Wine in the Desert

1. Where does the story take place?
   a. List four details in the first four paragraphs that describe the intense heat and dryness.

2. Why is Durante fleeing from the sheriff?

3. Explain why he destroys Tony’s water system.

4. What does Tony secretly do to defeat Durante?

5. Why won’t Durante return to Tony’s ranch after he discovers he does not have the proper supplies for a full day’s trip across the desert?

6. What finally happens to Durante?
   a. What do you infer, or guess, about those big birds at the story’s end?

7. What do we know about him that makes us dislike him?
   a. Which several offenses struck you as most unforgivable?

8. How do you think Tony became friendly with Durante?
   a. What do you think of Tony?

9. How does the story of Tony’s father foreshadow, or hint at, the end of this story?

10. Why doesn’t Durante like to think of the rabbit?

11. How is it ironic that the rain comes when it does?

12. Do you think the theme of the story is revealed in the final scene, where Durante’s villainy is punished by those agonies in the desert?
   a. How would you state the story’s theme?