"The Rocking-Horse Winner" by D.H. Lawrence

1. What happened to the love in the woman's marriage? _____

2. What secret do she and her children share? _____

3. What is the "anxiety" felt by everyone in the house? _____

4. On whom does the mother blame the family's poverty? _____

5. ". . .it's better to be born _____ than _____."

6. How does Paul know that he is a lucky person? _____

7. What command does Paul give to his rocking-horse? _____

8. Hmmm. . .what reason can you think of for why Paul has not named his horse? _____
_____

9. What does Paul do with Bassett, the young gardener? _____

10. Paul has won quite a bit of money. Where is it? _____

11. Where does Uncle Oscar take Paul? _____

12. Why does Paul think Uncle Oscar is lucky too? _____
_____

13. What explanation does Bassett offer as to why Paul can pick the winning horses? _____

14. What plan does Paul have for his winnings? _____

15. After he does what he plans, what does he hope will happen? _____

16. Why does Paul not want his mother to know about his success? _____

17. What story does the family lawyer come up with to help Paul accomplish his goal? _____
_____

18. How does the mother try to earn some money? _____

19. When does Paul's mother come into the money? _____

20. What rapacious request does Paul's mother make? _____

21. Paul puts extraordinary pressure on himself to pick the winner in which upcoming races? _____
_____

22. Now that Paul's mother has the money, how does the house react? _____
_____

23. Paul's mother sees how obsessed her son seems to be with horse racing. Why does this worry her? _____
_____

24. Paul's mother misunderstands: Paul isn't reluctant to leave the house. . .he doesn't want to be separated from
_____.

25. Why is the Derby so important to Paul? _____

26. At a party, Paul's mother is uncharacteristically concerned with _____.

27. When the mother enters Paul's room, what is he doing? What does he say? _____
_____

28. In a coma-like state, what are Paul's eyes like? _____

29. Bassett comes to visit Paul. Bassett's has a brown moustache and _____ _____
_____ eyes that _____. (Sounds pretty _____ to me!)

30. What comforting spin does Uncle Oscar try to put on Paul's death? _____
_____

31. Why do you think the Paul's father is never a part of this story? _____
_____

32. Do you think Paul's mother will mourn his death? _____
_____