

1. What is the story about? Do not simply summarize the story, but critically describe what you think the author is trying to tell the reader. Is it simply a story about a young woman who is baking a cake for her friend? Dig deeper.

The story starts with a woman making a cake for her best friend's party. The main conflict is between David and Bonnie. David used to be Bonnie's best friend, Janey's, rock climber teacher and boyfriend. Even though they are not in love anymore, David still has an inclination towards her (Selecky, 2011). The way David behaves to Janey shows that he still has feelings for her. David rejects the idea of Janey getting married. Those behaviours are the ones that make Bonnie uncomfortable, and Bonnie is having doubts about her relationship with David. The writer gives a hint that Bonnie and David's relationship is not getting well. The hint is their first fight over a doorknob. Moreover, we can see that David is not giving care to what Bonnie does. For example, while Bonnie was distributing the cake, he puts his finger on the cake to get cream. Also, in the story, Bonnie has inner thoughts and interpretations about David's words and behaviours. In the last part of the story, Bonnie imagines her future in a sad way. She imagined that Milt and Janey were dancing and having a happy time at the party. She gets sad because David and Bonnie are never going to be that happy.

2. Why does the cake feel so heavy in Bonnie's hands even though she describes it as a really light cake?

Sadly dreaming her future makes her feel like that. Her relationship with David is not going well. She thinks he is not taking this relationship seriously, and she thinks that he still has feelings for Janey. As she predicts her proposal in her mind, he will wear the sweater that Janey gives and unwillingly make his proposal. Although to all these treatments, she is going to say yes. Later in the story, Bonnie thinks and imagines that how her best friend will be happy, but Bonnie will not be happy the same as Janey. David is still feeling something for Janey, and that's why Bonnie feels the cake so heavy, and she feels herself in heavy despair and sadness.

3. Describe the characters, and analyze their motives. Why do they act the way they do? Are they happy? Use quotes to illustrate your analysis. You have to discuss all the characters (4 overall); however, you can discuss the protagonist in more details.

Milt is a funny and nostalgic guy who still sends letters in the mail. Also, he got into trouble because of the moustache that his English class wanted. Bonnie describes him as "a man who would wear coloured-socks." (Selecky, 2011, p.2). He is acting the way he is, and I believe Milt is happy.

Janey is in love with Milt, and she had a relationship with David, her rock climber teacher. She was working in the film industry before. She is acting like she is having a wonderful partner. She is acting like that because she is truly happy or is trying to make Bonnie jealous. They both have the same length of relationship, but Janey marries before her, and she has a happier relationship than Bonnie's.

David is not happy that Janey marries Milt. He is still wearing a sweater that she got for him. Janey has a special place in David's heart because of his past relationship with her. He is acting agitated and angry because he doesn't love Bonnie anymore and still has feelings for Janey.

Bonnie is not having a happy relationship with David. She is neat and cares for her best friend, Janey. She envies her best friend from inside and says, "I like Janey and Milt together." (Selecky, 2011, p.2). She is having wrong interpretations about David in some parts. For example, David says, "You make everything so pretty." But Bonnie understands it as "You make such a big fuss out of everything." (Selecky, 2011, p. 3). Also, David has been rude to her too. She is unhappy with the way of her relationship.

From Bonnie's point of view and through Janey's talking on the phone, Janey and Milt are in love and happy together. However, by looking at David and Bonnie's talking and relationship, they aren't getting well together and happy. As the reader can see from the story, Bonnie and David's talk usually goes around in an unpleasant and unhappy manner. They have an unpleasant conversation throughout the story, which started with David saying, "Milt is an idiot." (Selecky, 2011, p. 3). Also, during their journey to Janey and Milt's house, David shows his middle finger to Bonnie and doesn't answer her without waiting for her to catch up.

4. Describe the style used in the story using quotes. Make sure your quotes illustrate your analysis; they are not meant to replace it.

The style that is used in the story is informal, and in some parts of the story, inner voice and thoughts are given. The story has an imaginative incident in the end. For example, in the end, Bonnie imagines her wedding proposal and how David would do it. The author uses dialogues to show the unpleasant mood and relationship between David and Bonnie, and s/he emphasizes Milt and Janey's loving relationship in the story. For example, Janey said, "I love him so much." (Selecky, 2011, p. 2). This example would show the loving relationship between Milt and Janey. However, Bonnie and David are trying to find something to quarrel about. For example, while they are walking to the party, Bonnie said, "You were provoking it (the dog)." (Selecky, 2011, p. 6) After that, David shows his middle finger to her. The writer tries to emphasize David's careless behaviour and his bad treatment of Bonnie. It tells that not all couples or families have a happy ending. Some women or men deliberately marry their partners, even though they are not in love with them anymore. The reader can make this observation by reading the last paragraph.