Graham Greene's "The Destructors"

Instructions: Thoroughly read and annotate Greene's short story. Read it again. Then go through the following question, thoughtfully answering based on your own experience of the story.

1. What motivates T.? What motivates the others? What does Old Misery and No. 3 symbolize for them?

2. What does "destruction after all is a form of creation" (6) mean? Is it true? Does T. see the destruction of No. 3 as a form of creation? How might Old Misery see it?

3.What does T. mean that "[t]here's only things" (6)? How does that view of the world inform the way T. thinks and acts?

4. Twice at the end of the story we hear someone say “there’s nothing personal.” What does this repeated statement tell us about the people who inhabit the world of this story?

5. The topic of class comes up frequently in this story—Trevor’s name, the mistrust of Old Misery, what No. 3 represents to the gang, the way the word “beautiful” sounds to Blackie and how it conjures up images of lordly gentlemen mocked at the Wormsley Common Empire. How does class inform what happens in “The Destructors”?