"My Oedipus Complex"
by Frank O'Connor

Questions #1 and #2:
the narrator and his relationship with his father

"distant relationship"  "saw his dad as Santa"  "curious about him (the father)"
"he (father) comes and goes"  "five years old"
"a kid whose dad is in the war"  "a bit of a trouble maker"
"likes when his dad comes home"  "he was fascinated (with his father)"
"not knowing his father doesn't bother him"  "just someone he knows"
Question #3: How does the narrator view his relationship with his mother?

"close relationship"
"he wants all of his mother's attention"
"believes she should do stuff for him"
"daily routines involve each other"
"likes being close to his mother"
"viewed as/treated as equals"
"they are friends"

"thinks she is simple-minded"
"likes his mother and spends a lot of time with her"
"he kind of uses her a lot"
"he loves being in her attention"
"their daily routines involve being with each other"
**Question #4:**
How does his father's return change his daily life?
How does his attitude toward his father change?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Change</th>
<th>Attitude Change</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&quot;can't go into his mom's bed in the morning&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;can't...talk to her as much&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>&quot;feels like he is stealing his mother from him&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;they are fighting a lot&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>&quot;they compete for the mother&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;finds him much less interesting/ dislikes him without his uniform&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>&quot;begins to hate his father&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;wants him (father) to go back to war&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>&quot;disrupts his habits&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;he's jealous because his father is talking to his mom&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>&quot;they compete for his mother&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;holds a grudge against his dad&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>&quot;enjoyed the privileges he had before father came home&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;views his father as competition&quot;</td>
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Question #5: How and why does the narrator rebel?

"by waking him up"  "because he's jealous"

"plays with the knives/toys")  "interrupts when his mother and father are talking"

"plays obnoxiously, taking time away from dad"  "He talks back at his dad"

"because his mom spends more time with the dad"  "he wants his dad to go back to the war"

"plays/talks really loudly when his parents are talking"  "he wants the attention of his mother"
**Question #6:** How does the baby bring him closer to his father?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>“both jealous of the attention the mother gave to the baby”</th>
<th>“they both get ignored in the long run”</th>
<th>“look to each other for comfort because they feel lonely”</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>“They team up against the mom and the baby; they have a mutual enemy.”</td>
<td>“They both only had each other”</td>
<td>“the mother ignored both the son and the father, so they started talking and got closer”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“they both become jealous of the baby”</td>
<td>“his father got rejected just like him”</td>
<td>“brings them closer together”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Just like his father kicked him out of the bed, the baby kicked the father out.”</td>
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</table>
**Question #7: Narrator's perspective/age?**

- "4-5...plays with toys, whines..., attached in a babyish way to mom"
- "is writing in the first person"

- "an older person doesn't sleep in the same bed as their parents"
- "gets it bed with his mom to talk"

- 'He said he was five.'
- "wailed when his mom told him to be quiet"
**Question #8: Fiction or Nonfiction?**

Fiction: "author's name is Frank"

Fiction: "buying babies"

"fiction based on nonfiction"

"fiction because it is copying a story that is nonfictional"

"fiction but it could be nonfiction"

Fiction: "the author's name is Frank O'Connor and the character is Larry"

"fiction with nonfiction traits... could or has happened in reality"

"nonfiction because this could happen"

"nonfiction because it is in first person and gives specific details"

"nonfiction because it has a lot of reality in it"