Once Upon A Time...

Comprehension Questions

1. What is the husband’s first attempt to calm his wife’s fears?
2. How is this used by the little boy?
3. Why are the burglar alarms ineffective in preventing crime?
4. Why does the wife send out bread and tea & why is she discouraged from doing this?
5. What is the next increase in security? How does the husband’s mother contribute?
6. How do the man and woman arrive at their next choice of barricade?
7. Do think the author’s comparison of the family’s security to a concentration camp is an effective one? Why?
8. What specifically prevents this family from living happily ever after? Would they have lived happily ever after if this didn’t happen? Explain.
9. Use your background knowledge of South Africa during this time period to explain & discuss the root causes of the burglaries and crimes in this community. This is an opportunity to demonstrate your thinking on a deeper level.
10. Instead of barricading themselves in, what could members of this community do to reduce crime? What solution do you think Nelson Mandela would have suggested?