“The Black Cat” by Edgar Allan Poe
Vocabulary & Questions

Unburthen - To unburden; to unload.
Expound - to make a detailed statement; to explain; interpret
Baroque - extravagantly ornate, florid, and convoluted in character or style; irregular in shape
Rigorous - severely exact or accurate; precise: rigorous research
Inscrutability - not easily understood; mysterious; unfathomable
Swooning - to faint; lose consciousness
Stupefied - crazy, magnificent, unbelievable, amazing
Docility - easily managed or handled
Sagacious - having or showing acute mental discernment and keen practical sense; shrewd
Tinctured - to imbue or infuse with something.

1. Describe the narrator as a child and compare it to his life as an adult.
As a child he was happy and always found enjoyment in animals. When he grew up he became a mean and cruel man who killed animals.

2. On what does he blame his evil ways?
He blames his evil ways on pluto.

3. Describe Pluto. How do the narrator and his wife initially react to him?
The like him at first and he is the narrator favorite pet.
4. A. What does the narrator first do to harm Pluto? 
cut eye out of socket
B. Why do you think he does this? 
to make himself feel powerful
C. How does Pluto react to him after this incident? 
he does not want to be with the narrator after the incident

5. How does the narrator rationalize killing Pluto? 
He thought it would remind him less of what he did to him first

6. What happens the night after the narrator kills Pluto? 
The narrator’s house burns down

7. What does he discover the next morning? What do you think this indicates? 
What looks like a cat on the side of his house, that the cat is what made the house burn down

8. How does the new cat differ from Pluto? What do you think this trait symbolizes? 
The new cat likes the narrator even after he is mean to the cat. This symbolizes that he will get even more annoyed by this cat.

9. Explain the circumstances concerning the murder of the narrator’s wife. 
The narrator was going to kill the cat but his wife stopped him so he killed her instead

10. Compare “The Black Cat” to “The Tell Tale Heart.” Identify 3 things that are similar between the two stories. 
1. The eye that haunts him
2. him being insane
3. him killing living things