

HOTS: Thank You Ma'am / Langston Hughes

1. At the beginning of the story, Mrs. Jones is aggressive towards Roger and then she changes her behavior. Why do you think she behaves differently? Give information from the story to support your answer.

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2. Compare and contrast Roger's behavior towards Mrs. Jones at the beginning and at the end of the story. Give information from the story to support your answer.

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3. How do you think Roger feels when Mrs. Jones gives him money for the blue suede shoes? Give information from the story to support your answer.

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4. Jones tells Roger, "I have done things, too, which I would not tell you, son... Everybody's got something in common"? How does this quote change our opinion of Mrs. Jones? Give information from the story to support your answer.

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5. "When they were finished eating, she got up and said, 'Now, here, take this ten dollars and buy yourself some blue suede shoes.' "Why do you think she did this?

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6. "The woman did not watch the boy to see if he was going to run now..." What effect did this have on Roger? Give information from the story to support your answer.

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7. Explain why Mrs. Jones says to Roger, "But you put yourself in contact with me... If you think that that contact is not going to last awhile, you got another thought coming."

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8. At the end of the story Roger thinks to himself, "... he did not want to be mistrusted now." How has his attitude changed during the story?

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9. How has Mrs. Jones caused this change in Roger?

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10. "When I get through with you, sir, you are going to remember Mrs. Luella Bates Washington Jones." Why is it important for Roger to remember his meeting with Mrs. Jones?

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11. "There's nobody home at my house," said the boy." What can you understand about Roger's life from this statement? Give information from the story to support your answer.

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12. What do you think motivates Mrs. Jones to make Roger feel at home in her house?

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13. At the end of the story "The boy wanted to say something else other than, 'Thank you, M'am,' to Mrs. Luella Bates Washington Jones, but... he couldn't even say that." What else besides "thank you" do you think Roger wanted to say to Mrs. Jones? Explain.

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14. While he was washing his face in Mrs. Jones' room Roger realized: "The door was open. He could make a dash for it down the hall. He could run, run, run, run!" Why doesn't Roger run away?

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15. How do you think the day with Mrs. Jones will change Roger.

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