

Describe the nature of the voice in the opening paragraph. Is there any humor and irony?

What is Orwell's attitude toward imperialism?

What is Orwell's attitude toward the native peoples?

What is Orwell's attitude toward his own position in Burma?

Orwell is both the narrator and a character or participant in the story. How does the first person point of view and his dual role affect your understanding of him and of the events in the story?

The final scenes contain grotesque, disturbing images of the elephant's death among other things. Discuss Orwell's use of these images and their effects on the essay as a whole.