**Introduction**

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| Title (What story will you be discussing?) | The Black Ball by Ellison Ralph |
| Theme (What is the lesson we should learn from this story?) | The story illustrates the perils of being a member of a subjugated community living in the midst of a racially tense society. |
| Thesis: State your claim. (No ”I” statements) | Racial segregation unjustly places the innocent and vulnerable at a disadvantage and exposes them to undeserved violence. |

**Body Paragraph 1**

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| Claim (How do the characters support the theme or message of the story?) | John is conscious of the ill-treatment caused by white men and is careful in his interactions with them. |
| Evidence (Provide a quote from the story to support) | `What you really mean is that you’ll get in here and bounce me out. Unions don’t want Negro members. `Listen, fellow. You’re wasting your time and mine. Your damn unions are like everything else in the country – for whites only. What ever caused *you* to give a damn about a Negro anyway? Why should *you* try to organize Negroes?` |
| Analysis (How does this quote show that characters support the theme of the story?) | This highlights the fact that the community expressly relegates the black folk to the sideline and do not offer them a chance of fair representation even when it is duly owed. |

**Body Paragraph II**

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| Claim (How does the conflict support the theme or message of the story?) | The conflict between Mr Berry, John and his son highlights the voicelessness of the black folk and arbitrary nature of the white folk. |
| Evidence (Provide a quote from the story to support) | Well, he’s taken his damned ball and ruined one of my plants.`  `You know he’s got no business around here in front, don’t you?`  `Well, if I ever see him around here again, you’re going to find yourself behind the black ball. Now get him on round to the back and then come up here and clean up this mess he’s made.` |
| Analysis (How does this quote show that conflict supports the theme of the story?) | The illustration highlights the active oppression and racism occasioned against the black American community by white men. |

**Conclusion**

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| Re-state thesis | Innocent folk and the vulnerable like children are placed at a disadvantage through racist and divisive attitudes. |
| Connect it the theme of this story to the outside world (why is this a universal lesson?) | The story speaks to a past reality where the people of color in the United States of America would be discriminated against on account of the color of their skin. It is, worryingly so, an ongoing practice with racism taking on a more subtle yet equally unsettling form through institutionalised discrimination. |