Reading Guide

Directions: Answer each of the following questions based on your reading of the short story. Pay close attention to the underlined words. Think about their meaning as you answer the questions.

1. What does the photograph on p. 18 foreshadow about the story?

2. What does the title foreshadow about the story?

3. From what point of view is the story told?

4. Stories often have more than one conflict. Give an example of two conflicts from this story.
   a. Internal Conflict:
   b. External Conflict:

5. “Yellow phlegm flies out of Raheem’s mouth and onto the curb” as the narrator approaches Raheem. What does this detail reveal about Raheem’s character? (p. 21)

6. What is ironic about the narrator’s apology at the top of p. 22?

7. What detail on p. 24 supports the idea that Raheem is using the narrator?

8. What does the narrator feel dirty? (p. 27)

9. What does the narrator mean when she says, “Who I’m gonna be without him?”

10. At the end of the story, the narrator repeats, “I’m gonna...” What did you expect she WAS going to say? How is what she does for Raheem the opposite?
11. Use the space below to draw the plot diagram. Then write down the important events in the story on the plot diagram. Be sure to use specific examples and quotations from the story to illustrate your understanding of the elements of a story’s plot.