

QUESTIONS (symbolism, character, flashback)

1. When the father says he wouldn't have beaten the boy for losing the penny, the boy feels as if he has "struck" his father. Explain what he means.
2. Explain why the father does not return the penny to the son.
3. Despite that the narrator's father is not a demonstrative man, he shows his love in many ways. List four ways in which the father shows his love.
4. In paragraph seven the narrator says that he and his father seemed to inhabit two different worlds. What is the difference between these worlds? Explain how the father feels when he enters the boy's world and how the boy feels when he sees his father about to enter.
5. Near the close of the story, the narrator expresses his surprise that his father "put his arm around him, " and had tears i his eyes for "the only time" in seven years. Explain clearly what it was in the boy's words that moved the father so profoundly.
6. What is symbolic in this story? Explain its symbolism.
7. Describe the father in this story in as much detail as you can. What can we tell about him by his actions?
8. How does the father in this story differ from the father in Hugh Garner's story, "The Father"?
9. This story provides an excellent example of flashback. Identify where flashback occurs in this story.