Short Story Analysis

Outline the plot (Summary)

a.) What is the title of the story? Who wrote it?

b.) Who is the protagonist?

c.) What is the point of view? Whose is it?

d.) What is the setting? The atmosphere?

e.) What is the main conflict?

f.) What is the climax? How does the story end?

Explain the purpose (What is the point?)

a.) What observation about life is made? (theme)

b.) How is this revealed?

Examine the form (how is it written?)

a.) In What ways do elements of the short story contribute or reinforce the theme? (Example: conflict, setting, character, point of view, symbolism, irony, dialogue, plot, diction)

Make a judgment (Opinion)

a.) How well does this story fulfill its purpose? Is it entertaining, educational?

b.) Is the message or theme conveyed effectively?

c.) Comment on the author’s style of writing. Was the story suspenseful? Comical? Were the characters realistic? What literary devices were used?