

## Simon's 2.1 Close Reading: Notes ("Citizen's Arrest")

| My Observations and Questions about . . . "Citizen's Arrest" |  |
|--|--|
| The <b>setting</b> and <b>mood</b> of the text               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>not sure about the mood of the text. Is how the protagonist feels part of how I determine what the mood is?</i></li> <li>- <i>setting seems to be in a city—the store is described as being really big, like stores in the city.</i></li> <li>- <i>High class store? The type of merchandise and the dress of the manager (black silk suit coat with a flower in the lapel)</i></li> <li>- <i>Is the story from a long time ago or a different place? We have video surveillance now, so I think this is from the past, or a store with little technology.</i></li> </ul>  |
| The <b>characters</b> of the text                            | <p><i>The protagonist</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>A very careful and observant guy—you can tell he has a good life from how he talks and how surprised he is over the theft</i></li> <li>- <i>A business man- also "committed" to seeing things through with thief</i></li> <li>- <i>Not afraid of thief</i></li> <li>- <i>Unsure about whether he did the right thing after he decided to turn in the thief.</i></li> </ul> <p><i>The thief</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Intelligent</i></li> <li>- <i>Scary looking (huge nose, large mouth, "meaty hands", and missing teeth)</i></li> <li>- <i>Missing teeth mean he's a violent dude? Maybe, but story doesn't say</i></li> <li>- <i>Very clearly establishes (to the protagonist) he did steal the lighter, later on</i></li> </ul> |
| The <b>conflict</b> or problems occurring in the text        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Protagonist reporting theft of lighter is where the conflict happens</i></li> <li>- <i>The protagonist starts out being "right" and pursuing justice but in the end, no justice is served to the thief, only to the protagonist (getting a parking ticket)</i></li> <li>- <i>A negative experience for good guy, and he had wanted it to be positive with the thief getting arrested for a crime</i></li> </ul>  |
| The <b>theme</b> or <b>purpose</b> of the text               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>To warn people to not do good where criminals are involved?</i></li> <li>- <i>A story to tell other people—warn them to be careful about doing good?</i></li> <li>- <i>Good guys getting punished instead of the bad guys?</i></li> <li>- <i>I'm gonna have to think about this a little more.</i></li> </ul>  |
| Parts of the text I <b>do</b> understand                     | <i>I understand the significance of the knight well—knights are from medieval times and were like the law enforcement of that time. They had codes of conduct they had to follow that were all about right and wrong.</i>  |
| Parts of the text I <b>do not</b> understand                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>I'm not sure if the protagonist is ever going to do a good thing for anyone ever again after how this went for him.</i></li> <li>- <i>I don't know why the thief had to follow him and tell him the truth about the theft. You would think he'd want to keep that a secret if he didn't want to ever get caught for stealing.</i></li> <li>- <i>I don't get why the good guy was the one treated so badly though, despite meaning to do the right thing. All he wanted to do is the right thing, and it blew up on him.</i></li> </ul>   |

## Simon's 2.1 Close Reading: Protagonist Response

*I pulled a lot of this information right out of my close reading notes. I put myself in the footsteps of the protagonist to try to see things from his perspective when I wrote the "responses" to my reading questions.*



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| My Observations  | Protagonist of "Citizen's Arrest"  |
|--|--|
| <i>The lighter is pricey and kind of frivolous. What's the significance of this stolen item?</i>   | <i>I said it was "a conversation piece" in the beginning! After I saw the shoplifter steal it and reported him to the store employees, they were careful because they didn't want to "offend" anyone. Actual justice served for the crime became unimportant. The lighter did become quite the conversation piece! The whole story is about that lighter!</i>  |
| <i>What about the actual shape—the knight itself. Is there anything to that, or is it just a unimportant detail of the story?</i>  | <i>I'm not sure, but I guess it could be meaningful. Knights of medieval times upheld or pursued justice for the people in their kingdoms. They also had a very strict sense of "right" and "wrong". Not just anyone can be a knight (if you think about King Arthur's Knights of the Round Table for instance).</i>   |
| <i>At the end, the protagonist is angry at the thief although the thief is a huge and kind of scary dude. Why did the thief come and talk to the protagonist in his car? Why not just get away before someone realised what really happened?</i> | <i>When he opened the door of my car, I'm sure I was intimidated. I "swallowed twice" at the confrontation. Although I was angry and said I wouldn't buy the lighter, the thief still told me his plan. He wanted me to make up for the "inconvenience" I'd caused him. He didn't think that what he had done was wrong, and he thought if the store was foolish, it wasn't wrong to take advantage of them.</i> |
| <i>Why were Levine and Sileo were so doubtful of the main character?</i>   | <i>I think if I'd had more proof than just "seeing" the theft, the store employees would have sided with me. The thief was the only one who had "proof" with the bogus receipt, however.</i>   |
| <i>How will the outcome of this conflict affect the protagonist in the future? Will he still want to do the right thing?</i>   | <i>I still don't know if I would react like this to another situation if it came up, because the store management treated me badly although I was right. I wouldn't want to go through that again, feeling like I'd done something wrong even though I didn't. That was probably the worst part.</i>   |

## Simon's 2.1 Close Reading: Reflection



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I can relate to *the idea of taking risks to do good* because . . .

*Sometimes doing a good thing can be risky. One example is looking at fire fighters, police officers, search and rescue crews, or even paramedics. The goal of those guys is to save lives and protect people, but to do this they are often in dangerous places or situations. This is different from the protagonist of "Citizen Arrest" and the risk he took because their risks are more physical and life threatening. The protagonist takes a big risk though, especially because he was face-to-face with the thief and not anonymous. If the thief had been violent or dangerous, the protagonist would have been at risk when they catch the thief. I think there are always risks when people try to do good. These are just some examples.*



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| Value  | Descriptor   |
|--|--|
|  <p><b>Excellent</b></p>             | <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> You apply close reading strategies effectively in your <i>Notes</i> and <i>Protagonist Response</i> charts.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> You show a clear understanding of "Citizen's Arrest" in your <i>Reflection</i>.</p> <p><i>Your notes looked very helpful Simon—you were clearly giving attention to the parts you found difficult and writing notes in a way that was helpful.</i></p>  |
|  <p><b>Satisfactory</b></p>          | <p><input type="checkbox"/> You apply a few close reading strategies in your <i>Notes</i> and <i>Protagonist Response</i> charts, but they did not always seem to help your understanding of the text. You may want to try . . .</p> <p>1.</p> <p>2.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> You show a basic understanding of "Citizen's Arrest", but I would like to clarify the following:</p> <p>1. <i>Simon, I think you were close with your observations about the thief and what he was like, but clarification is needed on why the thief bothered the protagonist in his car. When you look for clues in the story about the thief's character, give close attention to details about his confidence and how relaxed he is. He's a pro! But do many thieves get to brag about how great they are without consequence?</i></p> <p>2.</p> |
|  <p><b>Resubmission Needed</b></p> | <p><input type="checkbox"/> I think you struggled with this assignment because . . .</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I would like to see you redo and resubmit your assignment.</p>  |
| <p><b>TOTAL: 12.5/15</b><br/><b>= 83%</b></p>  |  |
|  <p><b>Assessment</b></p>          | <p><i>Simon, you had some very thoughtful observations in your Dialogue journal. You really got into the "head" of the protagonist well for this assignment, and both your close reading notes and journal show you have a strong understanding of the text. Remember that looking back at the text is an effective way to seek more detail to help you answer your questions.</i></p>   |