

“The Portable Phonograph” by Walter Van Tilburg Clark

**Name date period**

**Homework Due**

Answer the following questions thoroughly and thoughtfully. We will discuss.

1. Example(s) of imagery

2. Example of Foreshadowing

3. Protagonist

4. Antagonist

5. Simile

6. Metaphor

**Discussion questions**: YOU must write out your answers in addition to annotating and numbering sentences

7. In what ways (other than the phonograph the men try to preserve their humanity?

8. What does the phonograph mean to them?

Look closely at the way in which the phonograph and phonograph record are described

Is it fair to say that playing a record is a kind of sacred or ceremonial occasion for them?

Why?

9. How is the young musician different from the rest?

Why doesn't he want them to play Gershwin's "New York"?

10. What does the setting of this story tell you about what has happened?

What images appear in the opening description and again at the end of the story?

11. What is the significance of the allusions to other pieces of text in the story?

"'Shakespeare, The Bible, Moby Dick, The Divine Comedy...You might have done worse; much worse'" (324).

12. What was your personal reaction to the story? Explain.

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