

## Resolving conflict

### *Thank You, Ma'am*

by Langston Hughes

Read the story by Langston Hughes [HERE](#). You can use the audio version [HERE](#) to support your understanding.

Answer the following questions.

While reading...



Write the correct LETTER in the box.

1. At the beginning of the story, a young boy tries to...

- a. grab some food from a sidewalk vendor
- b. rob a bank
- c. steal a pair of sneakers
- d. steal a woman's purse

2. What does Mrs. Jones do to the boy?

- a. take him back to her house.
- b. report him to the police
- c. call his mother
- d. tie him up

3. Why does the boy try to steal?

- a. He wants to buy some candy
- b. He wants to buy some shoes
- c. He lost his wallet
- d. He wants to buy a gift for his mother

4. Why does the woman invite the boy for dinner?

- a. She feels sorry for him
- b. He looks hungry
- c. She senses that he didn't have a supportive, loving family
- d. She is lonely

5. Why doesn't the boy run when the woman goes behind the screen?

- a. He has nowhere to go.
- b. He wants her to trust him.
- c. He is hungry.
- d. He is afraid she will chase him.

6. The boy offers to...

- a. go shopping for the woman
- b. clean her house
- c. cook dinner
- d. wash the dishes

7. The woman tells the boy not to steal because...

- he might get caught and sent to jail
- he should feel guilty about taking from others
- buying something with stolen money will "burn his feet"
- she will give him whatever he needs

8. At the end of the story, the boy...

- kisses the woman
- promises to write
- says "thank you"
- shows the woman a picture of his cat

#### After reading...

*There are three conflicts in this story. Identify the resolution to each conflict. Then, think about the approach the characters took to solve them. Justify your answer.*

1. Man vs Society	2. Man vs Man	3. Man vs Self
<p><i>Roger comes from an underprivileged community and feels that he must resort to crime.</i></p>	<p><i>This conflict involves Roger and Mrs. Jones when he attempts to steal her purse. Roger fails to steal Mrs. Jones's purse.</i></p>	<p><i>This conflict occurs when Roger is deciding to flee or stay at Mrs. Jones's home.</i></p>
Resolution:	Resolution:	Resolution:
Approach:	Approach:	Approach:
Justification:	Justification:	Justification: