“Raymond’s Run” Short Story Analysis

Before Reading

1. How would you describe the relationship between girls? (Think about girls who are friends, girls who are schoolmates, but not necessarily friends, girls who grow up together, etc.) How do they relate to each other? (Do they treat each other kindly? Are they competitive? Jealous? Mean? Etc.)
2. During the first half of the twentieth century (1900s-1950s), how were girls expected to behave? What were they expected to wear? What kinds of activities were they not to do/to do?
3. What do you think it is like to be the family member of someone with a disability? Do you think the family member would be a target? Explain

**Steps**

* While reading, **note places where you become confused or you have questions.** (If you become confused or you wonder why the author does a certain thing, this shows that you are an effective and strong reader.)
* While reading, **visualize** what the narrator is describing.
* While reading, **make inferences.** Look at what the text says and then think about what that means (what’s implied but not being stated.)
* While reading, **make connections** to your life, another text (book, movie, song, TV program, etc.), and to the world (news stories, history, people around you, etc.)
* When you note these places, you can highlight that portion or underline it or circle it. In the margin, draw a symbol and beside the symbol write your question, what you visualize, your inference, your connections, and so on.

After Reading

Respond to the following questions:

1. Throughout the story characters face challenges. What are the challenges that the following characters face:
   1. The narrator (Hazel, AKA Squeaky)
   2. Raymond
   3. Gretchen
2. What qualities help the narrator face challenges successfully? What are the benefits of challenge for her? (Identify at least two qualities and two benefits)
3. What does the text reveal about relationships between girls? Cite at least two places in the text.
4. How does Hazel’s society affirm (meaning it supports her) or not affirm her desire to be an elite athlete? Refer to at least two ways in which it does or does not affirm her.
5. Draw a plot diagram for this story, labelling it with exposition, inciting event, rising action, climax, and denouement and indicating what happens in the story at each point.
6. What is the story’s resolution?

Writers Craft Response:

Create a one paragraph response to the “Raymond’s Run. In your response discuss the writer’s craft: literary techniques, figurative language, imagery, vivid verbs, sentence structure, etc.

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