

? CHECKQUIZ

THEY GRIND EXCEEDING SMALL
BEN AMES WILLIAMS

Based on your knowledge of the selection, briefly answer each question in the space provided.

1. Why does the speaker in the story call Hazen Kinch? What is unique about his relationship to Hazen?

2. What does the narrator notice about the landscape as he heads toward Hazen's home? What question does the view inspire?

3. What disturbs the narrator about Hazen Kinch?

4. How is Hazen's relationship with his son described? What is the narrator's reaction to this relationship?

5. What is Hazen's opinion of the Rayborns? Does the speaker share this opinion? What transpired between Hazen and the widow Rayborn?

6. Why does Hazen punish his mare? What form does this punishment take?

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7. What brings about the decision not to return home that evening?

8. Describe Doan Marshey. Why has he come to Hazen?

9. How does Hazen respond to Doan's problems? Why does he allow him extra time to pay off his loan rather than appropriating Doan's land?

10. How does Hazen rationalize keeping the money that drops from Doan's pouch?

11. Why does the druggist refuse Doan's request?

12. What happens to Kinch's son? How does this happen?



LITERARY CRITIQUE

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Based on your understanding of the selection, briefly answer each question in the space provided.

1. How does the reader become aware that Hazen is an immoral, selfish man? Support your answer with references to the text. Discuss the development of Hazen Kinch's character throughout the story. Does the narrator ever state directly that Hazen is evil?

2. What role does nature play in this selection? How does the weather, specifically, affect the outcome of the story?

3. Cite specific examples of foreshadowing from the text.

4. Why does the author mention the Rayborn family?

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5. Mention two occasions when the narrator wishes to intervene, but stops himself.

6. Why does the author create an unsympathetic portrayal of the boy?

7. How does Hazen rationalize taking the money that Doan dropped? Are his actions justified? What light does his rationalization shed on the man's personal moral code?

8. What is ironic about the death of the boy?

9. What do Hazen Kinch, his wife, and the boy each symbolize?

Name _____

Class _____ Date _____ Score _____



READING COMPREHENSION

THEY GRIND EXCEEDING SMALL

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After reading the following excerpt from “They Grind Exceeding Small,” circle the letter of the response that best completes each of the statements below.

I had given some thought to Hazen in the past. I was interested in the man and in that which should come to him. He was, it seemed to me, a problem in fundamental ethics; he was, as matters stood, a demonstration of the essential uprightness of things as they are. The biologist would have called him a sport, a deviation from type, a violation of all the proper laws of life. That such a man should live and grow great and prosper was not fitting; in a well-regulated world it should not be. Yet Hazen Kinch did live; he had grown — in his small way — great; and, by our lights, he had prospered. Therefore I watched him. There was about the man the fascination which clothes a tight-rope walker above Niagara; an aeronaut in the midst of the nose dive. The spectators stares with half-caught breath, afraid to see and afraid to miss seeing the ultimate catastrophe. Sometimes I wondered whether Hazen Kinch suspected this attitude on my part. It was not impossible. There was a cynical courage in the man; it might have amused him. Certainly I was the only man who had in any degree his confidence.

1. The narrator believes
 - a. that Hazen is a good man.
 - b. that Hazen is a sportsman.
 - c. that Hazen will ultimately meet with misfortune.
2. Hazen
 - a. is a tightrope walker.
 - b. has prospered.
 - c. lacks courage.
3. The narrator is not sure
 - a. whether Hazen knows what he thinks of him.
 - b. whether Hazen is wealthy.
 - c. whether Hazen is courageous.
4. According to the narrator,
 - a. he is the only person whom Hazen trusts to any degree.
 - b. Hazen trusts everyone.
 - c. Hazen has no confidence in anyone at all.
5. According to the narrator, the spectators he mentions are
 - a. people watching a tightrope walker over the Niagara.
 - b. people watching an astronaut.
 - c. people who know Hazen.

 VOCABULARY REVIEW

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Exercise 1:

Use the words in the word bank to correctly complete each of the following sentences.

*brusquely dumb essential fundamental furtively grim groveling meager
mirthfully placating*

1. The timid traveler was dismayed when her polite request for directions was answered _____.
2. The _____ human rights that we have come to expect are expressed in the American Declaration of Independence.
3. When Barry was infuriated by the impolite salesman, Wendy tried _____ him by offering to shop elsewhere.
4. The toddlers giggled and _____ exchanged nonsense words in the sandbox.
5. The _____ meal of dry bread and spring water sufficed only to keep body and soul together.
6. The _____ task of recovering the bodies of those killed in the 9/11 disaster affected all who were involved.
7. The condemned man fell to his knees, _____ before the lord of the manor and begging for his life.
8. The burglar entered the house _____, after glancing up and down the street to be sure no one had seen him.
9. An _____ ingredient in hot cocoa is the cocoa powder.
10. Stricken _____ with fear, the mountain climber dangled perilously over the crevasse and could not even cry out for help.

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 VOCABULARY REVIEW

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Exercise 2:

Match each vocabulary word in the left-hand column to its definition in the right-hand column. Write the letter of the correct answer in the space provided.

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|----------------------|---|
| _____ 1. countenance | a. a ridge or lump raised on the skin, usually by a blow. |
| _____ 2. elaborated | b. the act or state of submitting to the discretion or decision of another. |
| _____ 3. fumble | c. capable of being wounded, hurt, or damaged |
| _____ 4. impel | d. a rebellion |
| _____ 5. improvident | e. to stretch or strain by force |
| _____ 6. leer | f. the face or facial expression; to permit or tolerate. |
| _____ 7. racking | g. not providing (usually, financially) for the future. |
| _____ 8. reiterate | h. worked out with great care or in great detail |
| _____ 9. revolt | i. to smile in a knowing, malicious way. |
| _____ 10. submission | j. to state or do repeatedly |
| _____ 11. suppress | k. to grope about clumsily |
| _____ 12. vulnerable | l. to urge or drive forward. |
| _____ 13. welt | m. to put down by authority or force; to subdue. |