

Uglypuss

Look back through the story and answer the following questions.

1. What is Joel's profession and why might this be important to the story?
2. What do we learn about Joel's background? In what way does this imply that he is adrift from his roots? Do you think this is significant to the story?
3. Is there anything humorous in this story? What is it? Explain why you find it amusing.
4. When the narrator follows Joel we learn things about Becka and when the narrative is Becka's voice we learn things about Joel. Draw up a table and create a list that you can compare of the way each character has interpreted the other's behaviour.
5. When Joel goes out to the Blue Danube and meets the other woman does your opinion of him change? Why? How is this done?
6. Are you surprised by Becka's actions in trashing Joel's apartment and taking Uglypuss? Explain the reasons behind your answer.
7. Why do you think when the narrator first switches to Becka she is depicted carrying the axe?
8. Compare the ways in which Uglypuss is described. Draw a diagram which includes the characters' thoughts about the cat.
9. Which character do you sympathise with at the end of the story? Why?
10. What links can you make between this story and some of the others in the collection?