

Somewhere in the Past

Old Man Sully stared at the photo in the frame; his mind wandering somewhere in the past. It wandered to a time when he was young; young and carefree. When his memory was sharp and his knees were strong.

“Welcome to Sullivan’s Frames.” That’s what he used to say to his customers. “My name is Sullivan. Mr Sullivan. Here for your framing needs.” He remembered delivering the words with a curt nod, a firm handshake and a confident smile.

He pulled out of his daydream and blew at the lingering dust on the photo frame; specks dancing in the early morning sunlight. Here for your framing needs, he chuckled to himself. Was that really how he spoke back then? These days he kept himself to himself but it’s what he had tried to say to Myriam the day they first met. He remembered it like it was yesterday: the tinkling of the shop doorbell, the sunlight streaming in and then those eyes. It was as if an angel had walked into the room.

“Welcome to Frullivan Sames,” he’d said that day, with a shaky outstretched hand. “My name is Mr... S... Sull-i-van. Here for your frailing weeds.”

They had laughed about it for years afterwards. 62 to be precise. A swift courtship – and an even swifter marriage – followed and Myriam settled alongside him as a partner in business, as well as life.

Picture framers together. A beautiful partnership; a match made in heaven. 62 years...

He stared at the photo in the frame; his mind wandering somewhere in the past. The bell tinkled, the door opened and Old Man Sully looked up with a smile.



Answers

Content domain: 2d – Make inferences from the text/explain and justify inferences with evidence from the text

Secondary content domain: 2f – Identify/explain how narrative content is related and contributes to meaning as a whole.

Accept answers that support any one of the following ideas:

- 1. Myriam is still married/partners with Old Man Sully.**
- 2. Myriam has separated/divorced from Old Man Sully.**
- 3. Myriam has died.**

Acceptable points:

Idea 1: Myriam is still married/partners with Old Man Sully.

1. The author refers to Myriam and Old Man Sully being partners in marriage and life, which could suggest she's still alive.
2. The author repeats the tinkling of the shop door-bell which could be Myriam entering like when they first met.
3. Old Man Sully smiles at the end suggesting it is Myriam coming through the door.

Idea 2: Myriam has separated/divorced from Old Man Sully.

1. Old Man Sully remembers the past when he first met Myriam which could suggest they are no longer together.
2. Old Man Sully looks up and smiles suggesting he is remembering something from the past – possibly when he was still married to Myriam.
3. Old Man Sully stares at the photo (presumably Myriam) as if remembering a time when they were still together.

Idea 3: Myriam has died.

1. Old Man Sully remembers when he first met Myriam which could suggest he's looking back to when she was alive.

2. Old Man Sully looks up and smiles; possibly remembering when she was alive.

3. Old Man Sully stares at the photo (presumably Myriam) as if he is remembering a time when Myriam was still alive.

4. The author uses language that refers to an afterlife, such as 'angels' and 'heaven'.

5. The text says they have been together for 62 years, which would mean both characters are very old.

Award **3 marks** for two acceptable points, with at least one supported with evidence, e.g.

Myriam may have died. Old Man Sully is thinking about the past and the first time he met Myriam, which he 'remembered it like it was yesterday'. This, and the fact that Old Man Sully 'looked up with a smile' when looking at the photo, could suggest he is remembering a time when Myriam was alive.

[Idea 3: AP1 quotation + supporting evidence + AP2 quotation + supporting evidence]

Award **2 marks** for either two acceptable points, or one acceptable point with evidence, e.g.

I think Myriam is no longer with Old Man Sully because she is not in the story and his mind wanders 'somewhere in the past' when he looks at the picture, which could infer things have changed and might mean they have split up.

[Idea 2: AP2 supporting evidence + AP1 quotation + supporting evidence]

Award **1 mark** for one acceptable point, e.g.

I think Myriam is still alive because she walked through the door when they first met and that could be her at the end because the author mentions the tinkling bell again.

[Idea 1: AP2 supporting evidence]