ENG 4CI Name: Date: PHS

**Raymond Chandler’s “I’ll Be Waiting”**

Read the short mystery story “I’ll Be Waiting” by the Raymond Chandler, one of the world’s best mystery writers. The focus as you read will be on story structure and literary devices, and not so much on the mystery. Answer the questions that follow.

1. The story’s introduction clearly describes the setting. With reference to clues, identify the Time, Atmosphere, and Place of this story.
2. The story depicts a few characters. Complete the chart below about them.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Character** | **Description OR his/her words from the story** | **My one word to describe him/her** |
| **Carl** |  |  |
| **Tony Reseck** |  |  |
| **Eve Cressy** |  |  |
| **Al** |  |  |
| **Johnny Rails / Mr. Watterson** |  |  |

1. Raymond Chandler is the KING of similes – to the point that people call his descriptions “Chandlerisms.” Locate and quote FIVE of these similes. For EACH simile, explain how that specific comparison adds to the person or object it describes. An example is done for you.

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| **Simile Example** | **What’s Compared** | **What does it add?** |
| *“He put his long delicate hand out and turned it slowly, fluttering the fingers, with an effect almost like a lazy wave breaking” (1).* | *Fingers fluttering =*  *Lazy wave breaking* | *Indicates Tony’s fingers are lazy (perhaps tired?) and not very masculine.* |
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1. There is one blatant metaphor in the story. It is, “her smile was a dim lost leaf.” Why would Chandler equate Eve Cressy’s smile to a dim lost leaf? Try to be specific to anything you know about her.
2. There are some good examples of **diction** in the story – dialogue that indicates a specific style of speaking – particularly when Eve Cressy speaks. Locate three of examples of diction from the story and reword each in a way that you would normally say it. An example is done for you.

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| *In response to liking / not liking Benny Goodman, Eve Cressy says tonelessly, “Not to cry over.”* | *She means “I could take him or leave him” or “his music makes no difference to me.”* |
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1. Inference occurs when we draw conclusions about what we see, hear, or read, based on clues. Inference comes in handy when decoding mysteries. Examine the following excerpt from the story and decide what it infers about both men involved.

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| --- | --- |
| “Hello, Al. How’s it going?”  “Can’t complain.” The tall man started to take his right hand out of his overcoat pocket, then stopped and laughed quietly. “I forgot. Guess you don’t want to shake hands.”  “That don’t mean anything,” Tony said. “Shaking hands. Monkeys can shake hands. What’s on your mind, Al?” | Inference about Tony:  Inference about Al: |

1. There is a twist at the end of the story. What is it? What clue exists during the course of the story to indicate that this twist may happen (foreshadowing)?