

Vocabulary

I. Look up the definitions of the words in an english-english dictionary. Find and write down the phrases or sentences in which the vocabulary items are used in the book.

| Word | Definition | Book context |
|-------------------------------|------------|--------------|
| 1. disconsolate | 1. | 1. |
| 2. woebegone | 2. | 2. |
| 3. rueful | 3. | 3. |
| 4. to turn smb out | 4. | 4. |
| 5. to find fault with | 5. | 5. |
| 6. forbearance | 6. | 6. |
| 7. to blunder | 7. | 7. |
| 8. to take pains to do smth | 8. | 8. |
| 9. to eat humble pie | 9. | 9. |
| 10. astounded | 10. | 10. |
| 11. to tumble off | 11. | 11. |
| 12. to grudge sb sth | 12. | 12. |
| 13. to collect oneself | 13. | 13. |
| 14. to get over sth | 14. | 14. |
| 15. to puzzle over | 15. | 15. |
| 16. to take sb up on the spot | 16. | 16. |
| 17. vanity | 17. | 17. |
| 18. to unravel | 18. | 18. |
| 19. to foresee | 19. | 19. |
| 20. aloofness | 20. | 20. |
| 21. to implore | 21. | 21. |
| 22. to rack one's brain | 22. | 22. |
| 23. diffidence | 23. | 23. |
| 24. idiosyncrasy | 24. | 24. |
| 25. peculiar | 25. | 25. |

II. Find the synonyms among the words in the assigned vocabulary.

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| 1. self-control | 1. | |
| 2. eccentricity | 2. | |
| 3. to ponder | 3. | |
| 4. apologetic | 4. | |
| 5. to resolve, to decipher | 5. | |
| 6. distressed, miserable, depressed | 6. | |
| 7. make a mistake | 7. | |
| 8. make an effort | 8. | |
| 9. detachment | 9. | |
| 10. astonished, flabbergasted | 10. | |
| 11. to deny sb sth | 11. | |
| 12. to beseech, plead | 12. | |
| 13. distinct, odd | 13. | |
| 14. to pull yourself together | 14. | |
| 15. to foretell | 15. | |
| 16. shyness | 16. | |



Discussion questions

1. What state of mind did the author find Stroeve in when visiting Louvre?

2. What was the author's first reaction to hearing about Stroeve's wife leaving him?



3. Describe the scene when Mrs. Stroeve told him about her decision.

4. What did Stroeve do to try and stop her?

5. Who said it and why? "You certainly have less vanity than any man I've ever known".

6. Did Dirk Stroeve have any suspicion about what was going on between his wife and Strickland?

7. What was his biggest regret?

8. How did the author explain Blanche Stroeve's action?

9. Why did the author believe that Strickland was not capable of love?