A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man - The Game

Question 1:

• What circumstance leads to Stephen's becoming ill and going to the infirmary?

Question 2:

• Whose death does Stephen hear of while he is in the infirmary?

What is the main dish at the Dedalus's Christmas dinner?

 Who are the three participants in the quarrel that breaks out at the dinner table? Which side is each one on?

 Why isn't Stephen writing his Latin composition with the other boys when Father Dolan visits the classroom?

• How do the other boys react when they learn that Stephen talked to the rector about Father Dolan?

 What is the book that so engages Stephen's imagination as a young adolescent in Blackrock?

 Why is it that Stephen does not return to school at Clongowes?

• Why does Uncle Charles no longer go on family errands after the move to Dublin?

• What is the purpose of the journey to Cork on which Stephen accompanies his father?

• Why does Stephen disapprove of his father?

 In what ways is Stephen's life at Belvedere different from his life at Clongowes? In what ways is life the same at both schools?

• After Stephen stops going to pass, he continues to perform one act of worship. What is this act?

• What is a retreat and what is its purpose?

• In whose honor is the retreat at Belvedere to be held?

• What are the four last things upon which Father Arnall's sermons are based?

• To whom does Stephen finally go to confess?

 Although Stephen feels alienated from God, he continues to perform his duties in the Sodality of the Blessed Virgin. Describe his attitude toward the Virgin Mary.

According to Father Arnall, why did God create Adam and Eve?

• What is the simple fact concerning his renewed faith that Stephen finds hardest to believe?

• Why does Stephen feel remorse toward his brothers and sisters?

 Why do the priests to whom Stephen confesses often ask him to name some sin of his past life before giving absolution?

• What is the purpose of the petition that McCann wants Stephen to sign?

 Which of Stephen's fellow students is an ardent Irish nationalist?

• To whom does Stephen write the villanelle?

• What is the cause of the quarrel between Stephen and his mother?

 Why does Stephen think it is inconsistent for Davin to sign the petition for world peace while being committed to Irish nationalism?

 What demands do each of the following make on Stephen – Davin, McCann, the director of the college, his mother? How does Stephen deal with these demands?

 Compare and contrast Stephen's perception of art with his perception of religion, family, school, or country. What makes art such an appealing escape for Stephen?

• What role does Stephen's burgeoning sexuality play in his development as a character? How does his Catholic morality complicate his experience of sexuality?

 How does the setting of the novel affect the characters and the plot?