“The Luck of Roaring Camp” by Bret Harte

1. What is the setting of the story?
2. As you read the first few pages of the story, describe the inhabitants of Roaring Camp.

1. Why do the men of Roaring Camp assemble?

1. Provide details about Cherokee Sal.
2. Who is selected to help Cherokee Sal during labor? Why?
3. What do the men do at the camp as they await the baby's birth?
4. What happens during the delivery?
5. What donations are given by the men to help finance the baby’s care? What inferences can be made from these contributions?
6. How are Stumpy and Kentuck especially affected by the baby?
7. Why isn't the baby sent to another camp so that he can receive "female attention?" Why isn't a nurse brought to Roaring Camp to take care of the infant? What inference can be made about the men?
8. Discuss what transpires when the baby is one month old. Be specific.
9. What improvements are made in the camp after the christening is held?
10. As the baby grows, where is he taken while the men work? What imagery is used to describe how Tommy Luck's surroundings become a "fairyland?" What special quality befalls both the baby and the men as they notice "the treasures" of the hills and woods?
11. What is the primary motivation of the men in the camp when they deal with the baby?
12. What luck comes to the miners during the “golden summer”?
13. What stories are told about Roaring Camp?
14. What further development do the men want to make at Roaring Camp? Why?
15. Describe what happens to Roaring Camp in the winter of 1851.
16. What inferences can be made from the last paragraph of the story?
17. What might an alternative ending for the story be? How would this ending impact the story’s overall effect?
18. What are possible themes of “The Luck of Roaring Camp”?