

“The Most Dangerous Game” – Richard Connell

Complete the following short story element questions for “The Most Dangerous Game.” Answer all inference questions as you read.

Inference Questions –

Page 219 – What inferences does Rainsford make based on the evidence of pistol shots?

Page 220 – Which details here lead you to infer that the two men Rainsford meets have a shared military past? Explain.

Page 223 – How do the details about Zaroff’s life support the inference that he feels neither guilt nor fear concerning hunting?

Page 226 – Based on this description, what can you infer about the method Zaroff uses to lure his quarry to the island?

Page 227 – What kind of heads do you think Zaroff wants to show Rainsford? Explain.

Page 228 – What inference can you make about the hunting trip Zaroff is suggesting?

Page 231 – Which details in the description of Zaroff’s searching the tree suggest that he knows Rainsford is there?

- **Setting:** Background of the story. The setting includes both time and place (when and where the story takes place).
- Look for the actual geographical location (topography, scenery, and physical arrangements). Look for the occupations and daily manner of living of the characters
- Look for the time period in which the action takes place
- Look for the general environment of the characters (e.g. religious, mental, moral, social, and emotional conditions through which the people in the narrative move)

Be sure to indicate below each time the setting changes. Quote the description.

Yacht –

The jungle –

The chateau-

Other examples of setting from the definitions above:

Characterization – Means by which the author reveals the personality of the characters. There are 4 ways the author reveals character (direct and indirect characterization)

- Description of physical appearance
- Characters' conversation (what he says or thinks)
- Characters' actions (what he does)
- Reactions (how a character reacts to his environment or how other characters react to him).

For each of the following characters give at least one example of each of the above ways the author reveals each character.

Rainsford

Ivan

Zaroff

Point of view: The vantage point from which a story is told; whose eyes we see the action through. There are 3 kinds of point of view.

- Omniscient – the author is all-knowing; he knows how the characters think and feel, what is going on inside all the character's' heads simultaneously. The author uses the third person pronouns (he, she, they) to tell the story.
- Personal or 1st person – The story is told by one of the characters, using the first person pronoun "I". This "I" should not be confused with the author of the story (unless you know that it is a nonfiction autobiography); it is the personal point of view of that one character.
- 3rd person limited – the author lets us see and hear what the character sees and hears. We do not know the the chracters feels unless he (the author) tells us through words, actions, or the descriptions of the character. This is a more limited form of the omniscient point of view.

What point of view is this story told in? How do you know?

Plot: Sequence of events in a story; what happens in a story, in te correct order; an account in prose or vers of an actual or fictional event or a sequence of such events.

1. Exposition – introduction of chracters and setting
2. Rising action – introduction of conflict or some complication factor

Conflict: a struggle between two opposing forces (2 types)

1. External
 - a. man vs. man
 - b. man vs. society
 - c. man vs. nature
 - d. man vs. fate
2. internal
 - a. man vs. himself

3. Climax – the crisis or turning point in the story. This single event occurs when the main character takes decisive action to end the conflict.
4. Falling action – after the climax, the point where final details are worked out and the ending is suggested.
5. Resolution – the ending or epilogue, in which all remaining loose ends or threads of the plot or tied up (denouement)

Events may be arranged in

1. In chronological order (step-by-step)
2. Order of importance
3. Flashback technique (depicting events that happened earlier)

Answer the following plot/conflict questions as you read the indicated page.

Page 216 – How does Rainsford's attitude about hunting differ from Whitney's?

Page 218 – With what external conflict is Rainsford suddenly confronted?

Page 222 – Explain how Rainsford’s discomfort in this passage (the bracketed passage) is both an internal and an external conflict.

Page 224 – How was the “tragic moment” Zaroff refers to the sign of an internal conflict?

Page 225 – What does Rainsford suddenly understand about Zaroff?

Page 226 – Is Zaroff’s statement that his captives do not have to participate in the hunt true? Explain.

Page 228 – How does Rainsford’s statement about wishing to leave make his internal conflict an external one?

Page 232 – Who seems to be winning the conflict at this point in the story? Explain

Page 235 – What new internal conflict does the sound of the baying dogs create for Rainsford?

After answering all questions, fill out the plot diagram in entirety.

Theme: The central idea of a story, the meaning. DO NOT confuse theme with moral. Not all writing necessarily has a moral.

Write a one sentence theme statement for this story.

