

"Sweet Potato Pie"

TASK 1: Text-Dependent Guiding Questions

1. What is revealed about the narrator and Charley in the first two paragraphs of the story?
2. What is the purpose of the flashback that begins in the third paragraph?
3. Summarize the narrator's feelings about each of his parents. Use information from the story to support your claims.
4. How is the information in the story organized? How does the organization affect character development?
5. What inferences can be made regarding the narrator's references to Charley's hands? Use textual information to support your inferences.
6. Discuss the effect of the contrast between the narrator's tone and the family's circumstances in the story.
7. Paraphrase the events in paragraph 27 when the narrator returns to Harlem. What is the significance of this paragraph?
8. Define "somebody" as it is used in this story. Using this definition, what textual evidence exists to support the fact that Buddy is a "somebody"?
9. Read the last line of the story. Comment on the narrator's use of the word "proudly" to describe how Charley carries the brown paper bag.
10. Which character has more of an appreciation for the other, Charley or Buddy? Support your claim with evidence from the story.