

Name _____

Date _____

ROALD DAHL

GENESIS AND CATASTROPHE

Reading Comprehension

1. Why is the woman so worried about her newly-born baby?
2. Describe her husband as fully as possible.
3. Describe the woman as fully as possible.
4. How many children has she lost? What were their names?
5. What happened on the day of Ida's funeral?
6. What did her husband say when Otto was born!
7. What is the family's name?
8. What name will the baby have?
9. How did the woman react when the baby was brought to her?
10. What did the innkeeper tell the woman to make her change her attitude?
11. What is the first thing the husband says when he meets his newly-born baby?
12. What did the doctor beg him to do?
13. What did the doctor force him to do?
14. What two religious exclamations does she make in connection to her child?

Analysis

15. How do you feel at the beginning of the story?
16. Give at least 2 reasons why you think the woman never laughed.
17. From your knowledge of the world, how is the baby going to be as an adult?
18. Mention at least 5 elements of irony in the story.
19. How do you feel at the end of the story?
20. What do you think is the theme of the story?
21. Why is it that the story has an open ending?
22. In what ways is this story different to the other stories that you've read by Roald Dahl?
23. In what ways is it similar?
24. Go into Hitler's biographies. Were the details Roald Dahl introduced true or fact?