

COMMON CORE: READING STANDARDS FOR LITERATURE

Anchor 1: Textual Evidence

9/10: Give a brief summary of the action of the story, using quotations to support your account. Then make a table or a Venn diagram that compares and contrasts the narrator and Roland Summers, using specific examples and quotations from the text.

11/12: Give a brief summary of the action of the story, using quotations to support your account. Are there any places in the narrative that are ambiguous? Next, make a table or a Venn diagram that compares and contrasts the narrator and Roland Summers, using specific examples and quotations from the text.

Anchor 2: Central Idea and Theme

9/10: The inferiority the narrator feels is a central idea in the story. How does this feeling lead him to commit his crime, and how does this link between emotion and action emerge in the text? Select specific quotations that reveal this theme.

11/12: The inferiority the narrator feels is a central idea in the story. How does this lead him to commit his crime, and how does this link between emotion and action emerge in the text? Select specific quotations that reveal this theme. Secondly, despite his actions, the narrator has not improved his situation. Give examples from the text to support this idea.

Anchor 3: Complex Characters/ Author's Choices

9/10: How do the interactions in the story between the narrator and his wife develop the theme of the narrator's inferiority?

11/12: Explain how the narrator's character (his background, his insecurities, his attitudes, his emotions) is introduced and developed over the course of the story. How does the first-person narration relate to characterization?

Anchor 4: Language

9/10 and 11/12: Throughout the story, there is racially-charged or loaded language, and there are references to heat. Give examples of both and explain their usage in the text.

Anchor 6: Distinguishing Point of View

11/12: With his first-person narration, the narrator-assassin intends to defend, even glorify himself. How do his words undermine this effort? How does he unwittingly signal his unreliability to the reader? How does the sarcasm the narrator and his wife use in their interaction further the reader's sense of his unreliability? Locate and give examples from the text.

Anchor 7: Multiple Interpretations

11/12: Listen to the audio recording of "Where is the Voice Coming From" by Dr. Rush Rehm, found at www.eudorawelty.org or www.mdah.state.ms.us. Dr. Rehm is Professor of Theater and Performance Studies and of Classics at Stanford University and the artistic director of the Stanford Repertory Theater. There is also a recording by author Joyce Carol Oates, found at <https://huffduffer.com/AndrewHazlett/30974>. Do either of these readings change your interpretation of the story? Where do these readers place emphasis that is different from the text?

Anchor 10: Level of Text Complexity

9/10 and 11/12: Did you find this story easy or difficult to understand? If you did not know Welty's background or the historical context of the story, how might that change your reading? Explain the risk involved in choosing this first-person narrator to tell this story.