Activity One: Reading for Understanding

Respond to the following questions using complete sentences. Be thorough in your answers, explaining yourself completely and clearly. At the end of your answer, write the paragraph number that best supports your answer.

1. Why was MacKenzie asked to leave school as a child? Explain the situation.


3. Why did the women most likely bring food to MacKenzie’s family that Christmas? Why did they leave before her mother answered the door? Explain.

4. What did MacKenzie assume the old man would do with the money she gave him? Why? What did he actually do with the money?

5. What does MacKenzie believe about love and charity? Why?

6. “Summarize” is a verb that means “to write brief statement that covers the main points of a topic.” Your job is to summarize “An Open Heart” in 2-3 sentences. You must use entirely your own words. Use the space below.
Activity Two: Now that you have read and written about the passage, choose ONE of the purposes below by circling the letter beside it. Explain more specifically MacKenzie's purpose by completing the statement below the purpose you choose.

In "An Open Heart," Judith MacKenzie's purpose is...

a. to persuade readers that giving is better than receiving. MacKenzie wants the reader to ___________

b. to explain what she believes about charity. MacKenzie wants the reader to understand that charity ___

c. to describe a personal experience involving charity. MacKenzie describes charity by __________

d. to entertain readers by telling an interesting story. MacKenzie wants the reader to enjoy __________

Activity Three: Repetition

Repetition refers to the technique of using a word, phrase, sound, idea, or image more than once—usually in order to highlight or emphasize an idea.

1. Go back through Paragraphs 1 and 2 and highlight significant words that are used more than three times. List them below:

2. What does the repetition of these words reveal about the speaker's circumstances in her early years?

3. What detail is repeated in Paragraphs 2 and 3? Write the phrase below:

4. Why do you think the author repeats this detail in Paragraphs 2 and 3?

5. What verbs are repeated at the end of paragraph 3? Write them below:

6. How does this repetition help you understand the change in the author's attitude?
Activity Four: Vocabulary and Diction

Part 1

1. **devastating (1)**
   
   Sentence in context: ____________________________________________________

   Words/ideas around “devastating” that help me figure out the meaning: __________________________

   What I think “devastating” means: ____________________________________________

   The dictionary definition of “devastating”: ____________________________________________

2. **brutal (2)**
   
   Sentence in context: ____________________________________________________

   Words/ideas around “brutal” that help me figure out the meaning: __________________________

   What I think “brutal” means: ____________________________________________

   The dictionary definition of “brutal”: ____________________________________________

3. **bleak (2)**
   
   Sentence in context: ____________________________________________________

   Words/ideas around “bleak” that help me figure out the meaning: __________________________

   What I think “bleak” means: ____________________________________________

   The dictionary definition of “bleak”: ____________________________________________

4. **frivolous (3)**
   
   Sentence in context: ____________________________________________________

   Words/ideas around “frivolous” that help me figure out the meaning: __________________________

   What I think “frivolous” means: ____________________________________________

   The dictionary definition of “frivolous”: ____________________________________________

5. **gullibility (3)**
   
   Sentence in context: ____________________________________________________

   Words/ideas around “gullibility” that help me figure out the meaning: __________________________

   What I think “gullibility” means: ____________________________________________

   The dictionary definition of “gullibility”: ____________________________________________

6. **charity (3)**
   
   Sentence in context: ____________________________________________________

   Words/ideas around “charity” that help me figure out the meaning: __________________________

   What I think “charity” means: ____________________________________________

   The dictionary definition of “charity”: ____________________________________________
7. abundantly (4)
Sentence in context: _____________________________________________________________

Words/ideas around “abundantly” that help me figure out the meaning: ____________________________

What I think “abundantly” means: _________________________________________________________
The dictionary definition of “abundantly”: _______________________________________________________

***Which of the words in the list above BEST reveals the main idea of the essay? Explain.***

Part 2
Your teacher will distribute index cards with quotes from the story to you and your partner. Place your quote into one of the following categories on the board: diction, detail, or imagery.

Part 3
Your teacher will distribute “diction” cards to you and your partner. After you read your card, write your initial feelings and associations about the word or phrase in the space below:

Activity Five: Tone
Using your tone list in your toolbox section, list at least three words in the space below that best describe the author’s tone based on the vocabulary and diction used in the passage.