

Literature II – 4

Unit 2: The Short Story

Contents

Section 1

1. Plot: Truth Tests Our Actions	1
2. “Limb in a Desert”	4
3. “Limb in a Desert”	7
4. Quiz 1	11

Section 2

5. “They Grind Exceeding Small”	12
6. “They Grind Exceeding Small”	15
7. “The Silver Mine”	19
8. “The Silver Mine”	22
9. Quiz 2	25

Section 3

10. Exploring and Outlining Your Story	25
11. First Draft	29
12. Finishing the First Draft	29
13. Rereading and Revising	30
14. Writing the Final Draft	30
15. Self Check	32
16. Review for the LightUnit Test	34
Glossary	35

This LightUnit goes with
pages 178-214 of
Perspectives of Truth in Literature.

“They Grind Exceeding Small”



Answer the questions to help you understand the symbolism in the story.

As in “Limb in a Desert,” the weather plays a central role in this story. The cruelty in Hazen’s life was symbolized by the bitter cold of the winter and its disastrous effect on the community.

1. Hazen believes that he is in complete control of his life. What comment of his about the weather (made twice) shows this belief? _____

2. When Hazen experienced difficulty, he was not satisfied until someone or something suffered for it, even if it was not their fault. What event in the story shows this? _____

3. Hazen was a tightwad and lived a life that was closed to others. What does the author observe when he’s in town that symbolizes this? _____

4. What symbol is used to represent the false security on which Hazen has based his life? _____

5. As the child at home grows increasingly ill (unknown to Hazen), what is happening to the weather? _____
6. Describe the state of the weather the next morning after the child had died and justice had fallen on Hazen. _____



Answer these questions.

- 7. Hazen Kinch, like many people before and after him, made a living by handling money dishonestly. Do you think that all dishonest people have met or will meet judgment in life, as Hazen Kinch did? Explain your answer. _____

Lesson 6

- 8. What is the proper attitude toward those who cannot pay us the money they owe us? List proper and improper ways of helping them. _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Literary Technique—*Foreshadowing and Tone*

Foreshadowing—giving clues ahead of time about events in a story

Tone—the mood or atmosphere of a story

The author of “They Grind Exceeding Small” uses a technique called *foreshadowing*. Using this technique, an author drops hints early in the story about what will happen later. A skillful reader may pick them out the first time he reads the story. Usually, after a reader knows what happened at the end, he can go back and find the hints even if he missed them the first time.

There is foreshadowing in the author’s thoughts after Hazen shows him the child for the first time and says “A fine boy, eh?” (page 195)



Copy the sentence in the next paragraph that foreshadows what is to come.

9. _____
- _____

The feeling or atmosphere in a story is its tone. An author chooses his words carefully to create a sad, frivolous, solemn, bitter, ironic, matter-of-fact, satirical, or dreamlike tone.



Write the letter of the correct answer.

10. ____ Which of the following best describes the tone of “They Grind Exceeding Small”?
- a. matter-of-fact
 - b. solemn
 - c. dreamlike
 - d. frivolous

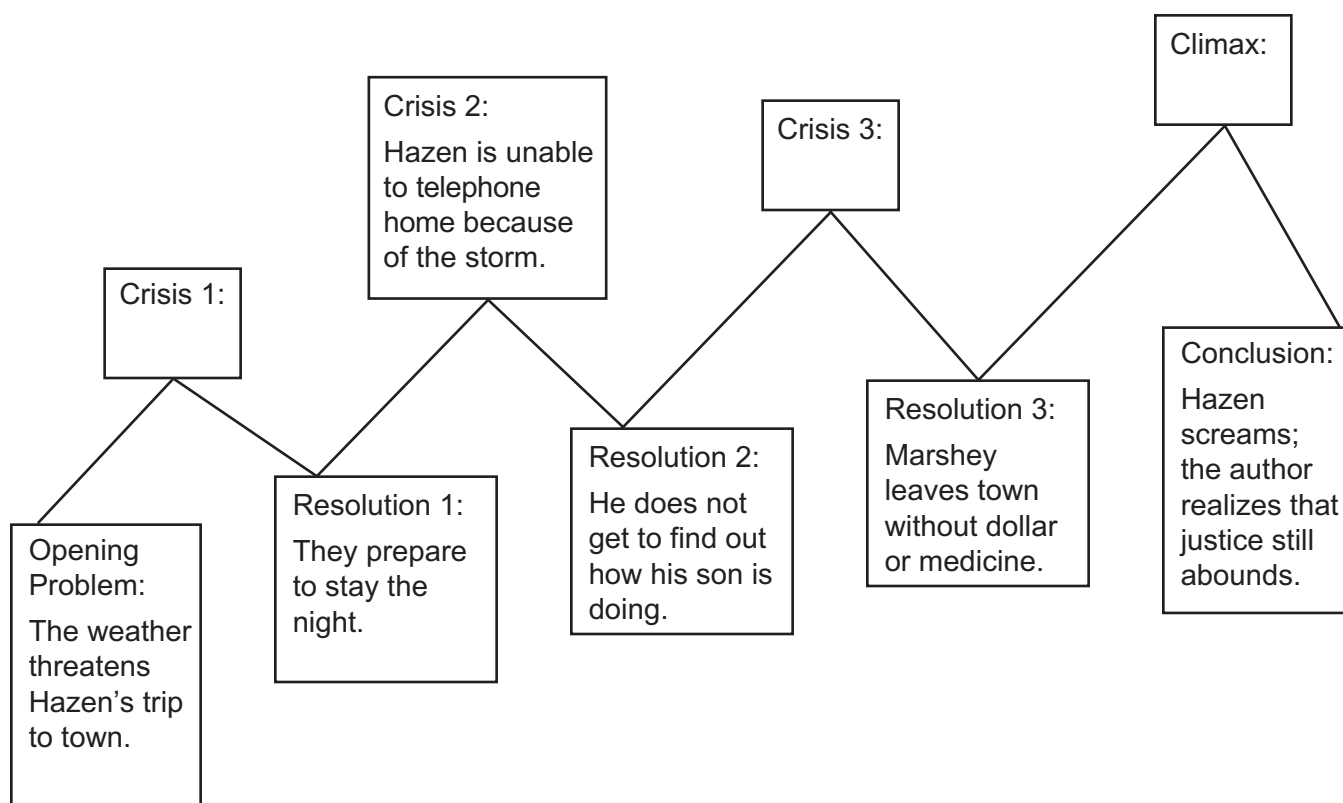


Write the missing parts of the complication plot in these blanks.

11. Crisis 1 _____

12. Crisis 3 _____

13. Climax _____



Answer the questions.

14. The primary conflict in "They Grind Exceeding Small" is man against nature. Who is the protagonist? _____
15. Who or what is the antagonist? _____
16. This story has a very personal feeling, almost as if the reader were right there. What point of view is used in the story? _____

LOOKING BACK . . .



Match.

17. ____ stole a dollar that belonged to himself
18. ____ felt curious dislike toward protagonist
19. ____ dropped a dollar
20. ____ wrote "They Grind Exceeding Small"
21. ____ borrowed money, paid high interest
22. ____ believed God's justice proved His existence
23. ____ dishonest moneylender

- a. Doan Marshey
- b. Ben Ames Williams
- c. Hazen Kinch
- d. narrator



Use the vocabulary words to complete the sentences.

brusquely	malevolence	ethics	vulnerable
evicted	unostentatiously	imminence	

24. Any illegal residents will be _____ from the apartment complex.
25. Material prosperity often goes hand in hand with sound _____.
26. Since my car is so dirty, I will park it _____ behind the brick wall.
27. They all felt the _____ of danger at the exact same moment.
28. I was shocked at the utter _____ on the criminal's face.
29. Braden _____ asked the cashier for his missing quarter.
30. Do you ever feel _____ when going over a long suspension bridge?