**“Hills Like White Elephants” Analysis Questions**

Answer the following in complete sentences that demonstrate thought:

1. Now that you know that the characters were talking about potentially seeking an abortion, note at least two quotations from the story that provide hints about this unstated topic. Explain how your chosen quotations provide indications that the characters were indeed talking about this taboo topic.
2. How does this story reflect Hemingway’s “iceberg theory” about writing? Do you think that his strategy of omission served this story well? Why or why not?
3. How did Hemingway’s decision to avoid using the word “abortion” contribute to the sense of conflict (both internal and external) that the characters are feeling?
4. Describe the man and the woman’s attitude about the abortion. What does their dialogue reveal about their relationship?
5. Examine the following definitions of a “white elephant”: 1. An expensive or valuable possession that requires much upkeep; 2. Something of questionable value; 3. A failed undertaking or something unwanted. How do these definitions apply to the story?
6. Consider the definitions of “white elephants” from above. How do these definitions inform your understanding of how Jig talks about “white elephants” in the text? Give an example of a quote she says about them and analyze it.
7. Why might it be significant and symbolic that these two characters are talking about potentially having an abortion while they wait for a train? What could a train station signify?
8. Discuss the possible critical perspectives of the story. Which one do you think is the most meaningful lens to read this through? Why?
9. In what ways does this story reflect change in America (or lack thereof)? Give at least two examples and explain them.