

## Discussion Questions

These questions over “The Rocking Horse Winner” by D.H. Lawrence may be used for class discussion or as study questions for students to answer individually in writing after reading the story.

1. The family in this story is living above its financial means. What evidence in the story supports this fact? Give several examples.
2. What does the mother feel toward her children and her husband?
3. Paul has an extended conversation with his mother about luck. Review what she tells him on the subject. What kind of effect did this have on Paul, and why?
4. What are the roles of Oscar Crenshaw and Bassett in the story?
5. How do the mother’s feelings about Paul and her behavior toward him seem to conflict with her character as it is first presented and developed in the story? Why is the change in her ironic?
6. What is the major theme of the story?
7. What is ironic about the title?