

# Plot Analysis

## "The Moustache" by Robert Cormier

1. Is the setting important to this story? Explain.
2. From what point of view is this story written?
3. What clues tell Mike that it is *not* one of his grandmother's "good days"?
4. What event in the past is she (Mike's grandmother) sorry about?
5. List one symbol and explain its meaning.
6. Identify and explain one external conflict.
7. Explain one internal conflict.
8. What is the climax of this story?
9. What inference can you make about the fact that when Mike returns from the nursing home he does not tell his mother what happened?
10. Mike directly reveals a lot about himself in this story, but he doesn't tell why he shaves off his moustache. What did you infer about his reasons for the shave?
11. Does Mike do the right thing by saying "I forgive you, Meg"? Explain your answer. What would you have done if you were Mike?
12. Complete the following sentence in at least **two** ways:  
  
Mike expected...but...so...
13. Go back towards the end of the story, and reread the paragraph starting "My grandmother." Have you ever come to a similar realization about an adult in your life? If so, what event brought you to that awareness?

14. Draw a line down the middle of this page. On the left, copy three short passages from the text that made a strong impression on you. On the right, jot down your thoughts about each passage.

## 15. Found: A Poem

A found poem is made up of words, phrases, or sentences from a piece of writing that are chosen and arranged to communicate the essence of the piece. Go back to “The Moustache,” and choose the ten words, phrases, and sentences that you feel best communicate what the story means to you. Copy each onto a separate index card. Try out different arrangements of the strips until you find one you like. (You don’t have to use all of your strips.) Rewrite your arrangement onto a piece of paper and give your found poem a title.