

First Name	Last Name	Please list 3 things you noticed in this story. These	After reading this story, what do you see	What is one	Finally, when you think about it, how did this tech	Than
Michael	Sun	Shoba called their activity a game. Darkness is a possible symbol. Shoba and Shukumar changed everyday after they started the activity.	People hold secrets for a long time.	Narration / P	We know everything Shukumar thinks and does, but we do not know what Shoba does throughout the day or what she thinks, which adds a sense of mystery.	3
Erica	Liu	The power goes out every night for just one hour. Shoba had a miscarriage. Shoba's mom doesn't seem too close to Shukumar.	Sometimes there are no second chances, when you lose something, you just lose it.	Narration / P	We are able to understand how Shukumar actually feels. When a miscarriage happens we often care more about the recovery of the woman but the man suffers greatly as well.	4
Logan	Jacobs	Shukumar gains hopefulness about his relationship, Shoba has been distant but comes back closer, Shoba switches up on Shukumar and moves out.	The world isn't fair and is unforgiving	Dialogue	We got to see how they communicated as a couple	4
Jackso	Roberts	Shukumar's relationship with his wife is rekindled Shoba has been distant, as story continues, she gets closer to Shukumar After their good week, Shoba drops a bomb on Shukumar by telling him she's moving out.	Life comes at you fast.	Dialogue	The eloquence the characters spoke with made the story easy to understand.	4
Hadas	Kluger	Shukumar gets excited about his wife again Shoba shows interest in in Shukumar for the first time in a long time You think their relationship is fixed but Shoba moves out in the end	Tragic events change people and people grieve in different ways.	Setting	I enjoyed how the story was written, it was different and kept me engaged.	4
Gabe	Rosenbe	Shoba and shukumar strengthen their relationship, Shoba leaves at the end of the week and Shukumar and shoba grieve differently	You never know what is going to happen in life	Dialogue	we saw how they talked to each other	3
Leah	Stroud	Shukumar and Shoba grieve very differently While Shukumar shuts himself away Shoba keeps herself busy Shukumar becomes excited about his wife again and then she leaves	People grieve in different ways which changes a relationship	Setting	The entire story took place in the same setting which gave it a homey yet uncomfortable feel	5
Kit	Speer	You only see Shukumar's real in depth point of view. They described their relationship as being so close in the beginning and it slowly dies through the story. Shobu had a still birth, after telling Shukumar to leave.	It shows that some relationships can fall apart after a tragic event if not properly addressed at the time of the event.	Dialogue	I loved only seeing Shukumar's thoughts and feelings. It really helped bring the story into a new light.	3
Morgar	Knox	I noticed that Shoba and Shukumar took advantage of the lights turning off to protect themselves from each other while they were talking. The darkness prevented them from seeing their reactions. Shoba obviously became extremely depressed after losing the baby. Shukumar found it hard to love her while she was in that state.	I think Lahiri is trying to show that taking things out of "the dark" can be a little risky and could possibly hurt someone's feelings. I think she's trying to say that some things are better left unsaid.	Symbolism	This technique helped me understand what I think Lahiri's message was through her symbol of the dark.	4

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dayna	johnson	i could see lots of the things they were saying. this story has lots of detail its a little deep	that they have a really bad life.	Setting	after i got into more i couldn't stop reading.	3
Pano	Georgak	I noticed that the baby died during birth because Shoba went into labor 3 weeks early, Shoba always leaves the house before Shukumar wakes up, and Shukumar rarely leaves the house.	I believe that Shoba and Shukumar's story shows that after a traumatic experience in life, it's very hard for things to go back to being the same, and it shows in the way that Shoba finally revealed that she wanted to leave him.	Setting	Everything about the snowstorm and the description of the winter in Boston just shows how much time has to be spent inside and how Shoba and Shukumar are forced to be together.	4
James	Dodd	it takes place in a 5-day period when in which the power goes out between 7-8 pm. There are only 3 characters that have names. The child could represent the downfall of the relationship	Not all relationships are meant to last	Symbolism	The baby could represent the initial downfall of the relationship	4
Destine	Scurlock	There was a lot of imagery, go more in depth about Shoba and Shukumar and why they haven't celebrated Christmas	They reveal that they have a complicated life and that they don't really have a lot to work with, especially after the baby died.	Narration / P	It affected my reading because it gives me a way to read and explore more in depth.	3
Zoe	Homyak	Shoba and Shukumar's relationship isn't very good. Matters used to be better back then, now they're worse/have changed. Shoba works a lot.	I think she/he is sending the message that relationships tend to go downhill and become less exciting as time goes on.	Dialogue	It gave us more insight as to what the characters were feeling.	3
Emma	Svinicki	1. Shukumar was further along in the process of grieving than Shoba. 2. Shoba was alienating herself from not just Shukumar, but the rest of the world. 3. Shoba and Shukumar were good at fooling their neighbors into thinking the two of them were okay.	Isolation is not a healthy way to grieve.	Narration / P	Reading the story from Shukumar's point of view made Shoba a mystery, which pulled me into the story.	4
Aditya	Vinukonc	1) The miscarriage was foreshadowed heavily 2) Very descriptive language - Imagery! 3) She changes after the miscarriage. She treats the house like "a hotel" and doesn't pay bills right when she gets them	People hide their feelings, which will usually lead to pain for both parties.	Narration / P	It gives the reader an outside and descriptive perspective as well as the knowledge of what Shukumar is thinking/feeling - which allows the reader to learn about the events in multiple views.	4
Wyatt	Bullinger	The baby died while Shukumar was at a "business conference" but she didn't know he came back in time for the birth. Shobu used to be an A-type but after her baby died she became very lazy. Shobu told Shukumar that she was moving out at the end of their game.	The message I gathered from the short story is that some people who live together for a long period of time can still struggle to communicate properly.	Setting	The game they played during the blackout, seemed to set the mood and create hopes that the two might work out for the better.	4

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Jamie	Furlong	One thing that I noticed in this story was traditional gender roles were reversed with Shoba being the breadwinner and Shukumar staying home. Another thing I noticed was the darkness from the power cut outs helped them bring their secrets to the light. The last thing I noticed is even while they grew closer during the power outage their marriage proved to be temporary just like the power outages.	Maybe she's trying to say that if two people can't find happiness with or around each other maybe they should go their separate ways.	Setting	The setting of the darkness enhanced the intimacy of the story.	3
Zoe	Kolasa	The reader can see the perspective of Shukumar, but they cannot see in the perspective of Shoba. Shoba also talks a lot more than Shukumar does. They are also recovering from a miscarriage and they didn't celebrate Christmas because of it.	It shows that people grieve in different ways.	Dialogue	It helped me understand the characters better.	4
curtis	cupitt	that they went through a snowstorm and some electrical lines went down on the street they've lived on for last three years. Hes thinking about how he hardly leaves the house, how he hardly wants to do anything, while shoba has been working overtime. while shoba showers ,we learn from shukumar that his wife used to be a total neat freak type a kind of a person.	just another day in her life that she thinks it very detailed to share.	Narration / P	because at the beginning they were going through a story.	3
Emily	Oliverio	The blackout, mail,candles	There story reveals that there is much more to ones life than it may seem and can be difficult	Motif	it gave me a better understandng of the book	4
drew	lowder	the baby dies, shoba wants to move out, theres blackouts every night	to show us that life is not always fair, it reveals that everything doesnt always pan out the way you want it to.	Symbolism	the baby dying is the beginning of the end for them as a couple, just like how the babies life began and ended so quickly.	1
parker	stamos	the baby dies, Shobu leaves Shukumar, Shukumar leaves for a business meeting but comes back in time to see the baby dead.	Shobu and Shukumar reveal that the world is a very ruthless place where nothing is guarantee.	Symbolism	During the blackouts they played a game the served as a symbol	3
Emma	Silverma	1) The two characters are very distant 2) They use the darkness as a means to talk to each other 3) Shoba seems to blame Shukumar for being absent during the event but she encouraged him to leave.	We are more open to each other in the dark.	Narration / P	Telling the story from Shukumar's point of view made us sympathize more with him, but I'm sure that Shoba also has a lot going on.	3
Anthon	McDonou	Their seems to be some tension between the two of them, Interesting that they have to work on the power lines in the evening, Why did she go work out with makeup on?	She may be trying to comment on the complications that come with being in a relationship.	Setting	The setting at the beginning of the story sets the scene, with the very detailed explanation of what is going on. This helped me to understand the context of the story much better.	3

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Makenzie	Heise	relationships between the parents, talked about wife's pregnant and talked about their life.	I think they send a strong message just from the start by talking about their life and the wife's life being pregnant.	Dialogue	they used dialogue by talking about the steps in their story.	2
Lydia	Schaafsma	1) The writing was very detailed. 2) The story did not end the way I expected. 3) The plot wasn't just an explanation of the story in the present, but slowly revealed what happened in the past that led to the situation in the present.	Shobu and Shukumar's story revealed that an event can drastically change a relationship between two people. Because their baby was born dead, the shock of the event practically stopped their communication. In addition, the secrets they shared once they did start talking, revealed that they were more different than they had originally thought.	Setting	The setting of their house and how they spent their time in different rooms showed the isolation between Shobu and Shukumar.	4
Molly	Riggs	I noticed a distance between the couple because of her miscarriage. The woman's choice to move out surprised me because I, like the husband, thought their relationship was improving. The writing is very detail-oriented in this story.	Some obstacles in relationships are too difficult to move past; further, if people aren't supportive enough for one another their relationship will fall apart.	Dialogue	There wasn't too much dialogue in this story but the words that were spoken, were spoken with intent.	5
Helena	Yambrick	I noticed that the plot seemed a little drab and boring at first, but as the story progressed more depth and detail were integrated. A symbol would be the power outage, likely meaning that their relationship was going to end. The miscarriage also seemed to act as a symbol because it broke apart the family and would continue break it up completely.	I think that Shobu and Shukumar's story reveals about the world that things don't always work out, especially as the two went through something together, it actually pushed them farther apart.	Dialogue	I think the dialogue helped enhance the story because it really showed the rawness of characters' feelings and their attempt to mask it as well.	5
Peyton	Walters	1. The couple had a miscarriage and it caused problems with their relationship. 2. The husband thought that things were getting better through out the time the power was being fixed but the wife was planning to move out the whole time. 3. the wife is more reserved than the husband	Sometimes whether you go through something together or not, it can push the two farther apart, although you could have the same feelings about the matter, people express grief and hardships differently.	Setting	The setting was dark due to the power outage and I think the darkness is related to the overall sad feeling to the story knowing that things are hard between the two of them.	4
Taylor	Carmichael	The baby dies which was just so sad. And how Shoba wants to move out and these blackouts are starting to be everynight.	To show us that life is not always going to be fair and the way we want it to be.	Narration / Plot	Because it brings out feelings that makes you relate to the book	3
aidan	wright	the baby dies, shoba wants to move out, there is blackouts every night	to show us that life is not always fair, it reveals that everything does not always pan out the way you want it to	Narration / Plot	it helps give a better understanding of the characters' beliefs.	4
Jose	Ronquillo	the baby dies, shoba wants to move out, there's blackouts every night	To show us that life is not always fair, it reveals that everything doesn't always pan out the way you want it to.	Setting	the baby dying is the beginning of the end for them as a couple, just like how the baby's life began and ended so quickly.	3

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Lizzie	Kuras	There was heavy foreshadowing of the miscarriage. Their relationship changed after the miscarriage. A possible symbol is the birthday candles.	A message Lahiri shares is that communication is important for any relationship.	Symbolism	The darkness in the story from the blackouts show that bad things are going to happen.	4
Franny	Schulentz	1. Just as the husband thought things were getting better- they were getting worse. We easily misjudge situations. 2. It is exciting to say the things we have never said before- even if it's scary. 3. Sometimes a separation or a break doesn't make a sense to one person, even if it feels like the only option to one.	We are afraid to admit the things that we know we need to say to people, so wait until there is some sort of outlet-like intoxication or the stillness of a dark night.	Setting	The setting of a residential street in Boston made me imagine the scene. I could see the rows of streets and understand the closeness of the houses. Despite being close to one another and their neighbors in distance, Shobu and Shukumar have never been farther apart. Distance is all relative.	5
Rob	Snyder	the baby is born dead, they stop connecting after the baby, his wife changed from a neat freak to a slob	don't share secrets you don't want others to know and life isn't fair	Setting	the setting helped us understand why the characters do what they did	4
John	Kim	Shoba is turning into someone she didn't want to become. Even though Shukumar is sort of denying it I think Shoba is cheating on him.	Relationships are hard and take work to make them happen. In other words relationships are difficult.	Metaphor	Helped us understand from a different perspective.	3
Asa	Williams	In the beginning, the characters did not talk to each other and were distracted by other things. There was a lot of description about the setting and surroundings. The characters began to get closer and reveal more information to each other as the story progressed, but the wife still planned to move out as a result of the poor relationship before the event.	A message the author wants to share with the reader is that unusual or inconvenient situations can bring people closer together, and that talking is a good way to mitigate tension and resolve personal problems.	Dialogue	The infrequent dialogue demonstrated how the two characters did not want to talk to each other in the beginning.	5
Whitney	Gallagher	The author spends so much time describing the surroundings/setting. Dialogue is not frequently used so it makes the times they do speak more important. I notice how both Shoba and Shukumar changed drastically after they lost the baby, even though they both believed everything would go back to normal.	I think it is that there is a time for everything and that holding something in for too long can have negative effects	Setting	I think the intricate details when describing the setting adds much more depth to the story and helps the reader to more deeply connect to the people and story itself.	4
LaChae	Trusty	The baby dies, shoba wants to move out and there's blackouts every night	To show us that life is not always fair, and it reveals that everything doesn't always pan out the way you want it to.	Symbolism	using symbolism makes you think about things different and what things actually means.	3
Vicky	Tang	1. Shoba is a very meticulous person. She likes to plan ahead and is very organized. 2. There are a lot of comparison of Shobu and Shukumar love life before and the differences between then and now. 3. Candles could be a possible motif throughout the book.	Sometimes in relationships, people try to hold onto the past versions of them to try and make it work, but in the end it's toxic to hold onto the past images of the relationships and it's better to move on.	Dialogue	There was little dialogue throughout the story which sets a cold and distant tone between Shukumar and Shoba.	4

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Sieun	Kim	1) The nature of Shoba and Shukumar's jobs reflect their personalities and lifestyles (precise proofreading vs laid-back thesis-writing) 2) Shoba's departure is foreshadowed when Shukumar remarks how Shoba is treating their home more like a hotel 3) Shoba's food preparations gradually running out represents their marriage (they eagerly prepared for a life together, but eventually this passion ran out)	Somehow, it is easy to hurt the ones we care about the most without understanding why we do it.	Symbolism	Scattered symbolism delivered meaningful subtleties that are realistic in Shoba and Shukumar's relationship.	4