Contents of a Dead Man’s Pocket

Jack Finney
Goals

• Content Goal- We will work on **summary, author’s purpose**, and **evaluating characters’ decisions**.

• Language Goal- We will **discuss issues** related to the story with **one person speaking at a time** and **others listening respectfully**.
Pre-Reading Survey

1. Have you ever used a typewriter?
2. Have you ever used carbon paper?
3. What does cc: mean?
4. How many of you have been in a skyscraper?
5. Have you been to a famous one?
6. Are you afraid of heights or get vertigo?
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• In the selection, Tom Benecke stays home to work on a business proposal while his wife goes to the movies alone.

• When Tom has a harrowing experience on the ledge of his apartment building, he is forced to reexamine his life and reshape his outlook.

• At first, Tom feels safe and secure in his environment and place in life.

• When he is out on the ledge, he realizes how dangerous reality can be and how small he is in the world.
Pre-teaching Vocabulary

1. **Convoluted**: adj. twisted in a complicated way. *The convoluted maze confused us.*

2. **Verified**: v. - proved to be true. *He verified the results of the test by double-checking the scores.*

3. **Deftness**: n. – skillfulness. *She climbed with the deftness of a mountain goat.*

4. **Imperceptibly**: adv. – so slowly or slightly as to be barely noticeable. *I did not notice when the fish nibbled imperceptibly at my bait.*

5. **Reveling**: v. – taking great pleasure or delight. *When she got her first job, she could not stop reveling in her newfound independence.*

6. **Interminable**: adj. – endless or seeming endless. *The wait seemed interminable to the impatient shopper.*
Literary Analysis
Conflict and Resolution

Internal Conflict
• In an internal conflict, a character struggles with his or her own opposing desires, beliefs, or needs.

External Conflict
• In an external conflict, a character struggles against an outside force, such as an element of nature, or another character.
Picture the scenes your author describes to get involved in the story and read actively.

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## “Contents of the Dead Man’s Pocket”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cause</th>
<th>Effect</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tom opens the window.</td>
<td>Tom goes out on the ledge.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tom looks down.</td>
<td>Tom becomes very afraid.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tom decides to break the window.</td>
<td>Tom laughs at the end of the story.</td>
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“Contents of the Dead Man’s Pocket”

Complete the short story elements sheet for this piece of literature.
1. Write a summary of the yellow paper’s journey during this story. Include three main events from the story in your summary.

2. Analyze why Tom opened the apartment window and the consequence of this decision. Include two details from the story support the relationship between cause and effect.

Remember the language goal: restate questions in the answer; answer in complete sentences. Use specific, text-based details in your answer.
Summative Assessment

3. What is the author’s purpose for writing this short story? Provide two details from the story to support your answer.

4. What is your opinion of the decisions Tom makes in this story? Provide two details from the story to support your answer.
What do you think about the story’s ending? Did you think it was – predictable? disappointing? abrupt? heartwarming? Why? Explain your opinion including details from the story for support. Elaborate in a journal of five or more descriptive sentences.