

Comprehension 20 CSS 2003

Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow.

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 father 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 the 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 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? (Glenn Patterson)

Questions:

1. From your reading of the passage what do you infer about the nature of the "Troubles" the writer mentions.
2. What according to the writer were the working conditions in the Electronics firm where his father worked?
3. Why was his father's colleague sacked?
4. How does the writer show that as father and son they do not know much about each other?
5. Explain the underlined words/phrases in the passage?

Question 1

The writer written about the hard time of his family, when his father ~~was~~ lost his job due to a strike and worked. After a while, they became financially unstable. His family faced a lot of disasters. at that time.

Questions

It was an ancient time for the construction of electronics. At that time, the size of computers were too big like a small house. The workers were fired from job even for a little mistake.

Question 103

His father's colleagues were sacked from job. Because he was taking

all time to get married.

Questions

They ^{did} do not know each other. They did not attached emotionally. They talked about natural events that occurred in their life. But they did not understand their internal conditions.

Qs

① was sacked.

To terminate from work

② hit so hard.

Face hard time

③ had a spell.

Some time happening in a gap

④ made a Belfast paper.

Shocking news in newspaper

⑤ dubbed.

increase/ something like some