

Questions for “The Secret Life of Walter Mitty” by James Thurber

Instructions: As you are reading this short story, pay close attention to the way Thurber uses indirect characterization to develop and reveal Mitty’s personality. Answer the following questions on your own paper.

1. What is Walter Mitty’s real life like? Support your answer with at least three specific details.
2. Use three adjectives to describe Mitty himself. Next to each adjective, write down one piece of evidence/one clue that James Thurber (author) gives us to indirectly characterize Mitty.
3. Describe Mitty’s wife. Give two adjectives and evidence for each one.
4. If you were a marriage counselor, what advice would you give to Mitty and his wife?
5. (1st col.) What physical objects, words, or situations trigger each of Mitty’s daydreams?
(2nd col.) What physical objects, words, or situations snap him back to reality?
 - a. Naval Commander
 - b. Lead Surgeon
 - c. Defendant
 - d. Captain/pilot
 - e. Man facing a firing squad
6. What specific details does Thurber use to SHOW the following ideas:
 - a. Mitty is angry.
 - b. Mitty is passive aggressive.
 - c. Mitty is resigned.
 - d. Mitty is fearless.
 - e. Mitty is anxious.

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