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

Marie, a pregnant linguist mistakenly admitted to a Prague maternity ward, experiences a disorienting night where crying babies blur reality. She observes mysterious nurses and other mothers through curtained partitions. When morning comes, she names a baby "Autolycus" and leaves with him, suggesting either confusion about which child is hers or an unexplained adoption. The narrative remains deliberately ambiguous about whether she took her own child or another's.

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

The story explores maternal identity, the liminal space of childbirth, and the mysterious bonds formed between mothers in shared experiences. It examines how identity can become fluid in moments of profound transformation, questioning whether motherhood is biological or experiential. The narrative suggests that connection transcends conventional understanding, with reality becoming malleable in spaces of creation and vulnerability.

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

\*\*Rating: 5\*\*

4. \*\*Which interpretation is it?\*\*

Multiple readings emerge: Marie may be experiencing postpartum psychosis or dissociation; the entire episode could be a fever dream; she might have accidentally or intentionally taken another's child; or this represents a supernatural exchange. The story functions as magical realism exploring the psychological transformation of motherhood. The title "Maintenance, Hvidovre" (a Danish location) contradicts the Prague setting, suggesting unreliable narration or parallel realities.