

1. Give a brief summary of W.D. Valgardson's biography (found on page 458 of the New Oxford Book).

William Dempsey Valgardson is a poet, novelist and short story writer. He was born on Winnipeg, Manitoba but raised in heavily Icelandic community which is Gimli, Manitoba. He was educated in several universities and he is still working in a university. He has written several short stories and poem throughout his writing career and some of them are awarded.

2. What is the source of conflict between Fusi and his daughter? Be specific and detailed in your answer.

The conflict between Fusi and his daughter is his stubborn desire to fish and not wanting to go Old Folk's home. Also, his desire to fishing clashes with the daughter's religious opinion. In the second paragraph, we can see religious conflict between Fusi and his daughter. His daughter said, "God will punish you." Then, he said that God is not a fish inspector, and if He creates fish, that is meant to catch. After that, she said that Fusi will not enter the doors of heaven. The work that Fusi likes to do clashes with his daughter's belief.

Moreover, the part of the conflict is based on his resistance to go to Old Folk's Home. It is because he wants to die in his home rather than there (Because he has seen some of the people whose identities erased and changed over a time.) In the following paragraphs (after fishing, he went home.) his daughter tried to convince him to go Old Folk's Home and stop fishing for his age.

3. With attention to specific details, do you agree with Emma's decision to tell the fish inspectors about Fusi? Write a paragraph giving reasons to support your opinion.

I don't agree with Emma's decision and I think it's wrong of her to report Fusi to the fish inspectors. The reason why I disagree is anybody can not restrict somebody to do their own wishes. In the story, Emma says to Fusi to stay at home and stop fishing. As a result, she always has a conflict with him. She shouldn't forget that Fusi once was an adult who enjoyed fishing and all the adventures that he did, and he is doing it to remember past and enjoy his freedom. Emma has no right to say what to do or not.

4. What criticism does this story make about attitudes toward the elderly in today's society? What does the author want you to think?

Today's society has a pity toward the elderly. The way fish inspectors ignored him (just because of his age), the way his daughter, his son-in-law and the woman in Old Folk's home think of him are the signs that people has a pity toward the elderly. The writer wants us to think that when we became old people, our desires and wishes are restricted, and the elder people usually treated as babies. The society thinks that just because they are old, doesn't mean they can't do anything.

