

Please write out answers on your own paper.

1. Setting is very important in this story. Answer these questions about setting:
 - a. In what year is the story most likely set?
 - b. How is the small town of Winesburg characterized in the story? Name three traits the town has, and briefly but specifically explain how each trait is described.
 - c. Why are all the people in the town?
 - d. Explain two ways that setting works symbolically in the last paragraph before the first break in the text. (That's page 2, near the bottom, above the * * * starting with "George went into a vacant lot...")
2. How is George Willard characterized in the story? Answer these questions about George:
 - a. How old is he?
 - b. What is he waiting for when the story begins?
 - c. What is his plan for the future?
 - d.
3. Reread the fifth paragraph. Explain in two sentences (or so) of your own words what "The sadness of sophistication" is.
4. Based on context, what does the word "cosmopolitan" at the bottom of page 2 mean?
5. What is the epiphany that George has while sitting in the empty grand-stand?
6. "George and Helen arose and walked away into the darkness. They went along a path past a field of corn that had not yet been cut. The wind whispered among the dry corn blades. For a moment during the walk back into town the spell that held them was broken. When they had come to the crest of Waterworks Hill they stopped by a tree and George again put his hands on the girl's shoulders. She embraced him eagerly and then again they drew quickly back from that impulse. They stopped kissing and stood a little apart. Mutual respect grew big in them. They were both embarrassed and to relieve their embarrassment dropped into the animalism of youth. They laughed and began to pull and haul at each other. In some way chastened and purified by the mood they had been in, they became, not man and woman, not boy and girl, but excited little animals." HUH? Explain what you think this last sentence means.
7. What is the "thing" in the last sentence of the story that "makes the mature life of men and women in the modern world possible"? Explain as best you can what you think that might be.
8. Is George Willard **more like** Jay Gatsby from *The Great Gatsby*, **or more like** Sammy from the short story "A&P"? Explain why you think so.