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

A supermarket cashier marries a seemingly refined man after five days. She meets his ambitious, sharp mother, Miss Emily, who initially embraces her and takes her shopping, pushing her toward self-improvement. Slowly, Miss Emily’s controlling, classist expectations emerge. In a scene of domestic confrontation, Miss Emily harshly judges the narrator’s lifestyle and worth. Conflicted, the narrator reflects on acceptance, longing for validation and love. The story closes with a raccoon mistaking her for something discarded—an image that crystallizes her internal struggle with feeling seen, worthy, and human.

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

Class, longing, emotional inheritance, and the desire for love animate this story. It explores how social mobility, economic trauma, and maternal absence shape the narrator’s sense of worth. Miss Emily represents both aspiration and judgment: a mother figure offering belonging but also deploying power through conditional love and materialism. The story raises painful questions: Is upward mobility a kind of violence masked as care? Can love be freely given, or is it always transactional across class lines? The final moment—ambiguous, redemptive—asks whether we are trash only if we believe ourselves to be.

3.- Does it propose other interpretations, in addition to the literal one?

\*\*5\*\*

4.- \*\*If the above question was affirmative, Which interpretation is it?\*\*

The story functions allegorically as a meditation on internalized classism—trash as metaphor for shame, poverty, womanhood, and emotional invisibility. Miss Emily's transformation from benefactor to judge mirrors how meritocratic ideals often mask condescension. The narrator’s journey dramatizes the cost of upward mobility, not as escape but concealment. The raccoon scene plays with audience expectations: is the narrator "trash" as others have labeled her, or is she confronting that projection and rejecting it? It also suggests how easily the vulnerable are mistaken for the discarded, and how dignity must often be claimed, not granted.