**Character Motivation in “1,000 Dollars”**

**Directions: As you read, Write down a summary of the conversations that Young Gillian has with each character.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Conversation** | **Conversation Summary** |
| 1. Lawyer Tolman |  |
| 1. Old Bryson |  |
| 1. Loretta Louriere |  |
| 1. Cab Driver |  |
| 1. Blind man |  |
| 1. Lawyer Tolman |  |
| 1. Miss Hayden |  |
| 1. Lawyer Tolman and Sharp |  |

**Character Motivation in “1,000 Dollars” by O. Henry**

**Character motivation** is the *reason that a character makes a certain decision*. Understanding the characters’ motivation is central to our understanding of the plot and characters.

The best way to determine a character’s motivation is by using the “Somebody Wanted But So” chart that you see below. The “wanted” section of the chart is going to give you that “somebody’s” motivation. Complete the following chart about Gillian from “1000 Dollars.”

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Somebody (Character’s name)** | **Wanted (What did he/she want?)** | **But (But, What happened?)** | **So (In conclusion…)** |
|  |  |  |  |

Now, identify Gillian’s thoughts, words, feelings, and actions. These hints can help us understand his motivations in the story!

Find one thing that the main character **thinks**: (quote from the story)

How does this impact the conflict in the story?

Find one thing that the main character **says**: (quote from the story)

What does it reveal about his motivations in the story?

Find one thing that the main character **does**: (quote from the story)

How does this impact the plot of the story?

Find one thing that the main character **feels**: (quote from the story)

How does this impact his actions later in the story?

1. What mood does the author create in the first five paragraphs?

A. Happy B. Curious C. Hopeless D. Shocked

1. What effect do the details in the following excerpt have on the mood of the story? “Paid by the black sheep, Robert Gillian, $1,000 dollars on account of the eternal happiness, owed by Heaven to the best and dearest woman on earth.”
2. The reader becomes more sympathetic to Gillian because of his love for Ms. Hayden.
3. The reader becomes more disinterested due to the fact that Gillian no longer has the money.
4. The reader becomes more eager to discover whether Ms. Hayden will take the money.
5. The reader becomes more alarmed because they realize that Ms. Hayden has died.
6. The tone the author takes towards Young Gillian would indicate to the reader that the author would appreciate which kind of people more?
7. People who spend money carelessly
8. People who donate money to unworthy causes
9. People who put others before themselves
10. People who follow rules closely