“Spring Morning”

1. When the text says, “As the possessor or an Aryan great-grandmother he could stand there calmly and watch them in peace,” what is “the former secretary of the former town council” watching? Why is he able to stand there “in peace”?
2. Summarize what is happening in the first three paragraphs. What shift in time and point of view happens between the third and fourth paragraphs? (56)
3. Why does the author say “the SS shared that opinion?” What opinion do they share and how is it clear that they share it? (57) You may need to consider evidence from later in the text.
4. How does the author create a calm and comfortable mood in the first half of the third paragraph? What words or phrases cause that mood to shift by the end of the paragraph? (57)
5. Who are “they” in the fifth paragraph? (57) Why doesn’t the author say?
6. Why does Mela suggest hiding on the bottom of page 57?
7. How is Aron feeling on page 58? How do you know?
8. On page 58, why does the woman say, “if we had knowing…we wouldn’t have had her”? Who wouldn’t they have had? If they had known what?
9. Why doesn’t the family try to hide? What is the difference between a shelter and a salvation? Why does the man Aron say, “A shelter is often just a shelter, and not a salvation”? (58)
10. How does the description of the town contrast with what is happening to the family in the story? (59)
11. How do Aron’s memories of the “flat green pastures” contrast with what is about to happen there? (60)
12. Why does Aron say he “overslept his life”? (60)
13. Why does the little girl feel heavier and heavier if not because of her weight? (60)
14. How is Aron going to “find some chink through which he could push his child back into the world of the living”? (60)
15. What is the only sign of “nature’s revolt” on page 60? Why might nature be revolting?
16. What words and phrases does the author use to emphasize the horror of what happens to the child? (61)
17. As he is about to die, why does Aron notice the “water is the color of beer”? (60)
18. Why does the author compare the procession to a “gloomy, gray river flowing out to sea”? (61)
19. Why did the author begin this story from the perspective of men in a bar after the family has already been killed?

**Writing Task: What is the author trying to say about human nature? (Still not sure if this is the right focus question and writing task. Any thoughts…?)**

“Spring Morning”

**Procession (56)—**a group of people moving in a line

**Attentively (56)**—listening and watching carefully

**Aryan (56)—**someone who is white, Christian and of Northern European descent

**Former (56)—** [someone](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/search/american/direct/?q=someone) [or](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/search/american/direct/?q=or) [something](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/search/american/direct/?q=something) [that](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/search/american/direct/?q=that) [had](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/search/american/direct/?q=had) [a](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/search/american/direct/?q=a)[particular](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/search/american/direct/?q=particular) [job](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/search/american/direct/?q=job), [title](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/search/american/direct/?q=title), [status](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/search/american/direct/?q=status), [etc](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/search/american/direct/?q=etc). [in](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/search/american/direct/?q=in) [the](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/search/american/direct/?q=the) [past](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/search/american/direct/?q=past), [but](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/search/american/direct/?q=but) [not](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/search/american/direct/?q=not) [now](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/search/american/direct/?q=now)

**Wound (57)—**an injury, usually refers to when you’re skin or flesh is damaged.

**Persistent (57)—**not giving up, not stopping

**Detachment (57)—**a feeling of being disconnected or not involved

**Threshold (57)—**the floor at the entrance to a room or a building

**Pallor (57)—**the very pale color your skin has when you are sick or worried

**Poverty (57)—**the state of being poor

**Timidly (58)—**cautiously as if scared or nervous

**Stingy (58)**—unwilling to spend or give money (you can be stingy with things other than money)

**Caresses (58)—**gently touches

**Salvation (58)—**the act of being saved from danger or evil

**Bunker (58)—**an underground shelter

**Mute (59)—**silent

**Solemnly (59)—**seriously

**SS-man (60)—**a Nazi soldier

**Endure (60)—**to put up with something difficult or unpleasant

**Dignity (60)—**a sense of self-respect and worthiness

**Regret (60)—**to feel sorry or sad that something has happened and wish you had done things differently

**Turbulently (60)—**violently shook up or disturbed

**Eddying (60)—**swirling water

**Revolt (60)—**a refusal to accept something

**Beseeching (61)—** begging

**Furious (61)—**extremely angry