

“Winter Dreams” by F.Scott Fitzgerald

1. What is the significance of the title? Why do you think Fitzgerald used “winter” and not “spring” or “fall” in the title? In what ways do the seasons affect Dexter’s outlook on life?
2. Describe Judy Jones at the age of eleven. What can be inferred from the way she treats the nurse?
3. Why does Dexter quit. What does it indicate about his character?
4. “Often he reached out for the best without knowing why he wanted it – and sometimes he ran up against the mysterious denials and prohibitions in which life indulges.” Why is this significant? Is this story about denial as the narrator suggests? What is denied?
5. Fitzgerald uses paradox frequently in “Winter Dreams,” particularly in his descriptions of Judy Jones. Find three paradoxical descriptions of Judy’s behavior.
6. How had Dexter’s perception of Judy changed in part II?
7. What atmosphere does the descriptive language used in part II create? Examples: (1) “sun went down in a riotous swirl...” (2) metaphor: “silver molasses” (3) personification: “the moon held a finger to her lips.” Does this setting/imagery have any significance?
8. Describe the adult Judy. What kind of person is she?
9. What is the significance of the tune coming from the piano?

10. How did Dexter justify Judy's lying to him? Why?
11. A series of metaphors are used to describe Dexter's view of Irene. How does his view of Irene compare to his opinion of Judy?
12. Compare Dexter's view of autumn in part IV with his view at the beginning of the story. Why do you think the views differ?
13. Discuss the significance of the description of the Jones's house at the end of part IV.
14. Interpret the following sentences: "The dream was gone. Something had been taken from him."
15. What motivates Judy? Explain. What motivates Dexter? Explain.
16. Does the story contain any irony? Explain.