“Mirror with a Memory”

1. Why was Riis situated differently than other immigrants in the social hierarchy?

2. With regard to origin and purpose, identify the value and limitation of Riis’s written and photographic work.

3. How does the chapter suggest we “transcend the original intent of the pictures”?

4. What evidence does the chapter use to support the following statement? “Rather than evoking a sympathetic response among an American audience, the picture might, instead, reinforce the widespread fear that prolific breeding among foreign elements threatened white Protestant domination of American society.”

5. Why does Riis photograph children; particularly the thieves?