

Tier 1.0 Reading Questions 2

Charles

Shirley Jackson

1. What are readers ultimately led to believe at the end of the story? (In other words, what is the truth that is revealed at the end of the story?)

2. Write two quotes from the last seven paragraphs of the story (beginning with “We’re all so interested...”), and explain how each one helps the reader come to this conclusion (your answer to number one).
 - a. Detail/quote 1:
 - i. Why does this help suggest the ending?

 - b. Detail/quote 2:
 - i. Why does this help suggest the ending?

3. What narrative point of view is being used to tell the story? Why is it essential that this story is told in that point of view (why would it not work in a different point of view)?
 - a. Point of view:

 - b. Why it’s essential/why it wouldn’t work if in a different point of view:

4. What would have happened if the baby hadn’t caught a cold (as described on page 75)? How would that have affected the story in an important way?

5. Which of Laurie’s stories about Charles sounded a little suspicious/hard to believe to you? Why?

6. What details about Charles make him sound so convincingly different from Laurie? Explain your answer.

7. Knowing that Laurie's parents' think Charles is likely a bad influence on Laurie, why do they desire to meet Charles' mother so much? (For example, Laurie's mom said she "passionately wanted to meet Charles' mother" and Laurie's father even suggests that they invite her over for tea after the PTA meeting. They both really want to meet her. *Why?*) What details suggest this is their reason to want to meet her?
 - a. Why they want to meet her:
 - b. Details that show that:

8. Looking most specifically at the last page of the story, especially the paragraph when Laurie's mom first gets to the PTA meeting (the one that begins "At the meeting I sat..."), what is the real irony of the story? (Hint: it should be *different* than your answer to question number one).

9. What would be a very likely theme to this story? Why?
 - a. Theme:
 - b. Why: