Questions for “Saboteur” p 1090-1098

1. What is the background information provided to the reader on page 1090? What social climate is the reader to infer from the description?
2. What ironies are present in Mr. Chiu’s attitude on page 1091?
3. What is ironic about the officer’s calling Mr. Chiu a saboteur?
4. How do the police violate Mr. Chiu’s basic human rights?
5. To what two political influences does this sentence allude? What seems to be the effect of each of the two influences on Mr. Chiu?
6. Since Mr. Chiu is an intellectual, someone with the wherewithal to know what is right and wrong, why might he have felt fearful if the Cultural Revolution were still in progress?
7. Mr. Chiu holds fast to his belief that the police “owe” him an apology and “must” compensate him for his troubles. How likely is it that events will turn out as he expects? Explain your answer.
8. Think back to the scene in the station with the police office and Mr. Chiu. Apparently many people who were there who Mr. Chiu hadn’t even noticed had made statements against Mr. Chiu. What might explain this surprising turn of events?
9. The police declare Mr. Chiu guilty without a trial? Is this a human rights violation? Why or why not?
10. What threat might the chief’s words and behavior imply?
11. What is the basic right that the police deny Mr.Chiu?
12. Think about the irony in the situation, “Fleas don’t bite Mr. Chiu, whose colleagues once joked about him being ‘nonhuman.’ What more amazing development now suggests that Mr. Chiu is losing his humanity?
13. How would you describe Mr. Chiu’s attitude toward Mao Zedong?
14. Mr. Chiu still assumes that justice will prevail. Which details in the story suggest that it may not?
15. What irony is there in Mrs. Chiu’s choice of a rescuer for her husband?
16. How would you trace the changes in Mr. Chiu’s feelings for his wife since the story began?
17. What is Mr. Chiu’s ethical dilemma at this point in the story? How is it different from the beginning of the story?
18. What human right violations do you find in the treatment of Fenjin?
19. What is the effect of Fenjin’s treatment on Mr. Chiu?
20. Why do you think police torture Fenjin in a location that is visible from Mr. Chiu’s cell?
21. Why do the police remain unconcerned when Mr.Chiu threatens to expose their tactics and treatment of other individuals?
22. What causes the hepatitis to become inflamed each time? What does it symbolize?
23. How do the police use Mr. Chiu’s own sense of justice to defeat him?
24. Mr. Chu displayed humanity towards Fenjin in his action to rescue him, but then his thoughts then turn to inhumane thoughts when being released from prison. What is Mr. Chiu thinking at that moment? Is he justified in doing so?
25. How is Mr. Chiu’s outward appearance a reflection of his inward persona? What examples from the text support your answer.
26. How much responsibility do the Muji railroad police bear for the hepatitis deaths?