"Thank You, M'am" by Langston Hughes

Open-Book Test

Multiple Choice and Short Answer

Write your answers to all questions in this section on the lines provided. For multiple-choice questions, circle the letter of the best answer.

1. In “Thank You, M'am,” what theme is the author, Langston Hughes, exploring? On the lines provided, explain your answer.
   a. the importance of hard work for all  
   b. the threat of crime against the old  
   c. the difficulties of poverty for the young  
   d. the importance of honesty and trust

2. Why does Roger attempt to steal Mrs. Jones's handbag? On the lines provided, explain why he probably chooses Mrs. Jones as his target.
   a. He is a criminal, and Mrs. Jones looks like easy prey.
   b. He wants to buy himself a pair of blue suede shoes.
   c. He is hungry and needs her money to buy food.
   d. He wants to give the money as a gift to his own mother.

3. Explain the intention of Mrs. Jones in this sentence:
   “The woman did not watch the boy to see if he was going to run now, nor did she watch her purse which she left behind her on the day bed.”
   On the lines provided, state the boy's reaction to her action.
   a. She expects that the boy will use this chance to escape.
   b. She hopes that by trusting the boy, he will behave in a trustworthy manner.
   c. She is setting a trap for the boy, so she can take him to the police.
   d. She wants him to know that she is stronger than he is.

4. What can the reader assume about Mrs. Jones's life as a younger woman? Use details from the story to explain your answer on the lines provided.
   a. She had worked hard all of her life.
   b. She had made mistakes in the past.
   c. She had raised her own sons well.
   d. She had often been arrested.

5. Why does Mrs. Jones drag Roger to her home? On the lines provided, explain your answer.
   a. to talk with him, to feed him, and to teach him about trust
   b. to hold him for the police
   c. to make him work for pay
   d. to lecture him about honesty
6. At the beginning of the story, how does Roger probably feel when Mrs. Jones grabs onto him and begins dragging him home? On the lines provided, explain your answer.
   a. relieved and reassured  
   b. lonely and insecure  
   c. embarrassed and frightened  
   d. confident and excited

7. At the end of the story, when Mrs. Jones bids him goodnight, how does Roger probably feel? On the lines provided, explain your answer.
   a. lucky to have gotten away with his attempted crime  
   b. sorry that he'd met Mrs. Jones that night  
   c. angry at Mrs. Jones for making him leave  
   d. grateful to her for her kindness and teaching

8. Choose the answer that correctly explains the meaning of this sentence:
   "He did not trust the woman not to trust him."
   a. Roger doesn't entirely trust Mrs. Jones at this time.  
   b. Roger wants her to see that he can be trusted.  
   c. Roger knows that he isn't trustworthy.  
   d. Roger needs to see what Mrs. Jones is doing.

9. Why does Mrs. Jones give Roger ten dollars?

10. Select the sentence that contains a form of the word presentable that relates to the meaning of the word presentable in the following line:
    "Comb your hair so you will look presentable."
    a. Mrs. Jones presented Roger with a gift.  
    b. The present she gave was a ten-dollar bill.  
    c. She wanted him to present himself better.  
    d. The present was better than the past for Roger.

**Extended Response**

11. Complete the chart to show the reaction that Hughes seems to expect the reader to have to each of the events in “Thank You, M'am.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Reader's Reaction</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Roger steals Mrs. Jones's purse.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs. Jones grabs hold of Roger.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs. Jones invites Roger to dinner.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Roger leaves Mrs. Jones's apartment.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
12. At one point in the story, Roger asks Mrs. Jones, 
   “Do you need somebody to go to the store, maybe to get some milk or 
   something?” 
   Write a short essay that describes what this question tells you about Roger. Add other 
   details that reveal his character.

13. Mrs. Jones bases her judgments about people on a few different sources. Choose some of 
    them, and in a few paragraphs describe how her experience has affected her judgments 
    about people’s behavior.

14. At the end of the story, Roger is unable to say what is on his mind. Write a few 
    paragraphs that could represent a thank-you letter to Mrs. Jones from Roger, expressing 
    his feelings and thoughts. Use details from the story to assist you.

15. Mrs. Jones takes some specific actions that demonstrate caring and support for Roger. In 
    a paragraph or two, state some of these actions, including your opinion about how they 
    might affect Roger in his own behavior as he becomes an adult.

**Oral Response**

16. Choose questions 8, 13, 14, or 15 or the question your teacher assigns you, and prepare 
    an oral response to give in class.

**Rubric for Evaluating Extended Responses**

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<tr>
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<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Off topic</td>
<td>Incorrect purpose, mode, or audience</td>
<td>Lack of language control</td>
<td>Gaps in organization</td>
<td>Organized (perhaps with brief digressions)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blank paper</td>
<td>Brief, vague</td>
<td>Poor organization</td>
<td>Limited language control</td>
<td>Correct purpose, mode, audience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign language</td>
<td>Unelaborated rambling</td>
<td>Correct purpose, mode, audience</td>
<td>Correct purpose, mode, audience</td>
<td>Effective elaboration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illegible, incoherent</td>
<td>Not enough content to score</td>
<td>Some elaboration</td>
<td>Moderately well elaborated</td>
<td>Consistent organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not enough content to score</td>
<td></td>
<td>Some details</td>
<td>Clear, effective language</td>
<td>Sense of completeness, fluency</td>
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