Critical Thinking Questions (WHILE YOU READ)

1. What does the woman do to the boy after he tries to steal her purse?

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2. What do you think Mrs. Jones is going to do to the boy?

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3. How would you evaluate the way Mrs. Jones treats Roger?

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4. How would you have reacted in Mrs. Jones’s place?

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5. Make inferences about Roger’s home life?

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6. What might be some other reasons why Roger tries to steal?

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7. Characterize Mrs. Jones

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8. Why doesn’t Roger run out of the room when he has the chance?

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9. Why do you think Mrs. Jones told Roger about the things she wanted but “could not get”?

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10. Mrs. Jones left her purse unattended and went into the other room. What is revealed by her action?

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11. What was revealed by Roger’s action when he slid over so she could see him from the other room?

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12. Do you think Mrs. Jones did the right thing by giving Roger ten dollars? Why?

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13. Explain the phrase: “because shoes come by devilish ways like that will burn your feet.”

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14. The last paragraph begins with “The boy wanted to say something else but couldn’t do it.” What else do you think he would have like to be able to say to her besides “Thank you”.

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15. Analyze how Roger’s view of Mrs. Jones changed from the beginning to the end of the story.

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16. Do you think at the beginning if Roger had been successful in stealing the purse, would he have bought shoes with the money?

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17. At the end, now that he has been given $10, will he use it to buy shoes?

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18. Is Roger a dynamic or static character? Explain your answer.

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