the old man might be dangerous and wanted to protect himself and his family.

f. What made the couple suddenly decide to treat the man with some 'kindness'?

- Their child recovered suddenly, making them feel grateful and prompting a sense of kindness toward the old man.

g. Why does Pelayo lock the old man in the chicken coop?

- To isolate and confine the strange creature, treating him like an animal rather than a person.

h. Why do the people treat the old man like a 'circus animal'?

- They are curious and amused by his appearance. They don't respect him but treat him as an object of entertainment.

i. Do you think Elisenda is shrewd and clever? Why?

- Yes, because she quickly turns the old man's presence into an opportunity for profit.

j. "His only supernatural virtue seemed to be patience." Why does the author say so?

- Despite suffering and mistreatment, the old man remains calm and endures everything silently.

k. Why do more people flock to see the woman rather than the old man?

- The woman-spider can talk and tell her story, offering a more engaging and relatable attraction.

l. Why is the doctor surprised by the 'logic' of the wings?

- The wings seem biologically natural on the old man, defying the typical understanding of humans, and surprising the doctor.

Revisit the Story

1. What is the old man's role in the story? How does his presence affect Pelayo's family?

- He symbolizes the misunderstood and vulnerable. His presence brings financial prosperity to Pelayo's family, but also reveals their selfishness and lack of compassion.

2. Mention any two traits of the old man that impress you.

- Patience and endurance. He tolerates suffering, ridicule, and confinement without protest.

3. What elements of the story do you consider magical? Why?

- The old man's wings, his survival through all conditions, and his eventual flight. These blend fantasy with reality, creating magical realism.

4. Describe the old man's first clumsy attempts at flight.

- He flapped his wings awkwardly, nearly knocking over the shed. Slowly, he gained altitude and disappeared into the horizon.

5. What happens to the old man's popularity in the course of time?

- Initially a sensation, he is soon forgotten when a more novel attraction — the spider woman — arrives.

6. Pick out instances from the story:

Imagery	Simile	Magical Elements
Enormous wings	Like a ragpicker	Wings on a human
Dung-heap stench	Like a senile vulture	Survival through illness
Buzzard wings	Like a drenched grandfather	Spider-woman
Whistling heart	—	Flight

7. Alternative endings (example):

- Instead of flying away, the old man might have stayed and become a symbol of hope and change in the village.

8. Who suffers the most in the story? What does the story tell us about compassion?

- The old man suffers the most. The story shows how society often mistreats the weak and different, highlighting the urgent need for empathy and kindness.

Let's Recall and Recreate

1. Character Traits Table and Sketches:

Old Man	Pelayo	Elisenda
Physical: Old, fragile, wings	Tall, strong, farmer	Graceful, young
Personality: Mysterious, patient, enduring	Practical, responsible, timid	Ambitious, shrewd, unsympathetic
Significance: Represents the marginalized	Represents the common man	Reflects selfishness and opportunism

Character Sketch – Old Man:

The old man is a mysterious figure with enormous wings. Despite enduring suffering and exploitation, he remains silent and patient. He symbolizes the ignored and misunderstood in society.

Character Sketch – Pelayo:

Pelayo is a practical man who initially fears the old man. Although he later profits from the old man's captivity, he also shows moments of concern, reflecting the average human nature.

Character Sketch – Elisenda:

Elisenda is a clever and business-minded woman. She quickly exploits the old man's uniqueness for money and views his departure as a relief, showing a lack of empathy.

2. Letter to the Editor – Already provided in the textbook

News Report (sample):

Angel Exploited for Profit in Coastal Town

A mysterious old man with enormous wings was found by residents Pelayo and Elisenda. The man, believed by some to be an angel, was locked in a chicken coop and displayed for money. While many visited in hope or amusement, concerns have been raised about the inhumane treatment he received. Locals demand better care and dignity for the elderly man. Investigations are ongoing.

– [Reporter's Name], Staff Reporter

3. Diary Entry by Pelayo (sample):

Dear Diary,

What a strange week it has been. First the storm, then the old man with wings. At first, we were terrified, but then we saw how people came from far and paid to see him. We are now rich, but

sometimes I wonder if it was right. He just lies there, tired and weak. Is he truly an angel? I don't know. I just hope we have done the right thing...

4. Picture Description (for the angel flying):

A fragile figure with wings rises slowly into the sky, leaving behind a world that never understood him.

Caption Examples:

- *Believe in the impossible – even the fallen can rise.*
- *Compassion has wings.*
- *Reality with a touch of magic.*

5. Society's Attitudes Table:

Character	Instances	Attitude
Pelayo	Feared, locked him up, used him for money	Fearful, selfish
Elisenda	Profited from him, relieved at his departure	Opportunistic
Neighbour woman	Called him an angel	Superstitious
Crowd	Threw food, mocked, treated as a showpiece	Disrespectful, curious
Doctor	Examined scientifically	Intrigued, clinical
Child	Played with him	Innocent, accepting

Write-up on Society's Attitude:

The story reflects society's tendency to marginalize the weak and vulnerable. While some react with fear, others exploit for gain. Rarely does anyone treat the old man with true compassion. It shows our urgent need to cultivate empathy and kindness in a world quick to judge what it does not understand.

6. Skit Based on Conversation:

Title: "You're Not Alone"

Characters: Ms. Sudha and Ritu

(Dialogue reflects emotions of abandonment, caregiving, and eventual comfort. Ends with Ms. Sudha smiling as Ritu offers her tea and hope.)

7. Painting (The Scream) – Responses:

- **What do you see?** A figure screaming in despair with a distorted background.
- **What do you feel?** Anxiety and emotional chaos.
- **What caused the scream?** Possibly fear, inner turmoil, or isolation.
- **What would the subject say?** "No one hears me... the world is too loud."

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