“Act of a Hero” by Hugh Garner

Green-Interface page 131

1. List the conflicts present in the story and explain how they are resolved.
2. On page 134, there is an example of personification. Locate it and explain its significance to the story.
3. a) Why was the act of rescuing a family from a burning building a simple fundamental act of “manhood,” yet once George approached the burning building, why did it become a sign of his weakness?

b) Why does this continue to haunt him throughout the story?

1. a) What sobering truth had George realized as he confronted the stabbing flames?

b) Why hadn’t this eased his conscience?

c) What did he do to feel less guilty before leaving the burning building?

1. What is the climax of the story?
2. In one paragraph, write down what you think George’s inner monologue (what he was thinking to himself) when he read the headline of the news report, “The Act of a Hero.”
3. Explain whether you think George is a hero or a coward.