

Dr. Heidegger's Experiment Guided Reading Questions

1. What is the background of Mr. Medbourne? Colonel Killigrew? Mr. Gascoigne?
2. What is the past relationship of the Widow Wycherly to Dr. Heidegger's other guests?
3. For what purpose has Dr. Heidegger gathered his friends together?
4. Find evidence in the text that shows the doctor's guests weren't very excited about his experiment.
5. What tragedy happened in the Heidegger's past?
6. Explain in detail what happens to the rose. Describe it before and after the experiment. What is the significance?
7. After seeing the rose experiment, what does Colonel Killigrew suggest?
8. What is the Dr.'s reason for not wanting to participate in his own experiment?
9. What advice does Heidegger give to his friends before they partake of the liquid? What is the reaction of the friends to this advice?
10. Using evidence from the text, how does Heidegger know that his has chosen good "subjects" for his experiment? (*Hint: This is not something that Dr. Heidegger actually says.*)
11. To what does the narrator compare the instantaneous change in atmosphere?
12. When enjoying their spontaneous rejuvenation. how does the reaction of each of the three gentlemen (not including Dr. Heidegger) relate to your answer for #1?
13. How do the guests act when they reach the stage of "youth"?
14. How do they act toward the widow?
15. What happened to the vase? The rose?
16. What is the lesson that Dr. Heidegger's friends have taught him?
17. Did the guests learn a lesson? How do you know?

Vocabulary from the story that you may not know

Venerable – (adj) Worthy of respect

Speculation – (n.) A questionable business deal

Hippocrates – (n.) Ancient Greek doctor

Forbear – (v.) To hold oneself back

Veracious – (adj.) Truthful/honest

Dotage – (n.) Period of life in which a person is old or weak

Quaff – (v.) To drink heartily

