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

Felicity, from a working-class background, marries Edward from a wealthy family but struggles to fit into his world. She carries her grandmother's handbag as connection to her past while attempting to transform herself. Meeting Edward's mother Miss Emily at their Hamptons estate becomes a turning point, where subtle rejection reinforces her outsider status. Years pass with Felicity caught between two worlds, unable to fully belong to either.

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

The story explores class anxiety and the psychological toll of social mobility through marriage. It examines how attempting to transcend one's origins can result in profound alienation from both past and present. Central themes include imposter syndrome, the erasure of authentic identity for social acceptance, and the impossibility of truly crossing class boundaries despite surface transformations.

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

\*\*Rating: 3\*\*

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

The story functions as critique of American class rigidity disguised as meritocracy. Felicity's transformation represents the violence of assimilation—she must erase herself to belong. The grandmother's handbag symbolizes authentic identity she cannot fully relinquish. The "gilded prison" metaphor suggests wealth as entrapment rather than liberation. Her inability to bridge worlds reflects systemic barriers that personal effort cannot overcome.