

Reading Guide for "The Elephant Man"

I. Vocabulary:

throttle to strangle; choke

mercilessly cruel, without mercy

II. Literary Terms:

nonfiction _____

biography _____

irony _____

dramatic irony _____

situational irony _____

verbal irony _____

III. Questions

1. What is the protagonist's name?
2. What did John believe to be his first memory?
3. Why is this probably not his first memory?
4. What does the author say is probably his first memory?
5. How is the drawing in the third panel on page 39 ironic?
6. How does the narrator use verbal irony in panel four on page 39?
7. What happens in the womb that causes John to look deformed?
8. What is the metaphor in panel six on page 39?

9. How does the narrator emphasize that John is a human?
10. How come John didn't run away from his tormentors?
11. Who came to visit John Merrick?
12. What is the setting of this story?
13. What did John Merrick do in order to travel alone?
14. What are two places John Merrick would like to live in?
15. What advantages did these two places have to offer?
16. In panel 8 on page 41, the drawing indicates what about the doctor's attitude?
17. What is ironic about panels 1 – 3 on page 42?
18. What could John Merrick supposedly not do?
19. How did John Merrick die?
20. Who is the woman in the last panel on page 42?
21. Having this woman in the first and last panel, creates what kind of mood for the essay?
22. What is the author's purpose of this essay?