My Life as a Bat
Pages 71-74

Short Story by Margaret Atwood
1. What type of writing Margaret Atwood known for?
Atwood was born in Ottawa in the province of Ontario, Canada. Atwood is a strong proponent of technology as it relates to writing and publishing. She co-invented a device that enables authors to remotely attend their own book signings, and she participates in social media and online writing communities.

The traditional structure for a short story is paragraph form. The story usually begins with an exposition that introduces the characters and setting.

2. Scan the first page and explain how this story’s structure is similar to a traditional one and how it is different.

Authors choose how to develop their characters. They might give detailed descriptions about them or reveal information slowly as the plot develops.

3. Cite text evidence that tells about the characters.

4. Why is consensus part of determining whether someone is sane?
Share your answer with your shoulder partner. (2 min.)
Read pages 72

Note: Writers often use comparisons between two dissimilar objects or ideas to express meaning. Two types of figurative comparisons include *similes*, explicit comparisons using like or as, and *metaphors*, implied comparisons.

5. Re-read lines 18-29 and identify one simile and one metaphor and explain their meanings.

   **Simile**: “man’s face ...rising up *like* a marine float” suggests a large bobbing object, which is how the man’s face appears to the bat above him. **Metaphor**: “curse of pity” suggests that feeling pity is an act of superiority.

Figurative language also includes detailed descriptions that writers use to create images in the mind of the reader for a desired effect.

6. Examine lines 38-46 for detailed imagery. Identify images that the writer uses and their effects.

   Share your answer with your shoulder partner. (2 min.)
Read pages 73

7. Compare some of the **subtleties** of dawn and dusk with sensory information that is more apparent at noon.

8. Identify and explain the writer’s use of detailed descriptions that reveal the narrator’s tone toward humans in lines 80-93.

9. What the result of a small incendiary device deep inside a structure would be?

*Share your answer with your shoulder partner. (2 min.)*
Read pages 74
10. Identify examples of figurative language in lines 106-119 that, in combination, help to support the idea that the narrator believes bats and their lives are beautiful.

Remember the message a writer wants to convey can be stated as a theme.

11. State the theme of the story and cite textual evidence that supports your response.

12. Explain the characteristics that denizens of a bat colony would have.

13. Do you agree with the narrator’s views of bats and humans. Cite specific evidence from the text to support your answer.

Share your answer with your shoulder partner.