Mr. Know All/ by W. Somerst Maugham

The story was written in 1925, when Britain was an empire that ruled over countries in many parts of the world, such as the Middle East, Asia and Africa.  These countries were British colonies, and although the people living there were British citizens, they were viewed by the English as second class citizens. The time is after  World War 1 in this context we can understand that it was normal for British people to consider themselves superior to people from other countries, like Max Kelada, who was born in a British colony

**The characters**

The narrator is presented as a typical upper class Englishman. He wants to be addressed with mister in front of his name. He likes formality, He is snobbish.

Max Kelada is presented as a typical Levantine (Middle Eastern). In the beginning he appears to be an insensitive person who interferes in other people's lives. He is informal, loud, dogmatic and a know all. At the end of the story he is presented as a sensitive and caring man who does not want to hurt Mrs. Ramsay.  At the end we discover that he was a real know all.

The narrator judged Mr. Kelada by his appearance and his behaviour . The narrator is prejudiced because he prejudged Kelada at the beginning of the story, before he even met him. At the end he found out that he was wrong. However, he remained a typical upper-class Englishman but became more tolerant of people who may not be English. By the end he" did not entirely dislike Mr. Kelada". At the end we find out that  Mr. Kelada is actually a pragmatic person and not dogmatic as he was presented. Mr. Kelada behaved like a gentleman. He is the "real pearl" in the story.

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**Thinking skills**:

**Explaining Patterns** (see p. 22) – this thinking skill helps us understand the story because from Mr. Kelada's pattern of behavior, which was to act like a know-all, we could appreciate the great effort he had to make admitting he was wrong.

**Uncovering Motives** (see p. 23)– this thinking skill help us understand that Mr. Kelada's motive was to protect Mrs. Ramsay, and that is why he did not reveal her secret.

**Predicting**  (see p. 23)– Nothing in the story prepares us for Kelada's behavior. He was" everywhere and always". He wouldn't drop a subject unless he had brought the other person around his way of thinking. At the end Kelada goes against his nature and for the first time admits he was wrong even though he knew that he was right.

**Inferring** – much of our understanding of the story depends on our ability to infer. The thinking skill of inferring is spiraled in the story.

For example: from the narrator's description of Mr Kelade and the fact that from the beginning of the story he says that he was prepared to dislike Mr. Kelada even before he knew him, and that he didn't like Kelada's name, the look of his luggage or his toiletries, we can infer that our narrator is a snob racist and prejudice.

From the repeating pattern of Mr. Kelada's behavior and the Narrator repeatedly saying that he didn't like Mr. Kelada, and the fact that on board he is called "Mr. know-all" we can infer that Mr. Kelada is a negative person and we readers also don't like him.

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**Literary Terms:**

**Connotation**(see p. 24) – Knowing the narrator's views of Kelada, we can conclude that the words "Mr know-all"  have a negative  connotation.

**Stereotypes**  (see p. 24)- The narrator is presented as a typical upper class Englishman. He wants to be addressed with mister in front of his name. He likes formality, He is snobbish.

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