Reading Check

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| **1.** | Explain how Mr. Shiftlet seems to want to exploit the Craters. How does the older Lucynell want to exploit Mr. Shiftlet? |
| **2.** | What has become of young Lucynell and Mr. Shiftlet by the story’s end? |

Thinking Critically

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| **3.** | What is the significance of the narrator’s saying that Mr. Shiftlet’s figure formed “a crooked cross” (page 860) and later that his smile “stretched like a weary snake” (page 864)? What **images** do these descriptions bring to mind? How does the narrator want us to regard Mr. Shiftlet? |
| **4.** | What does the hitchhiker say to Mr. Shiftlet just before he leaps from the car? How do the remarks affect Mr. Shiftlet? |
| **5.** | At the end of the story, Mr. Shiftlet feels that “the rottenness of the world was about to engulf him” (page 867). What other remarks does Mr. Shiftlet make throughout the story that suggest he feels he is morally superior to most other people? What **irony,** or contradictions, do you sense in Mr. Shiftlet’s view of his own morality? |
| **6.** | Where do you find the **title** used in the story? What do you think it means? |
| **7.** | Are there any heroes in this story? Do you think the story’s **theme** involves innocence versus evil, or is it a story about a world in which everyone is morally questionable? Explain your response using details from the text. |
| **8.** | Using details from the selection, respond to **Connecting to the Focus Question** on page 857. |