

Short Stories

After reading the story answer the following questions:

1. Who is the protagonist of the story? Try to determine his/her age, race, family background, social class, occupation, education. This answer should include half a dozen facts about the character.
2. What do you believe are the most dominant traits of the protagonist? Explain and illustrate.
3. Who are the other two or three most important supporting characters in the story? Explain their relationship to the protagonist and include some information about each one.
4. What contribution to the story is made by the setting? Is the time period, location, time of day, season, weather, or any other setting playing a role essential or symbolic to the story, or could the story have happened anywhere? Explain! (setting is usually carefully chosen in fiction)
5. What do you learn about the story (or the main character(s)) by its title?
6. Trace the progress of the protagonist through the following detailed stages by presenting examples from and your own explanations about the story:
 - a. the original situation of the protagonist
 - b. the triggering event which begins to involve the protagonist in a central tension;
 - c. the major steps by which the involvement is intensified;
 - d. the crisis (show what causes the crisis and how);
 - e. the resolution (show what breaks the crisis and how).
7. Is the protagonist a round, dynamic, static or flat character? On what evidence do you base your answer?
8. List half a dozen (or so) observations of the author's writing style:
 - a. zero in on diction (word choice), sentence structure, figurative language
 - b. zero in on ways speech, thoughts, and personalities of key characters are shown**Include examples from the story for the observations you make for both a and b.**
9. What is a major theme of this story? Express it in a single sentence, and then explain how it is shown. Show some examples from the story that led you to see this theme.
10. Do you believe this story chiefly offers escape or does it have greater significance? Explain why you have this belief. (see Mr. Larson's website for explanation of "escape lit" vs. "interpretive lit"...click on "Literature" and watch Prezi)

30 points