

Short Stories & Poetry

Jenny by Kurt Vonnegut

1. Who is Jenny?
2. Make a prediction. What do you think the “sad news” the narrator has to deliver is about?
3. What is odd about the way people are treating the refrigerator?
4. What stands out to you about this piece and why? (What do you like and why?)
5. What character stands out to you and why?
6. What does this author do well that you’d like to try in your own writing?
7. What questions or criticisms do you have about this piece?

Milk & Honey by Rupi Kaur

1. Which poem stands out to you and why?
2. What is one theme that you see in this excerpt of her poetry?
3. Why does Rupi Kaur only use lowercase letters in her writing?
4. What does this author do well that you can try in your own writing?
5. What questions or criticisms do you have about this excerpt of poetry?

Miriam by Truman Capote

1. Why is Mrs. Miller so lonely?
2. How does Mrs. Miller feel about buying Miriam a ticket to the movies?
3. Describe some things that Mrs. Miller does after seeing Miriam at her house.

4. Is Miriam really there? Support your answer with details.
5. What does this author do well that you'd like to try in your own writing?
6. What questions or criticisms do you have about this piece?

Me Talk Pretty One Day by David Sedaris

1. Who is David comparing to an "agent" in the beginning of this piece?
2. Why doesn't David want to say words that have the letter S in them? How does David get around saying the letter S in his conversation with the teacher?
3. How does David's mother feel about his struggles? What does she say to him?
4. What does this author do well that you'd like to try in your own writing?
5. What questions or criticisms do you have about this piece?

Whiskey Words & a Shovel by r.h. Sin

1. What can we infer about r.h. Sin's feelings on womanhood and femininity?
2. Pick one poem and identify it by the page number. What do you identify as the main theme in this poem?
3. Pick a second poem and identify it by the page number. What do you identify as the main theme in this poem?
4. What does this author do well that you'd like to try in your own writing?
5. What questions or criticisms do you have about this piece?

A Childhood Spent Inside A Chinese Restaurant by Susan Cheng

1. Why does Susan only have Sunday off? What does she do the other days of the week?
2. What kind of conflict is prominent in the personal essay?

3. What kind of relationship does Susan have with her mother? How does she feel about her mother?
4. What does this author do well that you'd like to try in your own writing?
5. What questions or criticisms do you have about this piece?

The Lottery by Shirley Jackson

1. What is the setting of the story? What mood does it put the reader in?
2. What are the boys collecting?
3. What is an example of foreshadowing in the text?
4. What do they win when they win the lottery?
5. Why do they still do the lottery?
6. What does this author do well that you'd like to try in your own writing?
7. What questions or criticisms do you have about this piece?
8. What is the significance of Tessie's final scream, "It isn't fair, it isn't right"? What aspect of the lottery does she explicitly challenge; what aspect goes unquestioned?
9. Is the lottery a collective act of murder? Is it morally justified? Is tradition sufficient justification for such actions? How would you respond to cultures that are different from ours that perform "strange" rituals?