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

The narrator drives to visit her elderly mother, cherishing their familiar routines—tuna sandwiches, crosswords, gardening. They share a perfect visit filled with nostalgic activities. A month later, the mother falls and breaks her hip. Though she returns home fragile, they continue their rituals until she passes away peacefully in her sleep, leaving the narrator to reflect on their shared memories at the funeral.

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

The story explores the bittersweet nature of aging parents and anticipatory grief. It examines how we cherish routine moments that become precious as time grows short, and how memory preserves love beyond loss. The theme centers on the tension between holding onto the present and accepting inevitable change, finding meaning in small, shared rituals that define relationships.

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

Rating: 2

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

The story operates primarily on a literal level with minimal subtext. There's a slight metaphorical layer in the preserved "amber" quality of the hometown and the cyclical nature of caregiving roles, but these remain underdeveloped. The narrative is straightforward memoir-style prose that doesn't invite multiple readings or symbolic interpretation beyond its surface meditation on memory and loss.