

Connect to the Literature

1. What Do You Think?

Write a sentence that expresses your feelings about the outcome of the story.

Comprehension Check

- What is the setting of this story?
- Why are Tom and Lily driving around the country on their scooter?
- What is Mr. Noakes like?
- What do Tom and Lily find when they return Mrs. Hatching's handbag?

Think Critically

2. What words and phrases would you use to describe the **setting** of the story?
3. **ACTIVE READING UNDERSTANDING CHARACTERS' MOTIVES**
Look at the characters' motives you recorded in your **READER'S NOTEBOOK**. Compare Lily and Tom's motives for finding a bit of sunlight with those of Mr. Noakes.
4. Why do you think the sun shines only over the Hatchings's cottage?
5. Do you think Tom and Lily do the right thing in not going back to the cottage? Explain your opinion.
6. What **themes**, or messages, do you see in this story?

THINK ABOUT

- the disastrous events alluded to at the beginning of the story
- why sunshine is important to Tom and Lily
- which **characters** are presented positively and which negatively

Extend Interpretations

7. **Critic's Corner** Student reviewer Jayme Charak remarked, "The story went to the heart. It was a sweet story and makes you think about the future." How does this reaction compare with your own?
8. **Comparing Texts** In the poem "The Sun," how does Mary Oliver's depiction of the sun differ from the sun as described in Joan Aiken's story? How is it similar?
9. **Connect to Life** Think of situations in your own community or elsewhere in which there has been a conflict between some people's desire to protect places of natural beauty and other people's desire to develop those places for economic gain. How should such conflicts be resolved?

Literary Analysis

CHARACTER The **characters** of a literary work are the individuals that participate in the action. In many stories, one or more characters undergo a change. These are called **dynamic characters**, whereas those who do not change are called **static characters**.

Dynamic characters generally change by learning a major lesson or altering a **character trait**, or consistent part of their personality.

Activity Fill out a chart like the one started below, in which you identify each of the story's four main characters as dynamic or static. Explain your answer for each character.

Character	Dynamic or static?	Why?
Lily		
Tom		

FANTASY **Fantasy** is a type of fiction that contains events, places, or other details that could not exist in the real world. The characters in a fantasy are often realistic, but they have experiences that overstep the bounds of reality. The purpose of fantasy may be to delight and amuse or it might make a serious comment on reality. **Science fiction** is also a form of fantasy, as they both include strong imaginary components.

Cooperative Learning Activity In a small group, make a list of examples from the story that show how this story illustrates the definition of fantasy. Share your list with another group and discuss your responses.