

Advanced Short Stories – “The Dinner Party”

Directions: First read the basic version of the story below. Next, read the advanced version of the same story. Then, try to answer the questions about the story.

Basic Version



I finally arrived at the dinner party. It was so showy. Everyone was dressed in very expensive clothes, drinking very old wine, and using very long words. I felt out of place.

“Hey, welcome to the party,” a stylish and smart looking man wearing a black and white tuxedo greeted me. He was holding a glass of champagne and looking out over the crowd of guests. “My name is Pierre,” he continued, looking down into the bottom of his glass as he moved it around in a circle. The champagne bubbled and popped.

“Interesting party,” I said. “I wish I had this many friends, but I don’t think I really fit in here.”

Pierre’s eyes met mine for a short period of time. “You know, I was just thinking the same thing. I don’t believe I can make any connection with these people whatsoever,” he said.

“What? I thought this was your party?” I asked.

“Why, heavens no! I’m just the doorman!” exclaimed Pierre.

Advanced Version

I finally arrived at the dinner party. It was so *pretentious*. Everyone was dressed in very expensive clothes, drinking very old wine, and using very long words. I felt out of place.

“Hey, welcome to the party,” a *classy* man wearing a black and white tuxedo greeted me. He was holding a glass of champagne and *gazing* at the crowd of guests. “My name is Pierre,” he continued, looking down into the bottom of his glass as he *swirled* it. The champagne bubbled and popped.

“Interesting party,” I said. “I wish I had this many friends, but I don’t think I really fit in here.”

Pierre’s eyes *briefly* met mine. “You know, I was just thinking the same thing. I don’t believe I can *relate* to any of these people whatsoever” he said.

“What? I thought this was your party?” I asked.

“Why, heavens no! I’m just the doorman!” exclaimed Pierre.

Questions:

1. What are the people at the dinner party like?
2. What does the protagonist think Pierre is doing at the party?
3. What is Pierre really doing at the party?

Vocabulary:

To find word definitions: First, find the word in the advanced version of the story. Then, compare this part of the advanced version of the story to the same part of the basic version of the story. This will give you a general definition of the word.

1. What does “*pretentious*” mean? (*paragraph 1, sentence 2*)
2. What does “*classy*” mean? (*paragraph 2, sentence 1*)
3. What does “*gazing*” mean? (*paragraph 2, sentence 2*)
4. What does “*swirled*” mean? (*paragraph 2, sentence 1*)
5. What does “*briefly*” mean? (*paragraph 4, sentence 1*)
6. What does “*relate*” mean? (*paragraph 4, sentence 3*)