

1. Reference to context

- a. Others declared that it was impossible to decide beforehand the right time for every action.
 - i. Who are 'Others' here?
 - ii. In response to which statement, the 'others' declared the impossibility of deciding the right time for every action?
 - iii. What is said just after this?
 - iv. Which question do they answer here?
- b. '...and I planned to ambush you on your way back.'
 - i. Who is speaking to whom?
 - ii. Why did the speaker plan to ambush?
 - iii. Did he get success in his plan? If no, why?
 - iv. What happened to the speaker eventually?

2. Read, reflect and write.

The *theme* of a story is a message that the author wants to give us through the story. It is the recurring idea discussed by the author. A story can have one or more than one theme. What, according to you, are the themes which Leo Tolstoy wants to convey through his story, *The Three Questions*.