**THANK YOU MA’AM Analysis**

Thank You, Ma'am” by Langston Hughes is short story about a young boy named **Roger** who intended on stealing a purse, (does not have the money to buy the blue suede shoes that he wants so badly) and instead meet upon a very strong and passionate women**, Luella Bates Washington Jones** (works in a beauty shop) who showed him how it felt to be trusted and loved.

Roger wanted some blue suede shoes. He wanted them so badly he would steal from an elder woman to get some.   During his attempt to do so, he fell to the ground and was forced to obey Mrs. Luella Bates Washington Jones demands.   “Pick up my pocketbook, boy, and give it here.” she exclaimed. Now Roger feeling ashamed and scared she says “Your face is dirty. I got a great mind to wash your face for you” with that being said she dragged him all the way back to her home.   When they arrived at her home, she finally let Roger go and stated that he should go wash his face, with Roger's could run through the open door right next to him, but instead decides to walk to the sink.   After a few comments are exchanged by Mrs. Luella Bates Washington Jones, she turns around and begins to cook a meal for the two. Not paying much attention to Roger, he noticed she had left her purse out and the door wide open. He could easily steal the money, and leave. But he decided against it and sat down on the opposite side of where the purse and door was just in the range of vision for Mrs. Luella Bates Washington Jones. He didn't trust the women not to trust him, and he did not want to be mistrusted now. The food was done cooking now and the two began eating, the conversation wasn't about the boy being a thief or about him not having a family but focused more on Mrs. Jones .After they finished eating, Mrs. Jones handed Roger ten dollars to go and buy the blue suede shoes he wanted, she walked him to the door and wished him a good night.  Although Roger was extremely grateful and shocked the only words that came to his mind were, Thank You, Ma'am,

**Analysis and Interpretation**

**Title**: The title suggests that someone feels grateful for somebody else’s behavior and thanks her (or someone appreciates something done by a woman thanks her.)

**Setting**: In Harlem,   in a city /NY city in 1920’s at night (about eleven o’ clock)

**Point of view( Different perspectives)** The story is told from the third person point of view because the narrator tells the story from outside the action. The narrator is limited because the narrator tells the story from the perspective of only one character. Mrs. Jones is an ordinary person who takes Roger to her home and shares her dinner with him. Then she gives him money to buy the suede shoes. She teaches him a lesson through her generosity.

When Mrs. Jones says: "shoes got by devilish ways will burn your feet" she means that shoes bought with stolen money won't be comfortable. She means that Roger won't enjoy wearing shoes that he bought with stolen money.

**Central conflict:** is between a boy and a strong and large woman. Between two characters so it is regarded as an external conflict. The boy tries to steal her purse but as he turns to flee he falls down and the woman is able to grab him by the shirt.  
  
**The main theme:** Everyone who reads 'Thank You Ma'm' has their own opinion for the theme. The theme can be for empathy, innocence lost and/or giving second chances. The main theme may be kindness and goodness help others more than fear and punishment. The theme in Thank You Ma'm is kindness. Even though that the boy tried to steal her purse she still cared enough for him to give him supper and the money he wanted for his shoes.

From the way Mrs. Jones treated Roger he learned that some people show kindness when it is unexpected. He learns that sometimes people should get a second chance. He learns that everyone has done something wrong. He learns that he shouldn't steal from others to get what he wants.

**Bridging Text and Context**

Author: Langston Hughes. He had difficulties as a young African American the early1900’s, then he began writing poetry to cope with this. He felt it was important to write about his African American experience. This story is one of his many stories about city life for African Americans. He characters are African- Americans who are struggling to survive in American society. Mrs. Jones works long hours in a beauty shop, and Roger does not have the money to buy the blue suede shoes that he wants so badly. Hughes wrote about ordinary people, who show generosity. Mrs. Jones is an ordinary person who takes Roger home and shares her dinner with him. Then she gives him money to buy blue suede shoes. She teaches him a lesson through her generosity.