

# examination day short story summary

**examination day short story summary** provides a concise overview of the thought-provoking narrative centered around a dystopian society where intelligence testing determines an individual's fate. This story, often studied in literature classes, highlights themes of government control, fear, and the consequences of a rigid societal system. The plot revolves around a young boy and his family facing the anxiety and tension of the mandated intelligence examination. Understanding the key elements of the story, including its setting, characters, and plot development, is essential to grasp the underlying messages conveyed by the author. This article explores these aspects in detail and offers insight into the story's impact and relevance. The following sections cover the plot summary, themes, character analysis, and the story's significance in contemporary discussions about education and control.

- Plot Summary of Examination Day
- Main Characters in the Story
- Themes and Symbolism
- Setting and Context
- Author's Purpose and Message
- Relevance and Impact

## Plot Summary of Examination Day

The **examination day short story summary** begins by introducing a society where the government exercises strict control over its citizens, especially children. Every child reaching a certain age must take an intelligence exam, which determines their future opportunities and freedoms. The story focuses on a boy named Dickie and his parents as they prepare for and attend the examination. Despite their initial confidence, the family experiences growing tension as the exam results are revealed. The narrative concludes with a startling and tragic outcome that underscores the story's critical view of authoritarian governance and the suppression of individuality.

## Key Events in the Plot

The story's progression can be outlined as follows:

- Introduction of the government's intelligence testing policy.
- Dickie's preparation for the exam under his parents' watchful eyes.

- The journey to the testing center and the examination process.
- The anxious wait for the test results.
- The revelation of Dickie's test score and its consequences.

## Main Characters in the Story

The characters in **examination day short story summary** provide insight into the societal pressures and emotional conflicts central to the narrative. Each character embodies different aspects of the story's themes, making their analysis crucial for a full understanding.

### Dickie

Dickie is the young protagonist who represents the innocence caught in a harsh system. His experience highlights the vulnerability of youth under oppressive regimes. Throughout the story, his emotions shift from confidence to fear, illustrating the psychological impact of the examination.

### Dickie's Parents

His parents portray the conflicted role of citizens who must comply with government rules while protecting their child. They demonstrate a mix of hope, anxiety, and helplessness, emphasizing the human cost of such societal control mechanisms.

## Themes and Symbolism

The **examination day short story summary** reveals several prominent themes that contribute to its enduring significance. These themes explore the consequences of authoritarianism and the dehumanizing effects of rigid social structures.

### Government Control and Oppression

The story critiques governments that limit personal freedom through intrusive policies like mandatory testing. It reflects fears about surveillance and loss of individuality in controlled societies.

### Fear and Anxiety

The pervasive fear experienced by the characters highlights the emotional toll of living

under constant scrutiny. Anxiety about the examination serves as a metaphor for the broader societal pressure to conform.

## **Intelligence and Worth**

The narrative questions the value placed on intelligence as a singular measure of a person's worth, exposing the dangers of such reductionist views.

## **Setting and Context**

The setting of the story is a dystopian future where government mandates dictate personal and social outcomes. This context shapes the narrative and supports its themes of control and conformity.

## **Time and Place**

The story is set in an unspecified future, lending it a universal quality that warns against potential directions society might take. The setting is deliberately vague to emphasize the story's allegorical nature.

## **Societal Environment**

The environment is marked by strict regulations and a lack of personal freedoms. Citizens live under constant government surveillance, and children face life-changing tests at a young age.

## **Author's Purpose and Message**

The author's intent in crafting the **examination day short story summary** was to provoke critical thought about the role of government and the value of human life beyond measurable traits. The story serves as a cautionary tale about the dangers of authoritarianism and the loss of individuality.

## **Caution Against Authoritarianism**

The narrative warns readers about the potential consequences of unchecked governmental power, particularly when it invades private life and enforces conformity.

## **Advocacy for Individuality**

The story champions the importance of recognizing human complexity and the dangers of

reducing people to mere statistics or test scores.

## Relevance and Impact

Despite being a short story, its themes remain highly relevant in modern discussions about education, government surveillance, and personal freedoms. The **examination day short story summary** continues to be a powerful tool for examining ethical and social issues.

## Educational Importance

The story is widely taught in schools to encourage critical thinking about societal structures and the role of intelligence testing.

## Contemporary Discussions

Its themes resonate in debates about standardized testing, privacy rights, and government overreach, making it a lasting contribution to literary and social discourse.

## Key Takeaways

- Examination as a metaphor for societal control.
- The psychological impact of oppressive regimes.
- The critique of valuing intelligence over humanity.
- The importance of questioning authority and policies.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What is the central theme of the short story 'Examination Day'?

The central theme of 'Examination Day' is the dangers of a totalitarian government and the loss of individuality through controlled intelligence testing.

### Who is the protagonist in 'Examination Day' and what is

## **his situation?**

The protagonist is a young boy named Dickie Jordan, who is about to take a government-mandated intelligence test on his twelfth birthday.

## **What is the setting of 'Examination Day'?**

The story is set in a dystopian future where the government strictly controls the population through intelligence testing on children.

## **What happens during the examination in the story?**

During the examination, Dickie takes a difficult intelligence test administered by the government, which measures his IQ.

## **What is the twist ending of 'Examination Day'?**

The twist is that Dickie's parents already knew his test results and his father reveals that Dickie scored above the acceptable limit, implying severe consequences.

## **Why is the intelligence test important in 'Examination Day'?**

The intelligence test is important because it determines whether a child is allowed to live, reflecting the government's oppressive control over its citizens.

## **What message does 'Examination Day' convey about government control?**

The story conveys a warning about oppressive government control and how it can lead to the suppression of individual freedoms and tragic outcomes.

## **How do Dickie's parents react to the examination results?**

Dickie's parents appear anxious and resigned, knowing the consequences of his high intelligence score, which foreshadows a grim fate.

## **What genre does 'Examination Day' belong to?**

'Examination Day' is a dystopian science fiction short story with elements of social commentary and suspense.

## **Additional Resources**

1. *"Examination Day" by Henry Slesar – Short Story Summary and Analysis*

This book offers a detailed summary and analysis of Henry Slesar's "Examination Day." It explores the story's themes of government control, the impact of intelligence testing, and the dystopian setting. Readers gain insight into the characters' motivations and the chilling conclusion of the narrative.

## *2. Understanding Dystopian Literature: A Study of "Examination Day"*

Focuses on the dystopian elements present in "Examination Day," this book examines the societal implications of the story's setting. It discusses how the government's oppressive policies reflect fears of authoritarianism and loss of individuality. The analysis also connects the story to broader dystopian works.

## *3. Short Stories for Critical Thinking: "Examination Day" and Beyond*

Designed for educators and students, this book includes "Examination Day" alongside other thought-provoking short stories. Each story is accompanied by summaries, discussion questions, and critical thinking exercises aimed at enhancing comprehension and interpretation skills.

## *4. Thematic Explorations in Henry Slesar's Works: Focus on "Examination Day"*

This volume delves into recurring themes across Henry Slesar's writing, with a special focus on "Examination Day." It analyzes themes such as government surveillance, family dynamics, and societal expectations. The book also places the story within the context of Cold War era anxieties.

## *5. "Examination Day": A Classroom Guide to Teaching and Discussion*

A practical resource for teachers, this guide provides a summary of "Examination Day" and suggests lesson plans and discussion topics. It encourages students to consider ethical questions raised by the story and to relate its themes to contemporary issues.

## *6. Science Fiction Short Stories: Summaries and Interpretations of "Examination Day"*

This compilation includes "Examination Day" as a key example of science fiction short stories. It offers concise summaries and interpretations that highlight the speculative aspects and social commentary within the story.

## *7. Government Control and Individual Rights: Insights from "Examination Day"*

This book explores the tension between state authority and personal freedom as depicted in "Examination Day." Through summary and critical discussion, it examines how the story critiques invasive governmental policies and the consequences for citizens.

## *8. Literary Analysis of "Examination Day": Plot, Characters, and Symbolism*

Providing a thorough summary, this book breaks down the plot structure, character development, and symbolism in "Examination Day." It helps readers understand the deeper meanings behind the story's events and the significance of its ending.

## *9. Short Story Anthology: Highlighting "Examination Day" and Its Themes*

This anthology features "Examination Day" among other influential short stories, accompanied by summaries and thematic essays. It is designed for readers interested in exploring powerful narratives that address societal and ethical dilemmas.

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**examination day short story summary:** *The Medical Summary* R. H. Andrews, 1900 Edited by R.H. Andrews.

**examination day short story summary:** The Hemingway Short Story George Monteiro, 2017-03-23 Ernest Hemingway revolutionized the American short story, establishing himself as a master of realist fiction in the tradition of Guy de Maupassant. Yet none of Hemingway's emulators has succeeded in duplicating his understated, minimalist style. In his Iceberg Theory of fiction, only the tip of the story is seen on the surface--the rest is submerged out of sight. This study surveys the scope of Hemingway's mastery of the short story form, enabling a fuller understanding of such works as *Indian Camp*, *Big Two-Hearted River*, *The Killers*, *The Mother of a Queen*, *In Another Country*, *Hills Like White Elephants*, *The Snows of Kilimanjaro*, and *The Mercenaries*, among many others. All 13 stories from his underrated *Winner Take Nothing* collection are evaluated in detail.

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first to carry out research in this field. This book, the earliest systematic study of the history of Chinese fiction by a Chinese writer, still exercises a great influence among Chinese scholars. This English translation is illustrated with reproductions of early Chinese woodcuts.

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