Lesson 1

BUTTON, BUTTON (Richard Matheson)



Q.1: Why did Norma consider the tone and attitude of Mr. Steward offensive?

Ans: Norma considered the tone and attitude of Mr. Steward offensive because she had already told him that she was rather busy, but he kept on insisting on her to talk to him in a business-like manner about the button unit.

Q.2: Why did Arthur disagree with his wife?

Ans: Arthur disagreed with his wife because he considered it immoral to kill somebody for the sake of money.

Q.3: Why did Norma try to persuade her husband to agree with her?

Ans: Norma tried to persuade her husband to agree with her because she wanted to improve their lifestyle. She wanted to take a trip to Europe, have a cottage on the island, have a nicer apartment, nicer furniture, nicer clothes, and a car.

Q.4: What were the reasons Norma gave to her husband to accept the offer?

Ans: Norma said that it might be a research project. She also said that some eccentric millionaire might be playing games with people. She also wanted to improve their lifestyle.

Q.5: Why did Mr. Steward continue persuading Norma to get the button unit?

Ans: When Norma called Mr. Steward herself, he sensed her interest in the offer, that is why he continued persuading her.

Q.6: What was the message that Norma received after pushing the button?

Ans: Norma received a message from Lenox Hill Hospital informing her about the subway accident. She was told that Arthur had been pushed from the platform in front of the train and had died.

Q.7: What is the significance of Arthur's life insurance policy?

Ans: Arthur's life insurance policy is for \$25000 with double indemnity. It was the same amount that was offered by Mr. Steward.

Q.8: Did Norma remain normal on hearing the news of the accident of her husband?

Ans: No, Norma did not remain normal. She felt unreal as the voice informed her of the subway accident. She was conscious of shaking her head but could not stop. She could not seem to breathe. She struggled to her feet and walked into the kitchen numbly. Something cold pressed at her skull as she removed the button unit from the wastebasket.

Q.9: Where was the package lying?

Ans: The package was lying by the front door.

Q. 10: What did Norma make for Arthur's breakfast?

Ans: She made pancakes, eggs, and tea for Arthur's breakfast.

