

## CSS-2003

My father was back in work within days of his return home. He had a spell in the shipyard, where the last of the great Belfast liners, the CANBERRA, was under construction, and then moved to an electronics firm in the east of the city. (These were the days when computers were the size of small houses and were built by sheet metal workers). A short time after he started in this job, one of his colleagues was sacked for taking off time to get married. The workforce went on strike to get the colleague reinstated. The dispute, dubbed the Honeymoon Strike, made the Belfast papers. My mother told me not long ago that she and my father, with four young sons, were hit so hard by that strike, that for years afterwards they were financially speaking, running to stand still. I don't know how the strike ended, but whether or not the colleague got his old job back, he was soon in another, better one. I remember visiting him and his wife when I was still quite young, in their new bungalow in Belfast northern suburbs. I believe they left Belfast soon after the Troubles began.

My father then was thirty-seven, the age I am today. My Hither and I are father and son, which is to say we are close without knowing very much about one another. We talk about events, rather than emotions. We keep from each other certain of our hopes and fears and doubts. I have never for instance asked my father whether he has dwelt on (he direction his life might have taken if at certain moments he had made certain other choices. Whatever, he found himself, with a million and a half of his fellows, living in what was in all but name a civil war. As a grown up I try often to imagine what it must be like to be faced with such a situation. What, in the previous course of your life, prepares you for arriving, as my father did, at the scene of a bomb blast close to your brother's place of work and seeing what you suppose, from the colour of the hair, to be your brother lying in the road, only to find that you are cradling the remains of a woman? (Glcian Patterson)

## Questions

- (a) From your reading of the passage what do you infer about the nature of (the "Troubles" the writer mentions.

This interesting passage ascribes numerous troubles. Firstly, the strike of the workers created enormous financial crisis in the Belfast. Secondly, the Honeymoon Strike pushed the city towards dispute and chaos. Thus, many individuals left the city before the spread of civil war like situations.

(b) What according to the writer were (the working conditions in the Electronics firm where his father worked?

The working condition in the Electronics firm was complex. The size of computers used to be the size of small houses. workers used to put more hard work so as to built computers by sheet metal. Therefore, the working conditions were hard.

(c) Why was his father's colleague sacked?

one of his fathers colleague was dismissed due to violation of the time. He was sacked for taking more time to get married. Thus, he faced isolation from his job.

(d) How does the writer show that as father and son they do not know much about each other?

The author describes through several directions the relationship between the father and the son. Firstly, they were close though they <sup>know</sup> nothing about each other. Secondly, they used to talk about events rather than emotions. Thirdly, they hide certain aspects of hopes. Therefore, they never asked about choices which were made.

(d) How does the writer show that as father and son they do not know much about each other?

same question  
as (d)

(e) Explain the underlined words/phrases in the passage: Made the Belfast papers, had a spell, dubbed, was sacked, hit hard.

Made the Belfast papers: Belfast city into chaos.

Had a spell: Had a job

Dubbed: converted

was sacked: Dismissed

Hit hard: Became victim

**Marks Obtained**

	YES	NO
1. Idea was picked?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Language structure is appropriate?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Quality of organization and cohesion?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Grammatical structure?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Length as per requirement?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Response is Correct?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Overall quality of response?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Spelling(s) quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Comments**

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