

"My Oedipus Complex" by Frank O'Connor

Questions #1 and #2:

the narrator and his relationship with his father

"distant relationship"

"saw his dad as Santa"

"curious about him
(the father)"

"he (father) comes and goes"

"five years old"

"a kid whose dad is in the war"

"a bit of a trouble maker"

"likes when his dad comes home"

"he was fascinated (with his father)"

"not knowing his father
doesn't bother him"

"just someone he
knows"

Question #3:

How **does the narrator view** his relationship with his mother?

"close relationship"

"thinks she is simple-minded"

"he wants all of his mother's attention"

"likes his mother and spends
a lot of time with her"

"believes she should do stuff for him"

"he kind of uses her a lot"

"daily routines involve each other"

"he loves being in her attention"

"likes being close to his mother"

"their daily routines involve
being with each other"

"viewed as/treated as equals"

"they are friends"

Question #4:

How does his father's return change his daily life?

How does his attitude toward his father change?

"can't go into his mom's
bed in the morning"

"feels like he is stealing
his mother from him"

"begins to hate his father"

"disrupts his habits"

"they compete for his mother"

"enjoyed the privileges he had
before father came home"

"they are fighting a lot"

"they compete for the mother"

"wants him (father) to
go back to war"

"holds a grudge against his dad"

"views his father as competition"

"can't...talk to her as much"

"finds him much less interesting/
dislikes him without his uniform"

"he's jealous because his father
is talking to his mom"

Question #5: How and why does the narrator rebel?

"by waking him up"

"because he's jealous"

"plays with the knives/toys")

"interrupts when his mother and father are talking"

"plays obnoxiously, taking time away from dad"

"He talks back at his dad"

"because his mom spends more time with the dad"

"plays/talks really loudly when his parents are talking"

"he wants his dad to go back to the war"

"he wants the attention of his mother"

Question #6: How does the baby bring him closer to his father?

"both jealous of the attention the mother gave to the baby"

"they both get ignored in the long run"

"look to each other for comfort because they feel lonely"

"They team up against the mom and the baby; they have a mutual enemy."

"They both only had each other"

"the mother ignored both the son and the father, so they started talking and got closer"

"they both become jealous of the baby"

"his father got rejected just like him"

"brings them closer together"

"Just like his father kicked him out of the bed, the baby kicked the father out."

Question #7: Narrator's perspective/age?

"4-5...plays with toys, whines...,
attached in a babyish way to mom"

"is writing in the first person"

"gets it bed with his mom to talk"

"an older person doesn't sleep
in the same bed as their parents"

"wailed when his mom
told him to be quiet"

'He said he was five.'

Question #8: Fiction or Nonfiction?

Fiction: "author's name is Frank"

"nonfiction because this could happen"

Fiction: "buying babies"

"nonfiction because it is in first person and gives specific details"

"fiction based on nonfiction"

"fiction because it is copying a story that is nonfictional"

"nonfiction because it has a lot of reality in it"

"fiction but it could be nonfiction"

Fiction: "the author's name is Frank O'Connor and the character is Larry"

"fiction with nonfiction traits... could or has happened in reality"