**Genesis and Catastrophe Roald Dahl**

After reading the story, answer the following questions:

2 Describe the setting (time and place). Add quotes and line numbers.

3 Write five adjectives to describe your reaction to the plot.

4 Who are the characters in the story? Describe them.

5 Why is the mother so anxious about her fourth child?

6 How does the mother describe each child? What information does she give?

7 Do you sympathize with the mother? Why (not)?

8 Do you hope the baby will survive? Why (not)?

9 How do you feel about the sentence: "Just imagine Frau Hitler, this time next year he will be almost learning how to walk. Isn't that a lovely thought?"

10 Who chooses the name of the child? Why do they choose this name?

11 Why does the doctor apologize for asking about the name?

12 At first the mother is afraid to look at the baby. What does she do after the innkeeper's wife brings the baby to her?

13 Adolfus is just a baby, and yet we know the "future". How does that affect our feelings towards the baby now?

14 How do you feel about the last sentence?

"He must live Alois. He must, he must…..Oh God, be merciful unto him now"

15 Read the definition of irony:

Irony is a [style](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/style) of writing in which there is a [noticeable](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/noticeable), often [humorous](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/humor), [difference](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/difference) between what is said and the [intended](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/intended) [meaning](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/meaning).

Explain the irony in the following quotes:

“You have a fine son” / “This is a perfectly normal baby”

“He won’t bite you”.

“He has the most marvelous pair of lungs. You should have hear him screaming just after he came into this world”.

“Oh God, be merciful unto him now…”

16 Go into Hitler’s biographies. Were the details Roald Dahl introduced true to fact?