

“The Strange Orchid”

Exemplars

Plot

Introduction: Arthur Wedderburn is introduced as a lonely man who wants excitement in his life.

Inciting Event: Arthur thinks this is the day something exciting might finally happen OR Arthur buys an orchard that was found under the dead body of a man named Batten.

Plot Continues

Rising Action: the strange plant starts to show signs of life

Rising Action: Housekeeper notices the plants roots look like white fingers reaching out. Later she refuses to go near it.

Rising Action: Arthur hopes for fame as a result of this plant and cares for it daily.

More Plot...

Rising Action: At last the plant blooms and there is a rich, sweet smell in the air, but Wedderburn feels strange and he faints.

Rising Action: Wedderburn does not show up for tea.

Climax: The housekeeper finds Wedderburn unconscious with the plant sucking his blood.

Final Plot Points

Falling Action: The housekeeper drags both the plant and Wedderburn outside and cuts the plant off of him using shears.

Falling Action: The doctor is called and Wedderburn will recover.

Resolution: Wedderburn finally had something exciting happen in his life.

Conflicts

Make sure your answer is clear:

Ch. vs Nature = Arthur and the plant (level 2)

VS

Character vs Nature = When the plant tries to kill Arthur by sucking his blood. (Level 3)

Conflict:

Character vs Self: (level 4)

Arthur doubts himself at the start of the story when he says, “I wonder why nothing exciting ever happens to me. Things happen to other people”(2). The fact that Arthur compares himself to other people and wants the exciting lives they have shows that he doubts his worth.

Narrative Point of View

The narrative point of view for “The Strange Orchid” is third person omniscient because the story is told from an outside perspective and the narrator knows the thoughts or feelings of all of the main characters in the story. For example, the narrator refers to the main character as Arthur and uses pronouns such as “he” when referring to Arthur and “she” when referring to the housekeeper. The fact that these pronouns are used proves third person. Furthermore, the narrator tells that Arthur “was delighted but he felt strange” (2) and that the housekeeper “noticed” the air smelled sweet. The fact that these quotes reveal thoughts and feelings of all of the main characters in the story shows that this is written in third person omniscient point of view.

Summary Level 2

- Good retelling of the story but lacking a main idea in the topic sentence, or the main idea may be wrong.
- Missing transition words
- Too many details - some are off topic to the main idea.

Summary Level 3

- Main idea is present and it tells the “gist” of the story: what happened in the story in one sentence.
- The body retells the main events associated with the main idea with very few off topic. The body may be missing transitions.
- The conclusion is present but simplistic.

Summary

Level 3

“The Strange Orchid” is a story about a man who buys a plant that tries to kill him. The main character, Wedderburn, reflects on his boring life and the fact that he wants excitement. Wedderburn buys a plant that was found beneath a dead man’s body. After tending to the plant on a daily basis and ignoring the warnings from his housekeeper, Wedderburn is almost killed by the plant. The nurse saves him and he recovers happily because his life is no longer boring. This is the story of a man and his strange plant.

Also Level 3 Topic Sentences:

“The Strange Orchid” is a story about a man who lives a boring life and wants to change it. **OR** “The Strange Orchid” is a story about a man who yearns for excitement and finally finds it”

Summary Level 4

- insightful main idea in the topic sentence
- body is on topic and uses transitional words
- complex sentence structure
- creative conclusion

Summary Level 4

“The Strange Orchid” is a story that warns people to be careful about what they wish for. First, the reader meets Arthur Wedderburn who lives a lonely life and wishes for excitement. Then, Arthur buys an orchid that was found beneath a dead man’s body, and he spends his days caring for this plant. Next, he ignores warnings from his housekeeper who fears the plant may be dangerous. Finally, the plant knocks Wedderburn out with its scent and tries to kill him. In the end, Arthur is saved by the housekeeper, and he experiences a rush of excitement over the fact that his life is not longer boring. Arthur’s desire for excitement almost costs him his life, so his experiences teach the reader to be careful what they wish for.

Irony

This story uses situational irony. The character in the story, Arthur Wedderburn, feels like he is really living life to the fullest because he was almost killed by a plant.

ALSO

The thing he dotes on daily to bring back to life attempts to take his life (attempts to kill him).

Question 2

USE RACES PLEASE!

Level 4: RACES with specific examples

Level 3: RACES with some specificity

Level 2: Ideas are present but some clarity is needed and some more explanation.

Level 1: one sentence response with accurate information

Sample Level 4

At the end of the story, Wedderburn feels “bright and lively” because something exciting finally happens in his life. Although the orchid tries to kill him, he is alive to tell his story, and I do not think it is foolish for him to be happy about this; in fact, I think it is admirable that he is focusing on the positive. If I was in his position, I would also feel “bright” or happy to be alive, and I would try to focus on the benefits of living to tell a great story rather than the negatives of almost dying at the hands of a plant.