

"YOU are the doctor, I suppose," said Augustus Pokewhistle, smiling from his bed at the *immense* man who had arrived secretly while he slept. "It is kind of you to come, but I don't think you can help me. However, you are here, I will tell you what is wrong with me. I am an artist. I paint pictures and I draw drawings..."

- "But..."

"You are going to tell me that you are not interested in the story of my life," Augustus laughed bitterly. "You are one of the uncaring public, and it is of no importance to you if a clever young man should take to his bed at the height of his youth, never to rise again. But I suppose you have been sent here by some interfering so-called friend of mine to save me from my suffering, and I must therefore explain my illness. And you cannot understand my illness unless I tell you the story of my life."

"I was delicately brought up, and it soon became clear that I was not an ordinary boy. At the age of seven I won a prize for a drawing of an animal. We will forget the fact that I had intended my drawing to represent sunset over London. After that my proud parents provided me with plenty of pencils and paper and gave me the opportunity of studying under great painters. At the age of twenty-one, I started a business as a painter of people, and painted eleven pictures of my own face. Nobody seemed to want them, and if you go into my sitting room, you will see them hanging sadly on the wall, looking down at the empty chair which I will never sit in again. For I am certain that I shall never rise from this bed ..."

"Nobody came to have their pictures painted, and I had no desire to paint any more of myself. Although it may seem impossible, I could no longer get any real pleasure out of it after I had finished the eleventh, and this proves that one can get tired of even the most heavenly beauty..."

- "But..."

"May I mention that there is a certain repetition in your remarks? Let me finish, and then you can say 'but' as often as you like. I turned from painting people to painting the country. Nine times I painted the view from the back window, and seven times I painted the view from the front window. But could I sell the seven pictures of the view from the front window, or the nine of the view from the back window? I could not. I only had a bit of money left, and I decided, after a severe struggle with myself, to forget my soul and paint for money. I determined to draw funny pictures for the newspapers. Remember that I was without hope and almost hungry, so do not think of me too severely"

- "But..."

**"I know what you are going to say - if I had had the soul of a true artist, I would have died rather than do such a thing. But remember that my wife and children were crying for bread - or would have been crying for bread if I had had a wife and children. And was it my fault that I hadn't a wife and little children? So I made thirty or forty funny drawings every day and sent them to the papers. I soon found that selling one's soul for money is not so easy as it sounds. Believe it or not, I got no money. I just got my drawings back..."**

**- "But..."**

**"You may well ask why they were sent back. I cannot tell you. I tested them on the cat. I had often heard the expression 'funny enough to make a cat laugh', and so I placed them in a line and carried the cat along in front of them. He laughed until he was sick ... in any case he was sick."**

**"Then I became more and more disheartened. I tried drawing for advertisements. Clothes, pianos, bottles. Immensely tall ladies with foolish smiles. I sent them off by the hundred, and all I received was a sample bottle or two, and a sample card of wool. I rather expected to get a sample tall lady with a foolish smile, but probably she got lost in the post..."**

**- "But..."**

**"So I gave up the struggle. My heart was broken, and I determined to take to my bed, never to rise again. You cannot help me, doctor. No skill of yours can help me. I feel certain that I shall never rise from this bed .."**

**"And I feel certain that you will,"** said the stranger, carefully placing Augustus Poke whistle on the carpet, **"because I've come: to take it away. I'm from the furniture shop, and the bed isn't paid for."**



## Summary

### His Childhood

Secretly, an immense man arrived with Augustus thoughts of him being sent by his friends to save him from suffering. Augustus was an artist. He was delicately brought up. He won the prize for drawing an animal when he was seven years old. In fact he meant to draw the sunset over London. His parents were proud of him and began to provide him with plenty of pencils, paper and money. They gave him the opportunity of studying under great painters.

### Starting his career as a painter

#### First stage: as a painter of People:

At the age of twenty –one he started business as a painter of people and painted eleven pictures of his own face if you went into his sitting room, you would see them hanging sadly on the wall, looking own at his empty chair which he would never sit in again. No one admired his paintings or came to buy his them. No one came to have their pictures painted so he had no desire to paint any more of himself.

#### Second stage: as a painter of the country:

He turned to painting the country and painted nine views from the back and seven from the front window. He didn't go out to the nature to draw his paintings. So he couldn't sell any of them.

#### A stand-stop with himself:

He had a bit of money left and was almost hungry that's why he decided after a severe struggle with himself to forget his soul and paint for money. Trying to justify his misdeed, he told us if he had had a wife and children, they would have cried for bread.

#### Third stage: as a painter of the papers:

So he determined to draw funny pictures for the newspapers. He made thirty or forty funny drawings daily and sent them to the papers. But they sent him back his drawings. He couldn't get any money from them.

#### Fourth stage: as a painter of the Advertisements

At last he was disheartened and tried drawing for advertisements, he sent them off by the hundred, but he just received some samples. If he had had a family, they would have cried for bread.



## **His last decision**

His heart was broken, he gave up the struggle and he decided to take to bed and never rise again. Augustus took to bed and decided not to rise again although he was in the height of his youth.

## **The stranger's attitude**

When the stranger visited him, he thought that he was a doctor, sent by a so-called friend to save him from his suffering. He believed that the stranger couldn't help him until he had told him his story to know what the wrong with him was. Trying to explain he wasn't a doctor, but in vain as Augustus gave him no chance for that. The stranger said that Augustus would certainly rise from bed as he was from the furniture shop and he came to take the bed away as it was not paid for.

## **Questions & Answers**



- 1- **What did Augustus think the stranger was?**
  - He thought the stranger was a doctor sent by a so- called friend to save him.
- 2- **What was wrong with Augustus ?**
  - He took to his bed in the height of his youth and decided never to rise again.
- 3- **What was Augustus 's job?**
  - He was an artist and started business as a painter at the age of twenty one.
- 4- **When did he get a prize for a drawing ?**
  - He got a prize for a drawing at the age of seven.
- 5- **What was that drawing about ?**
  - He got a prize for a drawing of an animal though he intended it to represent sunset.
- 6- **How did his parents help him to be an artist?**
  - His parents provided him with pencils and paper and gave him the opportunity of studying under great painters.
- 7- **What did he paint when he started his work ?**
  - He painted people. He painted eleven pictures of his face.
- 8- **Why did he decide to stop painting people ?**
  - Nobody wanted to buy his pictures and nobody came to him to have their pictures painted.
- 9- **What did he decide to paint after deciding not to paint people ?**
  - He decided to paint the country.
- 10- **To what extent did he succeed as a painter of the country?**
  - He painted nine pictures of the view from the back window and seven pictures of the view from the front window. But he couldn't sell any of them.
- 11- **What made him decide to forget his soul and paint for money ?**
  - He had little money left , he was without hope and almost hungry.

**12- What did he start doing to paint for money ?**

- He made thirty or forty funny drawings every day and sent them to the newspapers.

**13- What was the result of drawing for the newspapers?**

- He got no money and just got his drawings back .

**14- Did Augustus have a wife and children ?What could have happened if he had a wife and children?**

- He didn't have a wife or children . if he had had , they would have been crying for bread.

**15-How did the stranger find Augustus ?**

- He found him very weak, desperate **يأس** and in low spirits **حالة نفسية سيئة** .

**16-How did Augustus test his drawings?**

- He tested them on the cat according to the expression " funny enough to make a cat laugh . the cat laughed until he was sick.

**17- What paintings did he turn to after the failure of his drawings for newspapers?**

- He turned to drawing for advertisements . he sent them off by the hundred. He could only receive some samples.

**18- what was his last decision?**

- He decided to take to his bed and never to rise again.

**19- Why did the stranger want to interrupt Augustus's story all the time ?**

- He wanted to interrupt Augustus to tell him that he was not a doctor and that he was coming from the furniture shop to take Augustus's bed .

**20- By whom was he taken from his bed? Why?**

- The man carried him from his bed and placed him on the carpet. The man came to take the bed back as it was not paid for .

**21- In your opinion, why could Augustus not sell any of his paintings ?**

- Because from the age of seven he drew with one meaning and people saw in his drawings quite another thing. So, he developed into a self- centred depressed painter **رسام مكتئب يدور حول ذاته**.

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**Quotations**

**\* Read the following quotations and answer the questions :**

**"You are the doctor, I suppose."**

**a) To whom did Augustus say this statement?**

- Pokewhistle to the visitor.

**b) What was that man?**

- He was a man from the furniture shop.

**c) By whom did Augustus think that man was sent?**



**2. "It is of no importance to you if a clever young man should take to his bed at the height of his youth, never to rise again."**

- a) **Why did Augustus believe that the visitor would not care for him?**
- As he was one of the uncaring public.
- b) **What made Augustus take that decision at the height of his youth?**
- As he failed to get money out of his work. He became disheartened.
- c) **When did Augustus rise from bed?**
- When the visitor placed him on the carpet.

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**3- " So, I gave up the struggle. My heart was broken and I determined to take to my bed."**

- a) **Who was the speaker ?**
- -Augustus .
- b) **What did the speaker struggle for ?**
- -Earning his living by selling his drawings.
- c) **Why did he give up the struggle?**
- Because he became more and more hopeless.



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**4. "But I suppose you have been sent here by some interfering so called friend of mine to save me from my suffering."**

- a) **What was Augustus suffering from?**
- He couldn't get any money from his work.
- b) **What does this quotation show about Augustus's character?**
- He wasn't a nice person to be a friend.
- c) **By whom was the visitor really sent to Augustus?**
- The owner of a furniture shop.

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**5- "May I mention that there is a certain repetition in your remarks?"**

- a) **Who was the speaker, to whom?**
- Augustus Pokewhistle to the visitor.
- b) **What did the speaker mean by saying so?**
- He meant that he wanted to finish the story of his life first without being interrupted.
- c) **Did the spoken to give the speaker the chance to speak? Why?**
- No, because he was thinking of himself. He wanted to finish his speech first and the others listen.

**b) Why couldn't he sell his drawings?**

- Because he wasn't a gifted artist insisting on drawing pictures of his own face.

**c) Was it possible for him to give up his career? Why?**

- No, it was impossible. Because he found real pleasure in doing this.
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**7. "At the age of seven, I won a prize for a drawing of an animal."**

**a) What did Augustus intend that drawing to represent?**

- The sunset over London.

**b) What did Augustus's parents do as a result of his getting the prize?**

- They gave him an opportunity to study under great painters.

**c) To what extent was Augustus a good artist?**

- In fact ,he wasn't a good artist.
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**8. "At the age of twenty-one, I started business as a painter of people".**

**a) What pictures did he paint at the age of twenty-one?**

- Pictures of his own face.

**b) Where could the visitor see them? why?**

- On the walls of his setting room as no one wanted to buy them.

**c) What did he decide to paint when painting people did not succeed?**

- Painting the country
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**9. "I decided, after a severe struggle with myself, to forget my soul and paint for money."**

**a) Why did Augustus have a severe struggle with himself?**

- He thought he was a good artist but unable to earn his living.

**b) What did he first do when he decided to paint for money?**

- He drew funny pictures for newspapers.

**c) What was the result of what he did?**

- He didn't get any money but he got his pictures back.
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**10. "I soon found out that selling one's soul for money is not so easy as it sounds"**

**a) What did Augustus mean by " selling one's soul for money"?**

- It was against his principle to paint for money as he thought he was a true artist.

**b) Why was the matter not so easy as it sounded?**



**11. "I tested them in the cat. I had often heard the expression «funny enough to make a cat laugh»"**

- a) **What did Augustus test?**
- His pictures.
- b) **Why did he test them?**
- As no one wanted to buy them.
- c) **What was the result of the test?**
- The cat laughed until it was sick.
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**With My Best Wishes**

**Mr. Ahmed Fadel**

**Abo Menna**