

Period D Student Created Questions

"The Story of William Wilson"

- What did the carnival represent and why did the author choose that location? How might the different settings in the story reflect the character of William Wilson?
- What does the fight in the end represent?
- Is William Wilson 2.0 just another side of William Wilson 1.0? Possibly a figment of his imagination? Or could it be a scenario of multiple personalities?
- Are the later events of his life just a dream that he is having as he is dying?
- Why is the second Wilson trying to stop the first Wilson from doing anything wrong? Why does he follow him all over the world just for this purpose?
- Why can't the narrator escape from the second William Wilson when he flees around the world?
- What is the purpose of the second William Wilson? Is he there just to serve as his conscience?
- When William Wilson 1.0 went into 2.0's bedroom, why did he appear different than he did during the daytime?
- Why did William Wilson 2.0 only appear when 1.0 was drinking?
- Could William Wilson just have been having a dream about the whole experience?
- If William Wilson 1.0 lived a good life, would William Wilson 2.0 still exist?
- Doppelganger literally means "ghostly double." How is the idea of a doppelganger used in this story?
- What is William 2.0's physical defect? Why is it important?
- What does William resent more - having to share his name and appearance with another man, or the second William Wilson's interference with his affairs?
- The narrator claims that he was victim to a cruel fate; what sort of fate is he talking about? Is this really a case of destiny?