

## “Just Lather, That’s All” – Comprehension Questions

**Suspense**- the technique of creating anticipation or excitement regarding the story outcome

**Foreshadowing** – a technique in which the author provides clues or hints as to what is going to happen later in the story.

**Imagery** - the forming of mental images, figures, or likenesses of things using the five senses. It is also the use of language to represent actions, persons, objects, and ideas descriptively.

**Dilemma** – a situation that requires a choice between options that are or seem equally as unfavorable or mutually exclusive

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1. What is the significance of the **title** of "Just Lather, That's All?"
2. What is the central **conflict** in "Just Lather, That's All"?
3. Write a well-constructed paragraph in which you identify and explain three ways the story develops **suspense** for the reader.
4. **Opinion:** Would the barber have been a hero or a coward had he killed the captain?
5. Initially, Torres seems ignorant of the danger he is in. At the end of the story, he reveals otherwise. Why, then, does he go to the barber's?

6. What is the difference between a revolutionary and a murderer?

7. How is the razor a **symbol** in this story?

8. **Characterization:** Using adjectives, describe both the barber and Captain Torres. Provide evidence (quotes) from the story to support your claims.

a. What is the barber like?

*Adjectives:*

*Quote:*

b. What is Captain Torres like?

*Adjectives:*

*Quote:*

c. For whom do you feel more sympathy – the barber or the captain? Explain.

9. Supported Opinion Paragraph Outline: Should the barber have killed Torres?

Your Opinion (Topic Sentence):		
Point 1:	Evidence for 1:	Explanation for 1:
Point 2:	Evidence for 2:	Explanation for 2:
Point 3:	Evidence for 3:	Explanation for 3:
Conclusion (closing sentence):		

10) Answer the following questions based on irony.

**a. Situational irony**, in which the story's circumstances are the opposite of what would be expected or considered appropriate. In "**Just Lather, That's All**" it is ironic that a barber is taking pains not to spill a drop of blood from a man who is an executioner. Find passages in the story that illustrate this ironic situation.

**b. Verbal irony**, in which a character says one thing and means something entirely different. What is ironic about the barber's claim that he is a revolutionary and not a murderer?

**c. Dramatic irony**, in which the reader knows something that a character in the story does not know. For example, the narrator and the reader know that the barber is one of the revolutionaries, but they believe that Torres does not know. How is this dramatic irony turned around, or ironically reversed, in the last paragraph of the story?