

Today you will read a short story by David Sedaris and follow the directions on this page. This is a short passage of a seemingly silly nature, but it reveals some truths about human nature and society. Hopefully you will enjoy it. 😊

“Big Boy” by David Sedaris from his book *Me Talk Pretty One Day*

1. Read paragraph 1 aloud as a class, then answer my questions.

a. What literally happened?

b. What can we infer about the “specimen”?

2. Read paragraph 2 aloud as a class, then answer:

a. What literally happened?

b. What can we infer about the narrator of the story based on his reaction?

3. Read paragraph 3 aloud as a class, then answer:

a. What literally happened?

b. What can we infer about the narrator of the story based on his promise?

4. Read paragraphs 4, 5, 6, and 7 aloud as a class, then answer:

a. What literally happened?

b. What can we infer about human nature based on the narrator’s reaction to the knocking and his thought process?

5. Read paragraph 8 aloud as a class, then answer:

a. What literally happened?

Name _____ period _____

b. What can we infer about society based on the narrator's description in this paragraph?

6. Read paragraph 9 and 10 aloud as a class, then answer:

a. What literally happened?

b. What can we infer about human nature or societal expectations based on the action and thoughts in paragraph 10?

7. Read paragraphs 11 and 12 aloud as a class, then answer:

a. What literally happened?

b. What can we infer that the narrator learned about human nature or society?

8. Now that you have read the entire story, what do you think the point is? Why did David Sedaris write this story? What is the purpose? (What does it tell us about society as a whole or human nature as a whole?)

Name _____ period _____

Today you will read a short story by Neil Gaiman and follow the directions on this page. This is a short passage that could seem offensive at first, but it is making a point and trying to persuade. Hopefully you will enjoy it. (Don't worry, this one doesn't involve a bathroom.) ☺

"Babycakes" by Neil Gaiman

1. Read THE ENTIRE PASSAGE aloud as a class, then answer my questions

2. What has literally happened in the passage?

a. First, this happened:

b. Then, this happened:

c. Then, this may happen:

3. What point is the author trying to make? (What is the purpose of this passage?)

4. How does the author try to PERSUADE the reader to believe the same way as he does about this issue? (How does he make his argument? You may want to talk about organization, persuasive appeals, etc.)