The Sky is Gray

1. Discuss the title and why it is significant in relation to the story.

2. Examine the discussion in the dentist office. What does each man stand for and what does this conversation mean to them? To us? Can you apply it to today?

3. Examine the family dynamics of James’ household. How do family members treat each other and what does it show us about the characters?

4. This story is about race, but it is also about humanity. Which theme was strongest to you and why?

Dear Amanda

1. The story is presented as a series of letters. Do you think this works? If so, why? If not, why not?

2. After reading the letters, what do you know about Joey? Be specific.

3. This story was written by a famous comedian, Steve Martin. Do you think this topic is suitable for a comedic routine? Why? Why not?


Story of an Hour

1. This story was published in 1894. Given that knowledge, what view of marriage is offered? How might it differ from today’s view of marriage?

2. How do you feel about the protagonist and her views? Is it okay to be positive about someone’s death? When? Why? Why not?

A Jury of her Peers

1. If you were a lawyer defending Minnie Foster, what points would you try to use in her defense?

2. How is it that men are presented in this story? How is it that women are presented?

3. Most of us would get out of such a relationship, or would we? How does the story reflect on current domestic abuse situations?
Araby

1. How do the images in the story contribute to the concept that “Araby” Tells of the fall from innocence into painful awareness?

2. The first two paragraphs of the story have interesting descriptions. Joyce does this on purpose. What is he describing, why does he describe it as he does, and what does it mean?

3. Light and darkness are mentioned frequently. Identify where this is the case and determine if there is a pattern. What is light and what is dark? Why are some things light and some dark?

4. Have you ever had great expectations of something and then been crushed? How did that experience parallel the one the boy had?

Behind the Veil

1. How do you feel about Ihsan? Do you think he is the “winner” in this relationship? Do you see him changing? Why? Why not?

2. How is Siham honest and dishonest with the males in her life?

3. How can this story be applied in our society? Do we have similar or opposites situations?