

After completing week five reading assignment, “The Red Bow” by George Saunders, you can now assess how well you did with the following answer key.

1. C
2. D
3. A
4. D
5. B
6. D & F
7. A

Answers will vary; students should discuss how the details the narrator provides about his wife emphasize how much the loss of her daughter has changed her. When the narrator first tells his wife about what he has been doing — putting down all the dogs suspected of being unhealthy — she responds, “Kill every dog, every cat, she said very slowly. Kill every mouse, every bird. Kill every fish. Anyone objects, kill them too” (Paragraph 92). Not only is this response extreme, it also contradicts how the narrator describes his wife before Emily’s death. Following his wife’s statement, the narrator shares, “I felt so bad for her, she was simply not herself — I mean, this was a woman who, finding a spider, used to make me take it outside in a cup” (Paragraph 94). The loss of her daughter affected the compassion that the narrator’s wife once felt towards other creatures. While the author highlights the change that the wife underwent following her daughter’s death in this section, this extreme change is also experienced by the other characters. The narrator’s wife might be more explicit about how she feels toward the infected animals, but the narrator and Uncle Matt eventually move toward carrying out her unreasonable demand and show that they are also deeply impacted by Emily’s death