

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

### **“A Christmas Memory”**

1. The opening scene is set on a winter morning in November in a kitchen. Describe the mood that the narrator uses to set the stage for the text. Find textual evidence illustrating the elements of the setting that create this mood.
2. Reread paragraph 3 on page 1. What do you learn about the narrator’s living situation? What can we infer about his feelings toward his living situation based on what he says in this paragraph? Use specific textual examples.
3. On page 1, paragraph 3, the narrator, Buddy, declares his age; “I am seven, she is sixty-something.” What is unusual about his declaration in regards to his friendship with his cousin? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.
4. Consider the account and use of the buggy on page 1. From this description, what can be inferred about both the characters and the economic times that they live in?

5. What do the details about the friends' activities in paragraphs 3 and 4 on page 2 suggest about the story's time and place? What can we infer about the characters by their activities and pursuits? Use specific evidence to support your answer.
  
6. On pages 1 and 2, we learn about the types of activities Buddy and his cousin engage in. How do these activities reveal their unlikely and unconventional friendship? Support your answer with examples from the text.
  
7. Note the authors repeated use of the word "under" in the second sentence of paragraph 3 on page 2. What is the effect on this repetition of words?
  
8. On the bottom of page 2, the narrator shares various things that his cousin "has done, does do." Attached to each accomplishment, is a parenthetical commentary. What purpose do these parentheses serve in understanding the narrator's point of view?
  
9. On page 3, Buddy and his cousin visit Mr. HaHa Jones's cafe. From the moment they arrive, to the moment they leave, numerous unexpected events occur. Using evidence from the text, indicate how the visit did not go as anticipated. How do these events change their original perceptions of Mr. HaHa Jones?

10. At the bottom of page 4, the dancing celebration of Buddy and his cousin is interrupted by “two relatives”. Explain how the figurative and literal language used in their response to what they see changes the tone of the celebration.
  
11. Re-read the author’s description of the Christmas tree hunt in paragraph 6 and the beginning of paragraph 7 on page 5. Find examples of figurative language and sensory images that vividly help the reader describe the setting. Determine how these descriptions of the setting affect the mood of this scene.
  
12. At the end of paragraph 1 on page 6 a mill owner’s wife offers Buddy’s cousin money for the Christmas tree they found. Declining, she responds to the wife’s statement that she can get another one by answering, “I doubt it. There’s never two of anything.” What can we infer about his cousin from her response to this woman? Use evidence from the text to support your inference.
  
13. What do the gifts that Buddy and his cousin *wish* they could give each other and the gifts they *actually* give each other reveal about their relationship? Use textual evidence to support your answer.

14. Using paragraph 5 on page 6 and 7, cite specific examples from the text that illustrate the child-like anticipation Buddy and his cousin share regarding Christmas morning and elaborate on the meaning of these examples. What inference can be made about their motivation for each action they take?

15. At the beginning of paragraph 5 on page 7, Buddy's cousin declares, "My, how foolish I am!" What does she believe she has been foolish about? Trace her new understanding of how she views God's presence and explain the affect this has on her.

16. Consider the last paragraph of the text. What conclusions can be drawn about Buddy's acceptance of his cousin's death from the imagery in this paragraph?