

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR “A ROCKING HORSE WINNER”

1. The prose of the first paragraph begins as many fairy tales do. Explain. What does the reader expect from such a beginning? Explain the purpose of the repetition of the word “yet” in the 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph.
2. Analyze the mother. What imagery is associated with her in the 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph?
3. What is ironic about the word “materialized” in the 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph?
4. What is the effect of the repetition of the phrase “there must be more money” in the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> paragraphs?
5. Note the description of the rocking horse in the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> paragraphs. What words are used to detail the horse?
6. What is the effect of Paul’s confusion between “filthy lucker” and “filthy lucre”?
7. What is the effect of the repetition of the phrase “he wanted it” in paragraph at the middle of the 3<sup>rd</sup> page?
8. Note Paul’s eyes throughout the story and write down how they are described in the progression of the tale. What is the author’s purpose in using the imagery of Paul’s eyes?
9. What is the purpose of the religious references made during the discussion between Paul and Uncle Oscar?
10. What is the effect of the repetition of the phrase “honor bright” during the conversation between Paul and his uncle?
11. Paul states that he started making money for his mother. What might this symbolize in the story?
12. What is the effect of the imagery used in describing Paul’s mother when she receives her birthday gift? Give specific quotes that describe the imagery.
13. What is the irony of the statement that Paul’s mother makes on page 7 when she says, “My family has been a gambling family, and you won’t know till you grow up how much damage it has done. But it has done damage.”
14. What is the imagery used to connect Paul and his mother in the middle of the 8<sup>th</sup> page? What is the symbolism of this imagery?
15. Note all of the stone imagery from the middle of the 8<sup>th</sup> page until the end of the story. What is the significance of this imagery?
16. Examine the characters in the story who are affected (or infected) by materialism. What conclusions can you draw about them and about Lawrence’s purpose in writing this story?
17. Uncle Oscar notes that Paul is a “poor devil” at the end of the story and that “he’s best gone out of a life where he rides a rocking horse to find a winner.” What is the significance of this statement?