This fictional short story, written in 1933, is a telling commentary about some of the problems within the African American community at that time.

1. What is the story telling us about status within the African American community?

2. How can this link back to The Great Gatsby, status and Fitzgerald’s own use of satire?

3. What is being satirized in this story? Remember, satire is a criticism of something in society.

* + Be specific! Where do we see this satire in the story?

4. Discuss the use of vernacular in the story (the everyday language of the people in a country or region, as distinct from official or formal language), how is it used to create character and setting?

5. Discuss the “local color” (the focus on specific features of a particular community/area), how does the author use local color? Where is it seen in the story? How does the use of vernacular enhance the local color in the story? What does the use of local color do for you as a reader?

6. It is 1933 and you are an editor for *The Crisis*, the literary journal published by the NAACP. You must decide if the new short work of fiction you have just received in the mail, titled “Miss Cynthie” by Rudolph Fisher is worthy of being published by your prestigious journal “the premier crusading voice for civil rights”. You must read the story carefully then **write a letter** to the Editor-in-chief (your boss) W.E.B. Du Bois in which you provide reasoning for this story to be published, or to be rejected. You must base your decision on the fact that *The Crisis* is a quarterly journal of civil rights, history, politics, and culture and seeks to educate and challenge its readers about issues that plague African Americans and other communities of color (adapted from thecrisismagazine.com). The decision is solely up to you, however, you must provide reasoning for your rejection or publication based on evidence from the story and how it may or may not fit with the goals of *The Crisis*.

Some questions to think about: Does this story fit with the literary journal’s main focus/goals? Does this story inform readers about a central issue in African American culture? Does this story educate readers? Does this story challenge readers?