With the Photographer

- **Self-perception vs. Reality**

Leacock explores the universal theme of self-perception versus reality. The protagonist's witty yet heartfelt declaration, "This face is my face. It is not yours," it is mine" captures his quest for self-acceptance. The protagonist's defence of his face serves as a reminder that true identity is rooted in self-acceptance, self-love and the recognition that our unique features are an integral part of who we are.

- **Humour and satire:**

Leacock employs humour throughout the story, particularly in the absurdity of the photographer's demands and his critique of the protagonist's appearance. The exaggerated reactions and descriptions, such as the photographer suggesting that the protagonist's ears are 'bad' or that his face needs twisting, create a comedic effect. This humour also serves as a satire of the pretensions of professional photographers and their tendency to over-manipulate their subjects in search of a perfect image.

- **Irony:**

Irony is a key component of the narrative style. The protagonist's expectation of getting a simple photograph of himself is contrasted with the reality of the photographer's overzealous and absurd approach to altering his appearance.

The photographer's relentless efforts to improve the protagonist's face ~~at~~ ultimately result in a photo that is nothing like him. This creates a strong sense of irony.

- Dialogue and characterisation:

The characters are brought to life through their dialogue. The photographer speaks in short, clipped commands, reflecting his clinical, detached attitude, while the narrator's responses are often emotional or filled with sarcasm, providing a sharp contrast. The contrast between the two characters' ways of speaking adds to the humour and highlights the theme of dehumanisation.

- Critique of society:

Beneath the humour, the story offers a subtle critique of society's obsession with perfection and artificiality, especially in the realm of photography and personal appearance. The photographer's insistence on manipulating the protagonist's features to fit an idealised standard reflects a broader ~~comm~~ commentary on how society often distorts reality to fit certain expectations.
