Text Dependent Questions for “The Scarlet Ibis”

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| **Text-dependent Questions** | **Evidence-based Answers** |
| Using the narrator’s descriptions of the seasons in the first sentence, make an inference in regards to what possible month the story may be set in? Cite specific textual evidence that helps you to infer this. |  |
| Diction refers to the author’s choice of words. On page 129, Hurst begins the story by saying “…summer was dead, but autumn had not yet been born…” Consider Hurst’s word choices throughout the first paragraph; what tone does this establish for the reader? Support your response with specific textual evidence. |  |
| How does the second paragraph on page 129 work to frame the story the narrator will tell? Cite textual evidence that supports your reasoning. |  |
| On the bottom of page 129 the narrator points out differences between the brothers. What can we infer about how the brother feels about Doodle’s condition? |  |
| On page 129, the narrator says, “They named him William Armstrong, which was like tying a big tail on a small kite.” Explain what the narrator means by this? What does this reveal about the narrator’s character? |  |
| Re-read the paragraph that begins on page 129 and ends on the top of page 130. What differences between the narrator and his brother can you infer? Cite specific evidence from the text that helps you make this inference. |  |
| Reread the second paragraph on page 130; what are the narrator’s feelings about Doodle? Cite specific textual evidence that supports your answer. |  |
| Based on pages 131-132, in what ways is the relationship of the narrator and Doodle typical of brothers or siblings? |  |
| On the bottom of page 131, the narrator says “There is within me (and with sadness I have watched it in others) a knot of cruelty  borne by the stream of love…” What does the narrator mean by this? How have the events of this story affected the narrator’s life? What possible theme might be revealed by this statement? |  |
| Reread the 2nd full paragraph on page 133. How are the brothers alike at this moment? Cite specific textual evidence that reveals this. |  |
| Reread the paragraph at the bottom of page 133, why is the narrator crying? Why did he really teach Doodle to walk? What possible theme is emerging (or being reinforced) here? |  |
| When the narrator says “Once I had succeeded in teaching Doodle to walk, I began to believe in my own infallibility...” What does this reveal about his character? Cite textual evidence that supports your assumption. |  |
| Look back to pages 136-137 and re-read the portion of the text about the Scarlet Ibis. What do Doodle’s reactions reveal about him? In what way might this serve as foreshadowing, or clues about what will happen next? |  |
| Reread the last paragraph on page 139. In what ways is the Ibis symbolic, or representative of something other than its literal meaning? Cite textual evidence that supports your idea. |  |
| The author uses color descriptions all through the text, from the very first paragraph to the very last. How does this enhance the tone of the text? How might the tone further enhance the theme of the text? Provide specific examples from the text. |  |