

## **Thank You Ma'am**

### **by Langston Hughes**

#### Questions

1. The author doesn't say where the story takes place. Where do you think that the setting might be (place, time, culture, etc)? What evidence do you have to support your assumptions.

2a. (Recall): What does Mrs. Jones do when Roger tries to steal her purse?

2b. (Interpret): What can you tell about her character from this action?

2c. (Connect): How might her actions be connected to her past experiences?

3a. (Recall): What does Roger do when Mrs. Jones leaves him alone with her purse?

3b. (Infer): Why does he do this?

3c. (Compare): How have Roger's behavior and attitude changed?

3d. (Relate) When in your life has someone, especially a stranger, trusted you?

4a. (Recall): What do Mrs. Jones and Roger talk about during the meal?

4b. (Infer): Why doesn't Mrs. Jones ask Roger any personal questions?

5a. (Recall): What does Roger say when he leaves the apartment?

5b. (Infer): What more might he want to say?

5c. (Interpret): Why can't he say more?

6a. (Predict): What effect will Mrs. Jones's actions have on Roger's future?

6b. (Judge): Does Mrs. Jones make good choices about how to treat Roger?

When in your life, have you been caught doing something wrong and somehow it turned into a good learning experience for you?

#### **Questions by Students:**

If the story continued and Mrs. Jones walked Roger to his house, if the parents were home, what do you think the interactions between them all would be like?

This story was written around 1940. What would the story be like if it were written these days?

Why did Mrs. Jones have the feeling to help Roger after he tried to rob her?

Who in your life reminds you of Roger?

What are the other people in Mrs. Jones's house (or her life) like?

If he had parents, how would they react to Roger stealing?

What if Roger had a gun?

What did the author mean when he said "the boy didn't trust her to trust HIM?"

What if the boy got the purse and the whole story was about him afterwards?

