Dear students, here are some things that can help you get ready for the Summative

1. First, go into this site:

 http://www.allthetests.com/quiz29/quiz/1305962385/Mr-Know-All-content-quiz

 and do the quiz on Mr. Know All. Use a dictionary for words you don't know.

2. Now, read the following summary and analysis of Mr. Know All.

# An analysis of Mr Know All written by William Somerset Maugham

**The story takes place in international waters on an ocean going liner sailing from San Fracisco, U.S.A to Yokohama, Japan on the Pacific ocean. As the war had just ended, it was difficult to get accomodations. Therefore, the narrator had to share a cabin with a total stranger, but he expected him to be one of his own countrymen. Instead, he was deeply shocked to realize it was a chatty Levantine of oriental origin, Mr. Max Kelada, who was not British, but a native of one of the British colonies (he did have a British passport). Although his origin isn't stated precisely, his name suggests Spanish, Portugese, Syrian or even Jewish origin. The narrator mentions Mr. Kelada's "hooked nose", which might imply an antisemitic remark against Jews.
The narrator was prepared to dislike Mr. Kelada even before he saw him. When he first entered the cabin, he saw Mr. Kelada's luggage and toilet things that had already been unpacked. The man's name and the sight of his things aroused a strong repulsion in him since he was prejudiced against all non- Britons, feeling superior to them. The irony of the story lies in the fact that the list of Mr. Kelada's "negative" traits presented in the beginning of the story shows an orderly, neat and tidy gentleman.
When the narrator met Mr. Kelada, his hatred got even stronger. He abhorred the cultural differences between Kelada and himself. He both detested and despised Mr. Kelada's gestures. Therefore, the description of Kelada is negative and biased. The narrator's prejudice is based on several cultural differences between him and Mr. Kelada:
a) A total stranger should address a gentleman with "Mr." and be formal.
b) A gentleman shouldn't be pushy.
c) A gentleman should be modest.
d) A gentleman should keep quiet during meals.
e) A gentleman shouldn't be too chatty and argumentative.
f) A gentleman shouldn't show off and boast about his super knowledge.
g) A gentleman shouldn't be too dogmatic.
Mr. Kelada was a person that seemed to know everything and was involved in everything, not sensing that he was disliked by everybody. He was very chatty and talked as if he had been superior to everybody else. The passengers mocked him and called him Mr. Know - All even to his face.
There was another dogmatic person on the ship - Mr. Ramsay who was an American Consular Serviceman stationed in Kobe, Japan. He was on his way to Kobe after having picked up his pretty little wife, who had stayed on her own in New York for a whole year. She looked very modest. Her clothes were simple although they achieved an effect of quiet distinction. She looked perfect and was adorable.
One evening, the conversation drifted to the subject of pearls. As Mrs. Ramsay was wearing a string of pearls, Mr. Kelada announced that it certainly was a genuine one which had probably cost many thousands of dollars. He was ready to bet a hundred dollars on it. Mr. Ramsay, on the other hand, that his wife had bought it for 18 dollars in a department store. When Mr. Know - All took out a magnifying glass from his pocket, he noticed a desperat appeal in Mrs. Ramsay's eyes. He then realized that Mrs. Ramsay got the pearls from her lover.Since Mr. Kelada didn't . want to destroy Mrs. Ramsay's marriage, he ruined his reputation instead - he told everybody that he was wrong and that the string was an excellent imitation. He gave Mr. Ramsay a hundred dollars.
The story spread all over the ship and everybody mocked Mr. Kelada. Later, while the narrator and Mr. Know - All were in their cabin, an envelope was pushed under the door. It contained a hundred dollar bill from Mrs. Ramsay. It was then that the narrator learned to value the dark - skinned Levantine. He was amazed at Mr. Kelada's generosity.
This story shows that first impressions are often misleading and that appearances are sometimes deceptive. Mr. Kelada who is described as a disgusting person who shows off all the time and knows everything better than others, is in reality a sensitive, brave gentleman who wouldn't hurt others. On the other hand, Mrs. Ramsay, whose modesty and good qualities no one questions, has been unfaithful to her husband.
The moral of the story is that we must not judge a book by its cover. Rather than judging a person by his looks, color or origin we should observe his behaviour and reactions in difficult situations.**

 ראש הטופס

X

## Did we answer your question?

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Mr. Know-All

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**Literary analysis**

THE STORY

Mr. Know- All is a story with a moral lesson. The subject is simple. A rich British merchant of Oriental origin, called Mr. Kelada, meets a group of Westerners on a ship sailing across the Pacific Ocean. His cabin-mate, a British citizen who is the

Nameless narrator

of the story, dislikes Mr. Kelada even before he sees him. However, at theend of the story Mr. Kelada, the Levantine jeweler, proves to be a real gentleman when he sacrifices his own pride and reputation to save an American lady’s marriage. As a result, he earns the respect of the narrator.

THE SETTING

Time- a short time after World War I. It is mentioned for two reasons. First, it justifies the accidental meeting in the same cabin of the narrator and Mr. Kelada. The passenger traffic on the ocean-liners was heavy, so the narrator had to agree to share a cabin with a person he disliked. Second, it may give us a possible reason for the narrator’s unjustified antagonism towards Mr. Kelada. Usually, during periods of war, feelings of prejudice and dislike for foreigners grow stronger.

Place

– it takes place on a ship in

INTERNATIONAL WATERS

– a neutral place. The journey for the USA to Japan takes 14 days. **The ship becomes the symbol of the world with people who are prejudiced and even racists.**

THE CHARACTERS

The characters may be divided into different groups:

•The major characters: Mr. Kelada and the narrator

•The minor characters: Mr. And Mrs. Ramsay, and the doctor.

•The prejudiced: the narrator and Mr. Ramsay.

•The non-prejudiced: Mr. Kelada, the doctor and Mrs. Ramsay.

•The Oriental: Mr. Kelada

•The Westerners: Mr. And Mrs. Ramsay and the narrator.

•The characters are described by their appearance and characteristics, except for the narrator.

THE NARRATION- point of view

The story is told in the first person – the narrator sees everything and is a part of the plot.

In the first episode , where he meets with Mr. Kelada, the narrator is more active, and involved

. He observes, comments and judges Mr. Kelada as he sees him through his own eyes. Since he is influenced by his prejudiced society, his judgments are subjective

.In the second episode , involving the necklace examination, the narrator is less involved

. He is like a cameraman who takes photos and writes down what he hears objectively

. After the chain examination is over, the narrator becomes subjective again.In the last episode

, the narrator discovers Mr. Kelada’s true character. As a result,

he undergoes a change – he realizes that people should not be judged by their looks but by their actions and character. It is the narrator who closes the story.

CRISIS and TURNING POINT OF THE STORY

The cultured pearls topic is the crisis of the story. The heated argument between Mr.Ramsay and Mr. Kelada reveals their true characters.

Mr. Ramsay appears to be a prejudiced person who does his best “to have a fling atthe Levantine”.

Mrs. Ramsay’s character is also revealed as being insincere in her relationship withher husband, whom she had been deceiving. When she was alone in New York for ayear, she probably had a lover who gave her the expensive pearls. Nevertheless, shehas the decency to secretly return to Mr. Kelada his “lost” money.

Mr. Kelada , who has been considered a pushy, inconsiderate and vulgar person, turnsout to be a real gentleman who saves Mrs. Ramsay's marriage.

The narrator also undergoes a change. When he realizes that Mr. Kelada behaves considerately with Mrs. Ramsay, he says “At that moment, I did not entirely dislikeMr. Kelada.” Suddenly, he becomes aware that it is not the right way to judge people. This is the moral lesson of the story.

 REAL PEARLS and CULTURE PEARLS

At first glance, real pearls and cultured pearls look the same. But only a closer inspection can reveal what is real and what is imitation.

The same goes for people.

People from the same nationality seem the same. But only when we get to know them,we see that each person is different. For example, the narrator in the story dislikes Mr.Kelada because of his name, luggage, appearance and nationality. However, when hesees the true character of Mr. Kelada, he realizes that prejudice is not the right way to judge people. Therefore, the saying DON'T JUDGE A BOOK BY ITS COVER is relevant here