1. Why is this story like a jigsaw puzzle?
2. How does the author fit the pieces of the family puzzle together so that it makes sense?
3. What is the effect of leaving the family situation unresolved at the end?
4. How does Phillipa’s background influence the way she sees the world?
5. Find a quote that would reflect Ruth’s personality and a phrase that reflects Ralph’s personality.
6. Identify and explain the metaphor used when describing the effects of the drugs on Ruth.
7. For each of the following quotations identify:

7a

 

1. Who is who speaking?
2. What problem are they facing here?
3. What is the impact of this problem on Phillipa?

 7b



1. Who is who speaking?
2. What problem are they facing here?
3. What is the impact of this problem on Phillipa?

 7c



1. Who is who speaking?
2. What problem are they facing here?
3. What is the impact of this problem on Phillipa?

 7d

 

1. Who is who speaking?
2. What problem are they facing here?
3. What is the impact of this problem on Phillipa?
4. Explain the theme of ‘using dreams to escape reality’.
5. Explain the theme of ‘avoiding responsibility’.
6. Explain the theme of ‘abuse of power’
7. Explain the theme of ‘role model’
8. Explain how Phillipa shows ‘unconditional love’ for her parents.
9. Explain how the rag doll and the dustbin can be images of child neglect.
10. Explain how a cycle of abuse exists in this home.