**“Charles” by Shirley Jackson**

* **Laurie—**The child in this story is a boy. Yes, “Laurie” can be a boy’s name too. It doesn’t matter if you’ve never hear of it before. Get over it.
* **Era—**a period of time
* **Long-trousered—“**Trousers” are pants, so the narrator is referring to the fact that Laurie is wearing long pants. At the time this story was written, very young boys would not have worn long pants.
* **Raucous—**energetic and noisy in a way that is a bit rude and out of control
* **Insolently—**rudely
* **Fresh—**rude
* **Deprived—**not having something
* **Blackboard—**Once upon a time, teachers didn’t have whiteboards to write on. They were green or black and we used chalk!
* **Reformation—**when something or someone has been corrected or improved
* **Grimly—**seriously
* **P.T.A.—**Parent teacher association. This is a group of parents and teachers who meet outside of the school day to plan events or other improvements to the school.
* **Matronly—**motherly
* **Haggard—**looking very tired, worn out, and run down

**Directions:** Answer the following questions in complete sentences.

1. Laurie tells many stories about Charles’s behavior in kindergarten. Whose behavior is he describing? Is it likely that these stories are true?
2. Support your answer to question #1 with a quote. If you’re stuck, try page 198. That’s where I found mine. ☺
3. Why do you think Laurie invented “Charles” and enjoys telling his parents stories about him?
4. At what point in the story did you begin to suspect the true identity of Charles?
5. Why do you think that Laurie’s parents never catch on to the fact that Laurie is really Charles?
6. What point of view is this written in?
7. Why did Shirley Jackson write the story from this point of view?