“Through the Tunnel” Questions

1. As a refresher course, write down one example for each of the following literary elements as you read. Use an exact quote.
   1. imagery
   2. simile
   3. setting (write one detail that helps to create the setting)
2. Through the Tunnel’s theme is

a. Fear of failure b. Family – blessing or curse

c. Fate and free will d. Coming of Age Piece

1. Look only at the first page. List as many details from this page as you can that show “Through the Tunnel” to be the theme that you chose in the above question.
2. The main characterJerry, does several childish things in the story, as well as several more adult things. As you read, use the table on the back page and keep a running list of his childish and adult actions. Include page numbers.
3. We said that coming-of-age stories usually involve some sort of trial that the protagonist must face. What is Jerry’s trial?
4. We said that coming-of-age stories usually involve a loss of innocence. What might we consider Jerry’s loss of innocence? (*This is tricky. I don’t really expect you to get it, but take a shot at it.*)
5. Coming-of-age stories usually end with some sort of symbolic object or act that the protagonist has matured. While Jerry, as an 11-year-old, is not fully mature, he still does something near the end of the story that shows he has grown up. What does he say/do that indicates that he has come of age?

Jerry’s Actions

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Childish Actions | Adult Actions |
| When she asks if he would rather not walk with her, Jerry runs after his mother to catch up. (Pg. 202) |  |
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