"The Ransom of Red Chief" - Active Reading Guide

Before Reading
This is a story about a child who is kidnapped and held for ransom. Before reading, answer the following questions in detail using complete sentences.

1. How would you expect the kidnappers to behave? Why?

2. How would you expect the child to react? Why?

3. How would you expect the parents of the kidnapped child to react? Why?

Start To Read - The First Paragraph - Tackling the Language
O. Henry uses a more formal style and more challenging vocabulary and sentence structure than you may be used to. In order to make sure you understand the exposition (background/introduction) of the story, paraphrase each sentence in the first three paragraphs. For this assignment, to paraphrase means to "put it into your own words" and also to use "simpler, clearer words" to make sure that you are understanding the meaning of each and every sentence.

Sentence 1:__________________________________________________________

Sentence 2:________________________________________________________

Sentence 3:_______________________________________________________

Sentence 4:_______________________________________________________

Sentence 5:_______________________________________________________

Sentence 6:_______________________________________________________

Sentence 7:_______________________________________________________

Sentence 8:_______________________________________________________

Sentence 9:_______________________________________________________

Sentence 10:_____________________________________________________