The Bargain by A.B. Guthrie

1. What do you think of what Baumer does to Slade?
   a. Does he do the right thing? Why or why not.

2. Would you say this story is about justice or about revenge?
   a. Explain your answer.

3. When Al suggest that Mr. Baumer forget Slade’s bill, Mr. Baumer says that it isn’t the money anymore; it is “the thing.” What do you think Mr. Baumer means by “the thing”?

4. At what point in the story did you predict what was going to happen next?
   a. Go back now and identify the details that provide clues to Slade’s fate.

5. Why does Baumer say at the end, “is good to know to read”?

6. What do you think the theme of “Bargain” is?

7. “Bargain” is written in the first-person point of view, from Al’s vantage point. What would you have known if Mr. Baumer had told the story himself?
   a. Would the story’s theme change?
   b. If so, what might the new theme be?