

# THE STAMP COLLECTION by Karel Capek

## LITERARY CRITIQUE

- 1) Why is Karas sure that Lojzik has stolen his album?
- 2) Why do Karas' feelings toward his father and aunt change after the loss of the album?
- 3) What is the long-term damage caused by the "shock" of the disappearance of the stamps?
- 4) What does Karas learn about himself after his wife dies?
- 5) Why does Karas believe that his childhood was "wasted"?
- 6) What does Karas now realize about himself?
- 7) What does Karas mean when he states, "On each of these stamps there was a scrap of something which might have been and never was"?
- 8) Could there be other reasons for Karas' inability to develop lasting relationships?
- 9) Are Karas' reasons valid for believing his life would have been different?
- 10) Do you agree with Father Voves? Explain your answer.
- 11) According to Mr. Karas, the lives a man might have lived are not entirely dead. Sometimes it happens that the pain one feels from a life not lived is like the pain of a leg that has been cut off.

Explain what Mr. Karas means in the above statement.

## Writing Workshop

Topic sentence for your essay:

I disagree with Mr. Karas' belief that 'friendship is the finest feeling that one can have'.

In a two-or-three paragraph essay explain from evidence in the story why Mr. Karas believes what he believes. Then give your own reasons and evidence in support of your disagreement with Mr. Karas.

Note: Even if you actually agree with Mr. Karas you have to take the opposite position.

## VOCABULARY WORKSHOP

### **1. dumbfounded**

- a. built incorrectly
- b. completely lost
- C. speechless with astonishment

### **2. archeologist**

- a. one who designs buildings
- b. one who studies ancient peoples and their cultures
- C. one who collects stamps

### **3. curt**

- a. excessively friendly
- b. sharp-edged
- c. abrupt in speech or manner

### **4 ransack**

- a. to search thoroughly and vigorously
- b. to carry in a backpack
- c. to conceal by placing in a secure location

### **5. aloof**

- a. reserved; detached

- b. wise; sensible
- c. foolish; silly

**6. Woebegone**

- a. having overcome sorrow
- b. rickety conveyance
- c. became confused or dizzy

**7.confiscated**

- a. by took away by or as if by authority
- b. beat with the fists
- c. showing or indicating distress or trouble

**8. sheepishly**

- a. in a childish manner
- b. in an embarrassed or bashful manner
- c in an obedient manner

The work should be returned to the email address listed on the website. Please include an email address (or a fax number) so that I may return your work. All work must be received by the end of the week.

All the best,  
Mr. Widelitz