

Long, Long After School
A Short Story by Ernest Buckler

Content /10 marks (one mark each)

1. Exactly where did the narrator run into Wes and have a conversation? _____
2. What is Wes's job? _____
3. How is it that Wes and the narrator both knew Miss Tretheway? _____
4. Who knocked the laundry off Wes's sled? _____
5. Who was voted best all-round student in High School? _____
6. How did Wes get the scar on his hand? _____
7. What did Miss Tretheway donate to Wes? _____
8. Why does the narrator says that Wes could not blush? _____
9. Who is the "girl" that was never asked to dance? _____
10. Why is a corsage appropriate for Miss Tretheway's grave? _____

Comprehension Questions and Literary Investigations

1. From whose point of view is the story told?
2. It is obvious that Wes is probably the only Black child in the school and probably the community. How important is this detail to understanding the story?
3. Wes describes several abuses and acts of bullying he has endured at the hands of the other children, including the narrator. Of all the bullying, which example strikes you as the worst? Explain what affect it has on you and why.
4. Choose **one** of the following poignant quotations from the story and write a personal reflection. Write a paragraph to show the significance in the story, then also include your personal thoughts and feelings evoked by it. Write at least five sentences.

- "Wes's privacy seemed to be everyone's property."
- "I guess it was a pretty foolish thing to do, but I went down in the basement and drove my fist through a window."
- "' I didn't know whether an old maid's blood would be any good to a fine young specimen like you.'"
- "'Miss Tretheway, you're making me blush.'"
- "'She was beautiful,' he added softly. She was a real lady.'"
- "But somehow I myself had never felt less beautiful, or less of a gentleman."

5. As much as this is a story about racism and bullying, it is also a story about sexism. How is Miss Tretheway a victim of appearance? Give specific examples to show how she was judged and bullied.
6. Do you think the narrator is a changed man at the end of the story? How do you know? What can he do now to repair the harm he caused to Wes, even though it happened years before? Is it ever too late to try to repair harm.