

The Geranium: Questions

- Consider the opening paragraph. What does it tell us about the main character? The setting?
- The second paragraph says, "Before they came she would put on her cardigan to hide her arm." What was wrong with Marney's arm? What do you think caused this problem?
- Marney dreamed of having two main things. What were they and how would they help her?
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- The newspaper is an important symbol in this story.
 - List as many types of items or events Marney reads about in the weekly paper.
 - What does the newspaper symbolize?
- Joey and Sandra visit Marney every day. Why doesn't Marney talk to her good friends about her husband?
- Why does Marney turn down Sandra and Joey's offer to go shopping together?
- What is the mood of the story? How is it created and what effect does it have?
- How does Bob learn about Marney's daily activities? How does he get all the information from her?
- Bob ordered Marney to "chuck out" the geranium her friends had given her, the one she had been wishing for. Why didn't she fight back?
- What is a geranium? What does it represent in the story?
- In the last paragraph, Marney watches the dishwasher turn and rush down the drain. Describe this symbol's significance in illustrating Marney's life.

12. In a letter to the editor, write down your concerns about Marney's situation. What would you like to see change in such a world as her and Bob's?

13. Complete the table below.

Marney	• protagonist (main character) • story told from her perspective (we see her thoughts, experiences, & ideas)	Characteristics / Qualities	Evidence / Support from the Story
		not well educated	1
		terrified of Bob	2
		keeps Bob's secrets	3
		hardworking	4
		leads a boring, repetitive life	5
		kindhearted	6
		too scared to change her life	7
		8	9

Bob	• antagonist (the main character's enemy or opponent)	Characteristics / Qualities	Evidence / Support from the Story
		bully	1
		"control freak" (loves power)	2
		physically abusive	3
		emotionally abusive	4
		coarse/crude manners	5
		insensitive of Marney's feelings	6
		prejudiced towards women	7
		8	9