Shoofly Pie

1. Examine the photograph on page 167. What details help you form a mental image of the story's setting?
2. Reread lines 1-18. Based on your experiences, do you find Mattie’s reaction to her accident believable? Why or why not?
3. What words would you use to describe Mattie’s boss?
4. Recall a time when you did something to distract yourself from painful thoughts. Why might a restaurant job be a good distraction for Mattie?
5. Which of Mattie’s childhood experiences does the photograph on page 172 remind you of?
6. What impression do you get of Mattie’s character from reading lines 135-143?
7. What do Mattie’s words, and actions toward the girl reveal about Mattie? Cite specific words or phrases to support your answer.
8. How does Mattie’s impression of Johnny compare with the girl’s description of him?
9. What personality traits are suggested by this description of Johnny’s appearance (lines 198-202)?
10. What traits does Mattie reveal in this incident (lines 210-260)?
11. What trait is Johnny suggesting that Mattie possesses (lines 298-304)?
12. How has Johnny’s character softened (lines 440-444)?
13. In what ways has Johnny changed over the course of the story? Cite specific words or details to show this change.