Literary Analysis Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

“Thank You, M’am” by Langston Hughes Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Block \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Characterization –** the methods writers use to create characters: descriptions of how they act, speak, and think as well as how others treat and view them.

**1. Recall**: What does Mrs. Jones do when Roger tries to steal her purse?

**Interpret:** What can you tell about her character from this action?

**Connect**: How are her actions connected to her past experiences?

**2.** **Recall**: What does Roger do when Mrs. Jones leaves him alone with her purse?

**Infer:** Why does he do this?

**Compare and Contrast:** How have Roger's behavior and attitude changed since the opening?

**3. Recall:** What do Mrs. Jones and Roger talk about during their meal?

**Draw Conclusions:** Why doesn't Mrs. Jones ask Roger any personal questions?

**4. Recall:** What does Roger say when he leaves the apartment?

**Infer:** What more does he wants to say?

**Interpret:** Why can't he say more?

The **theme** of a literary work is the major idea or underlying message that it communicates.

• A **stated theme** is directly expressed by the narrator or a character.

• An **implied theme** is suggested by story events as well as the characters' actions and reactions.

**5.** "Thank You, M'am" has an implied theme about the effects of respect, kindness, and trust.

Although the implied theme is clear to the reader, it is not explicitly written. In your own words, what is the **theme** of the story?

**6.** How **does** the title "Thank you, M'am" relate to the **theme?**

**Connecting Literary Elements**

The theme or message that is suggested by a character’s actions often depends on a character's **motives** —the reasons for his or her actions.

**7.** Roger tells Mrs. Jones that he stole her purse because he wanted some blue suede shoes. Why

would he have found it acceptable (or why didn’t he think it was wrong?) to steal her purse?

**8.** Mrs. Jones “put a half-nelson about his neck” and dragged him to her house with the warning

that “When I get through with you, you are going to remember Mrs. Luelle Bates Washington

Jones.”Based upon what happens, what is her **motivation** in doing this?

**Dialogue** – the conversations characters have with other characters

**9.** Despite the initial conflict between the **protagonist** (main character) and **antagonist** (character

the protagonist struggles against), Roger and Mrs. Jones seem to respect one another.

Write one example of **dialogue** that reveals their respect.

**10.** **Writing**: At the end of the story, “Thank You M’am” ends with the sentence, “And he never saw her again.” Imagine that the publisher of the story decided to delete that last sentence and asked Langston Hughes to create an **alternate ending** where their relationship

does not end. Pretending you are the author, write a continuation/ending of “Thank You,

M’am.” Continue in the same style and voice of Langston Hughes.

Please write on your own paper.