Hills Like White Elephants

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. What is important about what is not being said in the story?
2. Who is/are the narrator(s) of the story?
3. Describe the setting and discuss its importance to the story.

1. Is the male character admirable? What does he want? How do you know?
2. Is the female character admirable? What does she have going for her? Explain with textual evidence.
3. What is the nature of their relationship? Use examples from the text to justify your response.
4. Why does she look with fascination at the fields and trees across the plain?
5. Is her comment about the hills being like white elephants silly or profound? Be specific in your explanation.
6. The discussion of their relationship brings back the observation that the man can speak Spanish but the "girl" cannot, which leads to further conclusions about the nature of the relationship.
7. Who do you sympathize with more, the boy or the girl? Why you choose that person?
8. What does Jig mean when she says “I don’t feel any way[…]I just know things”

What has she finally realized? Why does she say “Can’t we maybe stop talking”

1. What is the implication in her final statement “I feel fine […] There’s nothing wrong **with me**. I feel fine”?
2. After the first reading, what was your impression of the narrative voice?

What was your impression of the narrative voices after the second reading, knowing the background to the story?

1. What is the overall tone of the reading? Pick out specific instances to support your claim.

**Symbolic meaning throughout the text:**

Hills –

Landscape -

White Elephant –

Railway Junction -