

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

## ENG2DB Short Story Analysis Questions: Examining “The Fall of a City” by Alden Nowlan



1. In the story, Teddy has created a wonderfully complex and sophisticated imaginary world. What does his creation and accompanying stories tell the reader about him? How does this add to his **characterization** and the impact of the story's conclusion on you as a reader?
2. **Compare** King Theodore and Teddy as characters. How do they differ? Why are these differences so significant to the story?
3. Why are the **characters' names** (or lack thereof) important to the themes and characterization in the story?
4. Vivid imagery is used throughout this short story in order to describe Teddy's imaginary world, as well as his reality. Find **one** example of imagery from the story, and explain its affect on you as a reader.
5. In your opinion, is it unjust that Teddy's aunt and uncle are suspicious of what he is doing in the attic, as well as their ridicule of him once they find out about his paper world? Explain.
6. Comment on the significance of Teddy's uncle referring to the soldiers, commanders, and kings that he has created as “paper dolls”.
7. What is the effect and purpose of the final passage, particularly in comparison to the *first* six paragraphs of the short story? The passage reads, “The city was as he had left it. Yet everything had changed. Always before when he had come here, his flesh had tingled, his eyes shone with excitement. Now there was only a taste like that of spoilt nutmeat”.
8. Why do you think Teddy destroys his paper world at the end of the story? Why is this symbolic?