Abraham and Isaac

**King James Bible**

And it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt Abraham, and said unto him, Abraham: and he said, Behold, here I am.

And he said, Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of.

And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and saddled his ass, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son, and clave the wood for the burnt offering, and rose up, and went unto the place of which God had told him.

Then on the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes, and saw the place afar off.

And Abraham said unto his young men, Abide ye here with the ass; and I and the lad will go yonder and worship, and come again to you.

And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering, and laid it upon Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife; and they went both of them together.

And Isaac spake unto Abraham his father, and said, My father: and he said, Here am I, my son. And he said, Behold the fire and the wood: but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?

And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together.

And they came to the place which God had told him of; and Abraham built an altar there, and laid the wood in order, and bound Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar upon the wood.

And Abraham stretched forth his hand, and took the knife to slay his son.

And the angel of the Lord called unto him out of heaven, and said, Abraham, Abraham: and he said, Here am I.

And he said, Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou any thing unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me.

And Abraham lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold behind him a ram caught in a thicket by his horns: and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt offering in the stead of his son.

And Abraham called the name of that place Jehovah-jireh: as it is said to this day, In the mount of the Lord it shall be seen.

And the angel of the Lord called unto Abraham out of heaven the second time,

And said, By myself have I sworn, saith the Lord, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son,

That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies;

And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.

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| —Genesis 22:1–18 |

The Parable of the Old Man and the Young

**Wilfred Owen**

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| http://my.hrw.com/images/points/1.gif | So Abram rose, and clave the wood, and went, |
| http://my.hrw.com/images/points/1.gif | And took the fire with him, and a knife. |
| http://my.hrw.com/images/points/1.gif | And as they sojourned both of them together, |
| http://my.hrw.com/images/points/1.gif | Isaac the first-born spake and said, My Father, |
| 5 | Behold the preparations, fire and iron, |
| http://my.hrw.com/images/points/1.gif | But where the lamb for this burnt-offering? |
| http://my.hrw.com/images/points/1.gif | Then Abram bound the youth with belts and straps, |
| http://my.hrw.com/images/points/1.gif | And builded parapets and trenches there, |
| http://my.hrw.com/images/points/1.gif | And stretchèd forth the knife to slay his son. |
| 10 | When lo! an angel called him out of heaven, |
| http://my.hrw.com/images/points/1.gif | Saying, Lay not thy hand upon the lad, |
| http://my.hrw.com/images/points/1.gif | Neither do anything to him. Behold, |
| http://my.hrw.com/images/points/1.gif | A ram, caught in a thicket by its horns; |
| http://my.hrw.com/images/points/1.gif | Offer the Ram of Pride instead of him. |
| 15 | But the old man would not so, but slew his son, |
| http://my.hrw.com/images/points/1.gif | And half the seed of Europe, one by one. |

**1.** In the Genesis story, God commands Abraham to—

**A**    abandon Isaac in the wilderness

**B**    leave his son with two servants

**C**    kill his son as an offering to God

**D**    protect Isaac from God’s anger

**2.** Which word best describes Isaac’s relationship with his father, Abraham, in Genesis?

**F**    distant

**G**    fearful

**H**    disrespectful

**J**    trusting

**3.** In the first verse of the Genesis story, God is said to “tempt” Abraham. What is Abraham tempted to do?

**A**    make a forbidden offering

**B**    disobey God and save his son

**C**    lie to Isaac

**D**    run away

**4.** In Genesis, Abraham is rewarded for—

**F**    his leadership of a great dynasty

**G**    his love for his son

**H**    his faithful obedience to God

**J**    his belief in angels

**5.** Which words reveal the **setting** of Owen’s poem?

**A**    “Isaac the first-born spake”

**B**    “fire and iron”

**C**    “parapets and trenches”

**D**    “an angel called him”

**6.** In Owen’s poem, who does Abram, or “the old man,” represent?

**F**    those who send the young to war

**G**    fathers who love their sons

**H**    mature men who think for themselves

**J**    those who obey orders

**7.** A **parable** teaches a moral lesson. What moral point is Owen making?

**A**    In wartime the older generation willingly sacrifices the young.

**B**    Those who decide to go to war face difficult choices.

**C**    The young agree to be sacrificed to uphold the pride of the fathers.

**D**    Personal feelings must be sacrificed for the public good.

**8.** How would you describe the **tone,** or attitude, of Owen’s poem?

**F**    angry

**G**    objective

**H**    proud

**J**    disillusioned

**9.** What question does Isaac ask his father in both the biblical story and the poem?

**A**    What is the purpose of their journey?

**B**    Where is the lamb for the burnt offering?

**C**    Why can’t he stay behind?

**D**    Why must he carry the wood?

**10.** How is Abram’s response to the angel in the poem different from Abraham’s response to the angel in Genesis?

**F**    Abram debates with the angel.

**G**    Abram disobeys the angel.

**H**    Abram hides from the angel.

**J**    Abram refuses to kill his son.

**Constructed Response**

How does Owen use irony to achieve a specific purpose in the poem?

Topic Sentence

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Concluding Sentences

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