

Answer the following

1. What is the name of the narrator?

The name of the narrator is Nicky.

2. How did the narrator feel when Valodya was given a tucked linen shirt? What would have made him happier?

When Valodya was given a tucked linen shirt, the narrator felt jealous because he did not have a similar shirt. He felt jealous every time he saw his brother wearing the shirt. What upset him more was that the shirt probably looked very good on Valodya. Every time he arranged his collar, the narrator felt he did it consciously as an act of showing off. The narrator would have been happier if he didn't feel Valodya was doing it on purposefully.

3. Name some of Valodya's hobbies.

Valodya had varied interests. They ranged from painting to reading novels to collecting curios. Whenever he would get interested in a hobby like painting, he spent all his money buying paintings. When reading novels caught his fancy, he collected novels from everywhere. He was not afraid to beg or borrow money to fulfil his fancies.

4. What about Valodya did the narrator envy the most?

The narrator envied the generosity and large-heartedness of Valodya. Whenever there was a fight between the two, the narrator always felt that Valodya would do the right thing and be able to resolve the fight. However, as much as he tried, the narrator could never bring himself to behave in a similar manner.

5. Describe the incident that made Valodya angry with his brother?

The narrator once accidentally broke one of the ornaments on Valodya's table: an empty bright-coloured little scent bottle. When Valodya demanded to know who had broken the bottle, the narrator was defiant and did not acknowledge his mistake. In his rage, he pushed the entire table along with all the ornaments to the ground. This made Valodya so furious that the narrator thought it was all over between them.

6. How did the narrator feel when Valodya asked for forgiveness?

The narrator was on the verge of tears when Valodya asked him for forgiveness. He felt sorry for his behaviour and apologised to Valodya.



7.What was the reason behind the narrator's moral anguish? Why couldn't he understand it?

The moral anguish that Nicky felt stemmed from an inferiority complex. He felt that Valodya was better than him in everything and that he was no match for him. He further felt threatened when he thought that Valodya was well aware of his superiority and flaunted it to annoy him.

8.Why did the author smile even when he did not feel like smiling?

The author smiled even when he did not feel like smiling because he wanted to show Valodya that he did not regret his action. He also wanted to reassure himself that what he had done was all right and there was nothing wrong about accidentally breaking a bottle. He knew this would hurt Valodya and that is just what he wanted.

9. Why do you think the narrator felt scared and ashamed in the presence of his brother?

He felt ashamed of his behaviour. He was also scared that his brother would not forgive him.

10.What was the irresistible feeling that made the narrator turn away?

The irresistible feeling that swelled up in the narrator was his pride which was not letting him apologise to his brother.