Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

“A Serious Talk”

Discussion Questions

Answer the following questions in full sentences.

1. Why would Burt throw five logs on the fireplace and steal all of the pies before leaving the house on Christmas Eve? What is he trying to accomplish?

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1. Find one example from the story that illustrates that Burt still has feelings for Vera. Does Vera reciprocate these feelings? Find an additional example from the story to support your answer.

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1. What does Burt hope to accomplish by having “a serious talk” with Vera? Does Vera take Burt seriously? Why or why not?

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1. Discuss how pride and indifference are major obstacles in Burt’s ability (or lack of ability) to make amends with his estranged wife and family?

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1. Why does Burt feel the need to empty the ashtray? What, besides old cigarettes, is he trying to remove?

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1. Discuss how the bicycle in the front yard acts as a symbol for Burt and Vera.

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