

John Updike, "A & P," p. 124

1. What is the setting of John Updike's story, "A & P"?
2. Who is the narrator of the story?
3. From Sammy's language, what can you tell about:
 - a. Sammy's attitude toward the older customers?
 - b. Sammy's attitude toward the girls?
 - c. Sammy's attitude toward his boss?
 - d. Sammy's attitude toward his job?
4. From Sammy's language, what do you learn about his education and class level? The first sentence, for example, is grammatically incorrect in standard English but not uncommon in colloquial English. Point out and explain similar passages.
5. What kind of life does Sammy imagine the girls lead, especially the one he names "Queenie"?

How does that life differ from his?

6. In paragraph 12, on p. 127, Sammy says: "Now here comes the sad part of the story, at least my family says it's sad but I don't think it's sad myself."

Why do you think Sammy's family finds this part of the story sad?

7. Why does Sammy say "I quit" so abruptly?
8. What do you think Sammy means when he says that the world is going to be hard to him after his experience at the A & P?