



Question 2

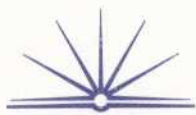
basis of story (c)

~ Decisions ~

I never knew it would be this hard, I always knew it had to be done but doing it was the hard part. I had grown comfortable, life was easy, it was free but most of all life was safe. Outside was cold, hard it was real and I had to decide, was ignorance nearly bliss or was the experience of life; love, sorrow, pain, joy, and hate, the most precious thing in the world, and that I, was missing out. I had to know, but to turn my back on all I knew.... Impossible.

I looked out my window, to take reconnaissance ~~at~~ my opposition and from my place up high I saw suffering, children crying as angry parents fought and hated each other and themselves. I stopped looking and thought, "have I ever hated?" "how I ever been hated?" no

was the answer to both. I continued my surveillance and on the street below I saw happiness and contentment. Two starstruck lovers walked by, hand in hand, happy in the warmth of each other's presence and in the belief that they could with go breathing as each other is all they needed to live. I looked within myself and asked "have I ever loved, or been loved?" and again I was forced to say NO. minutes passed as I sat in contemplation and I looked out again, this time I saw an elderly woman scream as a youth pushed her down and stole her bag. Fear is what I saw. Shocked I came back to my room and again I asked "Do I know fear?" I answered No but as soon as I replied a secondary voice said "yes you do, that is why you have never known, love or hate, that is why you are helpless to give aid to the old woman and that is why you live in your own



world disconnected from those around you.'

And at that moment I understood what I had to do. I had to turn my back on my safe little world, I had to leave. I had to change or never feel 'human' or loved or hated, so I stood up, away from my chair at my window, away from my fear and away from my true enemy... not the world but myself. ~~And then~~

It was the hardest thing I have ever done... but it was the best thing as well.