

**Part 3: Writing the Sequence of Events: Establishing the Theme: Facts, Evidence, Detail:**

The Lacey family cannot afford a dog because of financial reasons. The author, Cynthia Rylant, provides many details throughout the story as evidence of their limited income and working class status. Readers empathize with Doris and feel sorry for her, but the fact remains: owning a pet can be expensive. Notice the way Ms. Rylant supplies bits of information to support this throughout the story.

1. What is the size of their house? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What is the construction of their front steps? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Where does Mr. Lacey work? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What does Doris feed the dog? \_\_\_\_\_
5. How does Mrs. Lacey feel about feeding the dog? Why? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Why doesn't Doris name the dog, even after a week? \_\_\_\_\_
7. At supper, when Doris tries to talk to them about keeping the dog, what do her parents say? \_\_\_\_\_
8. When Mr. Lacey is about to leave with the dog, Doris pleads with her mother and says "... in a small voice, 'Please,' " to which Mrs. Lacey says, \_\_\_\_\_
9. The car does not start right away; what adjective describes the engine? \_\_\_\_\_
10. When Doris wakes up, what does she wonder if she will "ever have in her life"? \_\_\_\_\_
11. What does Doris make herself to drink? \_\_\_\_\_
12. What does she eat? \_\_\_\_\_

**Part 5: The Writer's Craft: Employing Figurative Language:** Cynthia Rylant uses the following examples of figurative language in this short story. From the word bank write the correct example of figurative language on the line in front of its definition.

symbolism    parallel structure    alliteration    simile  
 repetition    understatement    personification    irony

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. A comparison using like or as
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. A concrete object stands for or represents something else
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Repeating the exact word or words
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Saying less than is the case; deliberately giving less information
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. The opposite of what is expected happens
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Repetition of similar phrases or word patterns with some of the same words
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Giving human qualities to non-living things
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Repetition of beginning word sounds