“Miss Brill” by Katherine Mansfield pgs. 88-91 in *Sound and Sense* Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. The story takes place in a public park where Miss Brill is, in many ways, an outsider. In what country is this park located? What clues reveal Miss Brill’s nationality?

2. “Miss Brill” is a story without much plot or action; rather, it focuses on the small human dramas within an ordinary situation. Describe TWO human dramas Miss Brill observes.

3. Miss Brill is unmarried and getting on in years. What evidence indicates she is set in her ways? Give two examples.

4. What evidence indicates Miss Brill has a kind heart? Give a specific example.

5. What is ironic about Miss Brill’s observations of the “other people” who sit on the benches and chairs every Sunday? What kind of irony is this?

6. What symbolic meaning is given to Miss Brill’s fox collar? How does its description change from the beginning to the end of the story?

7. How would you state the story’s theme? (What is the author’s point?)

8. Note that the last line of the story does not tell you exactly who or what is crying. Who do you think is crying? What is the effect of the ambiguity here?

9.What is the point of view used to tell the story and how does it affect your understanding of Miss Brill?

10. SYNTAX is the “arrangement of words into sentences to convey tone, purpose, and effect.” Syntax includes sentence length and style and punctuation. Notable elements are the use of very short or very long sentences and/or the use of eye-catching punctuation such as the ellipsis, em dash, exclamation point, or question marks used rhetorically. Using paragraph 10 on pg. 90 of your book, consider how the syntax reinforces what the author is trying to say. Write a paragraph about Mansfield’s use of syntax in paragraph 10. Remember: form matches function in quality literature.