“Rain, Rain Go Away” by Issac Asimov

Directions: Answer the questions with complete sentences.

Section I : Questions for Thought (Choose any five from section I)

1. What is it that the new neighbors are always doing?
2. Why does Lillian find the Sakkaro family strange?
3. What is George doing while Lillian is expressing her worries about the Sakkaros? What can we infer about what George thinks about Lillian’s concerns based on his behavior?
4. What is the Sakkaro’s home like? Why is it strange?
5. How does Mrs. Sakkaro get Lillian a glass of water? What might this imply? Think about how the Sakkaros feel about wet weather.
6. What does Mr. Sakkaro bring with him to Murphy’s park? Why do you think he does so?
7. What seems to be the only thing that the Sakkaros will eat? How do they respond when offered other things?
8. How do the Sakkaros act on the way home? Why do you think this is so?
9. What happens to the Sakkaros in the rain? How does this explain their concern about the weather?

Section II : Literary Focus (Choose any two from section II)

1. Identify an instance of foreshadowing from the story. Now that you know the ending, what was the foreshadowing hinting at?

2. How does Asimov use setting to build tension in the story?

3. What events in rising action build up the tension in the story?

Section III : Critical Thinking (Choose any one from section III)

1. At the end of the story, Asimov never reveals who or what the Sakkaros really are. Why do you suppose, as an author, he makes this choice? Do you feel that this makes the story more effective or should Asimov have revealed the identities of the mysterious family?

2. Notice the author uses omniscience narration for Lillian and George, but did NOT use omniscience for the Sakkaros. How might the story have been different if the narrator had revealed the Sakkaros’ thoughts and feelings?