Certainly. Below is a professional evaluative response to \*\*“The Façade Renovation That’s Going Well”\*\*, addressing only the provided questions within your MFA-standard guidelines.

---

### \*\*1. What happens in the story?\*\*

In a satirical yet realistic tone, the story chronicles the renovation of a faculty housing unit plagued by a forgotten waterproofing layer. As construction begins—after a decade-long delay—untenured professors and their families face invasive noise, smoke, leaking walls, and growing mold. Despite health concerns, bureaucratic replies, and failed collective action, the professors grow desensitized and ultimately accept the situation. The story ends with ironic resignation as they internalize the ordeal as something to "push through" until tenure.

---

### \*\*2. What is the theme?\*\*

The central theme is \*\*bureaucratic inertia and institutional gaslighting\*\*, especially under the guise of professional academia. The story deftly critiques \*\*academic labor precarity\*\*, \*\*tenure hierarchies\*\*, \*\*non-confrontation culture among professionals\*\*, and how \*\*systemic dysfunction is normalized\*\*. It also touches on gender, privilege, environmental neglect, and passive complicity within authority structures, all in the context of a comedically tragic housing fiasco.

---

### \*\*3. Does it propose other interpretations, in addition to the literal one?\*\*

\*\*Likert scale: 5 (Totally agree)\*\*

---

### \*\*4. If the above question was affirmative, which interpretation is it?\*\*

Yes. The external construction mirrors the internal emotional erosion and professional instability of the untenured professors. The leaky "façade" becomes a metaphor for institutional appearances: clean, progressive, professional—while collapsing from within. The literal rot reflects the untenured professors' psychological wear, class hierarchy, and moral compromises made to survive bureaucracy. Allegorically, it's a story about the distortion of resilience—how survival in academic institutions often involves silent suffering, self-censorship, and rationalizing dysfunction until tenure offers escape.

---