

Group Three 18.6. 2020 (The quacking of bees)

Which interested you most? Lazy-article, Umbrella story, Britain's Delusion ?

1. Are we naturally lazy - you?

Summary: We are naturally lazy or like to take the line of least resistance (l. 21) but in fact we thrive on activity (l. 19). There is a scientific proof of this of people giving themselves electric shocks without needing to and the more relevant proof that we climb mountains when there are easier ways of getting to the top. (More examples.) Or 'Ikea effect' (? l. 111)
In fact doing nothing drives us to distraction (. 116)
Hammond says: '...doing less...initially requires a lot of effort'. (l. 137)

For next week please think about: What do you thrive on?
In which kinds of situations do you take the line of least resistance? Or don't you?
What drives you to distraction?

2. (trains used to toot, lorries nowadays. Ducks quack, so do frogs.)

Read text about tooting and quacking aloud. Discuss! Yet we don't believe Klausner?
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/53061948> for the quacking and tooting

3. Dahl - Umbrella Man.

Several of you said you liked it. (Did you know it before?) Why did you like it?
Does he want to make a point? Is it very British (old British)
'The nicer a man seems to be, the more suspicious you must become' - true?
How would you/I react when asked for help like that?
Is it what you would call 'typical Dahl'?



4. Kettle: 'Delusion' - leading to Rabbit

Delusion - Statue of slave trader put up in Bristol in 1895 and toppled in 2020 . Kettle says Britain is divided in diverse ways; also it does not know its own history, is in collective public denial of empire and at present seems to need to be 'great'. (History as a 'warning rather than a means of self-congratulation'? (l.44)
Concentrating on statues would continue to stop us from looking at real 'self and the world of 2020' (l.92).

Idioms: pride of place (l.9) to one's detriment (l. 76/7)

5. When Hitler stole Pink Rabbit:

Which political events can you remember from your childhood (up to about 10)?
What do you remember/know about the book?
How do people know they are Jews?