



five short stories, read for craft, not just plot



The five stories

Atithi (The Guest)

Rabindranath Tagore, a wandering boy is taken in by a family, and the question of whether he will ever truly settle down

The Cookie Lady

Philip K. Dick, a lonely old woman feeds a boy cookies while quietly drawing his youth into herself, and he pays for the visits

There Will Come Soft Rains

Ray Bradbury, an automated house keeps running its routines long after the family it served is gone

Indigo

Satyajit Ray, a strange, unsettling encounter on a lonely estate that leaves its ending open to more than one reading

The Medicine Bag

Virginia Driving Hawk Sneve, a grandson's embarrassment about his grandfather's heritage turns into pride and understanding

Reading a short story before answering

- read once for the whole arc, who wants what, and what changes by the story's end
- note the narrator's stance, some of these five are told close to one character's mind, others step back and describe
- a story's title is rarely accidental, ask what it points to before treating it as decoration
- mark the turning point, most short stories hinge on one moment where a character's choice or view shifts

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