

Questions for “Night Calls”

1) How do the interactions of Marlene and her father affect the overall meaning of the text?

- How is Marlene greeted by her father at the train station? Read the sentence on lines 7-12. What impact does using this detail to introduce the main character have on the story?

2) Re-read lines 59-63. How does the description of the setting affect the overall meaning of the passage?

- How does the author's choice of words add to the meaning of this passage?

2) Re-read lines 59-63. How does the description of the setting affect the overall meaning of the passage?

- How does the author's choice of words and images (details that describe one of the five senses) contribute to the tone (speaker's attitude)?

3) Explain the symbolism of the heron and analyze the impact of the symbol on the meaning of the story.

- When did the heron arrive at Modder River Wildlife Sanctuary?
- Describe the relationship between Marlene's father and the heron.
- What changes when the heron is set free?

4) What effect do Marlene's flashbacks have on the story?

- Re-read lines 82-94. The narrator describes the year as “difficult”; explain in your own words what happened.

Questions for “A Story”

1) Summarize the events of the poem, stanza by stanza.

- Write one or two sentences for each stanza of the poem, summarizing in your own words what happens in each.

2) Explain parent/child relationship in the poem from the father's point of view.

- Describe the father's emotions expressed in the poem.
- Does the speaker sound confident? Doubtful? Conflicted?

3) What is the tone of this poem? How is this tone achieved?

- Who is the speaker? What kind of person is the speaker?
- What is the significance of the repeated use of exclamation points and question marks?

4) Explain the symbolism of “A Story”.

- Paraphrase lines 3-4.
- Paraphrase lines 6-9.
- In our culture what does the act of storytelling represent?

5) What effect do the father's visions of the future have on the poem?

- Re-read lines 10-16. The father is sharing his glimpse into the future; describe in your own words what he sees.

5) What effect do the father's visions of the future have on the poem?

- **What emotional impact does this vision of the future have on you as a reader?**