

Before you read:

Clothes are as much about communication as they are about function. What do your clothes say (or, what do you hope they say) about you?

After you finish:

1. Recap the purchases she makes. What is her plan at the beginning of the story, and how and why does that plan change?
2. According to Barbara C. Ewell “The power of money to enhance self-esteem and confidence is the core of this poignant tale.” Is this aspect of money portrayed accurately in the story? Is the connection between clothing, wealth, and image as important now as it apparently is for Mrs. Sommers?
3. Do you approve, or disapprove of how Mrs. Sommers has spent her money?