

General Discussion Questions on Idealism vs. Realism

Does the story suggest that idealism is naïve or that realism is cynical—or both?

Is the conflict between idealism and realism presented as something that can be reconciled, or is it portrayed as irreconcilable?

Are the “realistic” parts of the story meant to ground the reader, or to undermine the idealism of certain characters/events?

Does the plot resolution suggest the triumph of ideals or the acceptance of harsh reality?

How does personal experience—loss, love, betrayal—shift a character from idealism to realism (or vice versa)?