Read the assigned paragraphs of the story and complete the following tasks.

1. What is the first thing you noticed about the passage?
2. What is the second thing you noticed about the passage?
3. Do the two things contradict or complement one another? Explain.
4. Describe the events/conflicts present in the passage.
5. Describe the characters present in the passage. What impression does the author give you of the characters? Use textual evidence. Describe the relationship among/between the characters.
6. Describe the point-of-view of the passage. Who is the narrator? Why would the story be told from this point-of-view?
7. Describe any imagery of the passage. What impression does this image give you? What connections can you make to your own life from this image?
8. Describe the narrative structure. Is it linear? Does it flashback? How do the two paragraphs relate to one another?
9. What mood does the passage create? Why? List at least ten words that create this mood.
10. Circle any words you do not know. List these words below and define them.
11. Do any of the words or phrases have a double meaning? Describe this double meaning.
12. Describe the diction of the passage. Are the words common or formal? How does the subject matter match the word-choice?
13. Does the author purposely repeat any words? If so, list the words and hypothesize why the author chose to repeat them.
14. List any uses of figurative language—metaphor, simile, personification—and tell why you believe they were used. How does the use of figurative language specifically contribute to the meaning of the passage?
15. For each of the sentences, label them as simple, compound, complex, or compound-complex.
16. What is the overall sentence pattern? Why does the author use this pattern? How does the pattern match the passage?
17. Describe how the author uses punctuation (or lack of punctuation) to further the tone or meaning of the passage.
18. How many types of writing exist in the passage—narration, dialogue, rhetoric, description? Why might the author include all of these methods?
19. What is implied by the author in the passage? Why is it important?
20. Based on the above reading, state what you believe to be the theme of the passage. This is a broad statement as to the message or purpose of the passage. It is something to which almost all people can relate: love, hate, war, famine, the oppression of women, growing up, etc
21. Now, given the above information, write a thesis statement in which you hypothesize how the style of the passage proves the theme of the work. (Murakami’s use of pop culture allusion, repetition, and serialized sentence structure support the theme of how humans often drown their sorrows in superficial surroundings. )