“Where is Here?” By Joyce Carol Oates   
Comprehension Check Questions

1. At what time of day does the stranger arrive at the house? In what ways does this choice add to the air of mystery surrounding the stranger?
2. How does the father react to the strangers request to look around? What conflict does this decision set up between the father and mother? At the end of the story, how does the strangers visit continue to affect the family?
3. How does the stranger react to the window seat? How does he react to the boy’s bedroom? What do these details suggest about his relationship to his own father?
4. What apparent mistake does the stranger make when he responds to the mother’s question about whether his family is still living?
5. Is this a ghost story? Why or why not? Explain your answer.