**“Dr Heidegger”**

**Analysis Questions**

1. s "Dr. Heidegger's Experiment" meant to be funny at all? Where do you see humor in this text, and what is the effect of such humor on your reading of the story?
2. Is Dr. Heidegger a likeable character? A sinister one? As a reader, do you relate more to him or to his guests?
3. The story could be read as an allegory, a story in which people, objects and events represent abstract qualities. The four guests in “Dr. Heidegger’s Experiment” are not realistic, fully developed characters. Instead, they seem more like representations of ideas. Allegories are written not only to entertain but also to teach lessons or moral principles.
4. Using the following chart, dentify an abstract quality or idea that each of the four guests in the story might represent:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **CHARACTER** | **WHAT S/HE**  **LOSES OR WASTES** | **WHAT HAPPENS WHEN S/HE IS GIVEN A 2ND CHANCE** | **HE S/HE MIGHT REPRESENT** |
| Mr. Medbourne |  |  |  |
| Colonel Killigrew |  |  |  |
| Mr. Gasciogne |  |  |  |
| Widow Wycherly |  |  |  |
| Dr  Heidegger | Dr Heidegger never seeks another love, he wastes his life pining for his dead fiancé | In his case, Dr H is never given another opportunity. He saves the water for his friends, and states that he has the memories of his lost love to sustain him | * Missed opportunities * Misdirected attention |