Reflective Reading Log Responses for “The Monsters are Due on Maple Street”

“For the record, prejudices can kill and suspicions can destroy.” – Rod Serling in “The Monsters are Due on Maple Street”

1. Respond to the quote above. Before reading the script, what do you think Serling meant by this statement?

2. After reading “The Monsters are Due on Maple Street,” what specifically is Serling referring to in the first quote (above)? Use specific examples &/or text citations to support your explanation.

3. Explain what Serling means by the following quote: “A thoughtless, frightened search for a scapegoat has taken all its own... and the pity of it is that these things cannot be confined to the Twilight Zone.” Give examples from the story to support your interpretations.

4. What can we learn from reading this story/script nearly 60 years later? How can we apply the messages and lessons of this piece to our own current times and current events/situations?
Notice the use of these words or phrases in the program. For extra credit, write sentences that describe events in the story using these words. Underline the vocab word in the sentence.

1. **reflective** (adj) thoughtful
2. **flustered** (verb/adj) to make or become confused
3. **raise Cain** (verb) to create a great commotion; to cause trouble
4. **vast** (adj) very great in size; large
5. **incriminate** (verb) to charge with a crime
6. **insomnia** (noun) inability to sleep
7. **suspicion** (noun) to show mistrust in
8. **idiosyncrasy** (noun) oddity or unusualness
9. **crucify** (verb) to be very cruel to; torment
10. **scapegoat** (noun) one to take the blame for someone else

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**Thinking About the Literature**

1. **Respond:** If you were a resident of Maple Street, how would you have responded to the strange events?

2. (a) **Recall:** What are the first signs that something strange is happening on Maple Street? (b) **Analyze Cause and Effect:** How do these signs initiate the conflict on Maple Street?

3. (a) **Recall:** How do the people on Maple Street single out Les Goodman in Act I? (b) **Interpret:** What qualities of his cause the reaction? (c) **Deduce:** What does this suggest about what is really happening on Maple Street?

4. (a) **Recall:** Why does Charlie shoot Pete Van Horn? (b) **Infer:** What does the crowd's response to this shooting suggest about how well they are thinking?

5. (a) **Recall:** Who accuses Tommy after the shooting, and why? (b) **Connect:** Why are people prepared to believe such an accusation? (c) **Support:** How do the events of the play support this statement: “The tools of conquest do not necessarily come with bombs and explosions and fallout”?

6. (a) **Recall:** What causes the power fluctuations on Maple Street? (b) **Generalize:** What warning should people take from this play? (c) **Draw Conclusions:** Who are the monsters of Maple Street?

7. **Take a Position:** Do you believe that people are usually treated as if they are innocent until proved guilty? Explain.

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**Rod Serling**

(1924–1975)

Rod Serling once said that he didn’t have much imagination; an odd statement from a man who wrote more than 200 television scripts. Serling didn’t become serious about writing until college, after he served as a paratrooper in World War II. Driven by a love for radio drama, Serling earned second place in a national script contest. Soon after, he landed his first staff job as a radio writer.

Serling branched out into writing for a new medium—television—and rocketed to fame. Just six years after the contest, everyone wanted to watch—and perform—Serling’s work.