

**“Half a Day” Timeline and Motif Tracker**

Create a timeline of what you consider to be the most significant events the story. For each event, note the characters involved, the cause of the event, the result that led to the next event, and whether the event had a positive or negative outcome. Additionally, choose a motif or pattern of language for each event.

<u>Event 1 Description</u>	<u>Event 2 Description</u>	<u>Event 3 Description</u>	<u>Event 4 Description</u>
<u>Cause/Outcome</u>	<u>Cause/Outcome</u>	<u>Cause/Outcome</u>	<u>Cause/Outcome</u>
<u>Motif</u>	<u>Motif</u>	<u>Motif</u>	<u>Motif</u>
<u>Interpretive Commentary</u>	<u>Interpretive Commentary</u>	<u>Interpretive Commentary</u>	<u>Interpretive Commentary</u>

### **Questions to Consider in Choosing Motifs**

- What words, phrases, images, ideas, objects, events repeat or are emphasized throughout the story?
- What could these symbolize?
- Can you categorize any of the symbols into recurring motifs?

### **Questions to Consider in Writing Commentary**

- What is this story about on a literal level?
- How is the narrator’s experience representative of the wider human experience?
- How do the language and structure of the story create surprise for the reader? Upon rereading the story, how do these elements provide clues to the surprising ending?
- What does the story suggest about human experience?
- Consider the title of the story. Why does the author suggest that the events of the story occur in “half a day” despite the final quotation of the story?