

**“Signs And Symbols” Questions**

1. What impressions do you have of the sanatorium as well as the nurse and doctor who work there?

2. Identify and explain three signs/symbols in the text that serve to indicate that the son will die.


3. We are told that “that Friday everything went wrong” (Nabokov 1). However, the third section of the story opens: “It was past midnight...” (Nabokov 3) and thus the phone call actually comes on Saturday morning. Does this change your view of whether or not the young man will die? Why or why not?

4. Literary critic Paul J. Rosenzweig suggests that “at some time during the reader’s floundering attempt to find meaning, he may notice as he rereads the description of the son’s condition, that he is reading a description of his very own state.” Explain in what ways you experience referential mania while reading.