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| Ways Mersault shows his indifference to the world—and, thus, becomes a symbol of the universe Camus believes is purposeless and meaningless—with no rational order | Ways his indifference either surprises or distresses those who experience it | Ways others impose their own desire for a rational universe onto Mersault’s attitudes and actions *( Think: If humans want a moral world that makes sense and demonstrates that human life has meaning and purpose, how do they impose this desire onto others? How does this desire influence their belief system and moral code?)* | Camus’s meaning…by creating the juxtaposition of Mersault’s indifference and the response of his society to his indifference*(HINT: society either makes excuses for him to satisfy their own need for him to feel the way they think he should feel or…they condemn him)* |
| During his mother’s wake and funeral, he doesn’t seem to be bothered that she is dead; frequently his attention is on his physical environment |  |  |  |
| He smokes a cigarette at the wake; he dozes; he does not want to see his mother before the casket is closed; he does not cry or mourn |  |  |  |
| He has put his mother in a home to live out the last of her days, has visited her seldom, and does not feel guilty about any of this |  |  |  |
| He doesn’t have compassion for his mother’s friends who mourn her death, and they get on his nerves |  |  |  |
| He offers no compassion or assistance to Thomas Perez—an old man with a limp who is not in good health—and who is grieving over his mother’s death |  |  |  |
| He doesn’t have a problem pursuing Marie on the day after his mother’s funeral |  |  |  |
| He doesn’t judge Salamano for beating his dog |  |  |  |
| He doesn’t judge Raymond for abusing his mistress |  |  |  |
| He doesn’t have a problem writing Raymond’s letter for him—even as the letter writing makes him an accomplice in Raymond’s abusive revenge against the mistress—he sees not reason not to help Raymond |  |  |  |
| He doesn’t mind going to the police station to act as a favorable character witness for Raymond |  |  |  |
| He doesn’t love Marie, but he doesn’t have a problem saying he will marry her—because he says it doesn’t matter |  |  |  |
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