“A Retrieved Reformation” Questions

After hearing the story, discuss the following questions with a partner. Take notes to be used later. **You do not need to write complete sentences for this section.**

1. What work does Jimmy do in prison?

2. What does the warden say about Jimmy’s character?

3. When Jimmy goes to the hotel and changes, what does his new appearance tell you about his character?

4. Once at the hotel, what can you infer Jimmy’s plans are now that he’s free?

5. What characteristics make Jimmy a successful burglar?

6. What is Ben Price’s interest in Jimmy Valentine?

7. What happens in Arkansas that makes Jimmy “become another man”?

8. Why is Ralph “the phoenix that arose from Jimmy Valentine’s ashes”?

9. How has Jimmy shown he has truly changed?

10. What has he not given up of his old ways?

11. In the letter to his old pal, what concerns does Jimmy express?

12. Why does Jimmy ask Annabel for the flower she’s wearing before he opens the safe?

13. Why doesn’t Ben Price arrest Jimmy Valentine?

14. What is the meaning of the title?
SHORT ANSWER: USE COMPLETE SENTENCES (restate the question)
1. Would you have done what Ben Price did? Explain.

2. Find two details in the story that prove Valentine has really changed.


4. Explain the irony of Jimmy having his tools with him when Agatha gets locked in the safe.

5. In what ways does Ben Price almost ruin Jimmy?

6. In what ways does Ben Price actually save Jimmy?