After You, My Dear Alphonse

1. What games do the two boys play? How are these games related to the idea of “growing up”?
2.  How does Mrs. Wilson behave towards Boyd that demonstrates her understanding of black boys?
3.  What seems to be Mrs. Wilson’s image of black people and their relationships to white people? To what extent does Boyd’s family not fit into this picture?
4.  How does Johnny’s behaviour towards Boyd differ from that of his mother?
5.  Describe Boyd’s reactions in this situation. Of what importance has this incident been to him?
6.  Compare his first to his last “After you, my dear Alphonse.” Are there any differences? If so, explain.
7. Identify the point of view from which the story is told. How do you know that this is the point of view? Explain.
8. What is the story teller trying to influence the reader to understand?
9. Have you ever experienced a situation in which you or someone you know was judged based on some preconceived idea or stereotype? Explain the situation and how it impacted you

Writing Notebook Entry:

*Do you think that Johnny will grow up to be a racist? Why or why not?*