

“The Unicorn in the Garden”

James Thurber

Part One: Interpreting the importance of word choice on the audience.

1. Which words and phrases most make the audience come to like the husband as a character?

- why?
- why?
- why?
- why?

2. Which words and phrases most make the audience come to dislike the wife as a character?

- why?
- why?
- why?
- why?
- why?
- why?

3. Which words and phrases describe the setting in a positive way and makes the audience feel happy?

- why?
- why?
- why?

4. Which words and phrases describe the unicorn in a positive way and makes the audience feel happy?

- why?
- why?
- why?

5. Why would Thurber take such caution to make the setting and the unicorn seem so pleasant and nice? In other words, what purpose does the audience’s feelings about the setting and unicorn serve?

Part Two: Exploring Thurber's cleverness in story-telling.

6. Was the unicorn really in the garden or did the man just make the story up to get rid of his wife? Use clear and specific arguments to prove your claim.

7. Look again at the moral of the story. You've likely noticed that the moral sounds a lot like an old saying you've heard before. First, what is the old saying? Second, what does the old saying mean? Third, what, then, does the moral of this story seem to mean? Finally, is the moral of the story the main theme that Thurber would hope the audience would walk away with? Why do you believe it is or it isn't?

- Old saying:

- Meaning of old saying:

- Meaning of moral:

- Just a moral or also the theme:

- Support for answer: