Short Story Test Study Guide

Using: The Most Dangerous Game

\*A copy of the full text can be found on my website

1. In what point of view was “The Most Dangerous Game” written?

a. first person subjective

b. second person objective

c. third person omniscient

d. none of the above

2. What was the mood set by the author in the beginning of the book?

a. ominous and mysterious

b. intriguing and humorous

c. light-hearted and mysterious

d. quiet and unobtrusive

3. A foil character is a minor character whose character traits contrast with those of the main character. Who is a foil character in the story?

a. Ivan

b. General Zaroff

c. Whitney

d. Rainsford

4. What do we learn about Rainsford with his conversation with his friend Whitney?

a. He is arrogant and disliked by the shipmates.

b. He is terrified of going to Ship-trap Island.

c. He doesn’t respect Whitney.

d. He doesn’t have much compassion for the animals he hunts.

5. Read the following excerpt:

“ *‘Can’t see it,’ remarked Rainsford, trying to peer through the dank tropical night that was palpable as it pressed its thick warm blackness in upon the yacht.’”(22).*

What techniques are being used by the author in the above quotation?

a. foreshadowing and hyperbole

b. irony and allusion

c. imagery and personification

d. allusion and personification

6. Why can we infer that Zaroff hunts with a .22 caliber pistol?

a. It is quieter than other caliber guns, so he can be more stealthy.

b. It is smaller and easier to carry through the dense jungle.

c. It is more powerful than other weapons.

d. It makes the hunt more of a challenge for him.

7. Rainsford’s **first impression** of Zaroff lead him to believe that Zaroff is -

a. evil and grotesque

b. timid and shy

c. insane and menacing

d. gracious and affable

8. How does Zaroff get the humans that he hunts?

a. He imports them from the mainland.

b. They are prisoners that passing ships sell to him.

c. They are the crew of ships that wreck on the island because of his channel lights he has set up.

d. They are natives on the island that he has slowly been hunting to the point of extinction.

9. What is Rainsford’s reason for participating in the “game” even though he doesn’t want to be part of it?

a. save the lives of Zarrof’s prisoners

b. avoid being tortured and killed by Ivan

c. prove that he is a better hunter than Zaroff

d. prove that his ideas about hunting men are right

10. Which quote shows **why** Zaroff began to lose his fascination with hunting?

a. “There is no greater bore than perfection.”

b. “Life is for the strong, to be lived by the strong, and, if needs be, taken by the strong.

c. “My hand was made for the trigger, my father said.”

d. “I had to invent a new animal to hunt.”

11. Read the following excerpt:

*“The cry was pinched off short as the blood-warm waters of the Caribbean Sea closed over his head”(24).*

Why does Connell use the term “blood-warm” to describe the water?

a. because it is a hot, tropical night and the waters in the Caribbean are warm

b. because the water is filled with blood from Zaroff’s victims that he has hunted

c. because it creates the mood and allows the reader to imagine Rainsford’s fear

d. because the imagery allows the reader to see Connell drowning in the water

12. Read the following excerpt:

*“One does not expect nowadays to find a young man of the educated class, even in America, with such a naïve … point of view. It’s like finding a snuff-box in a limousine” (30).*

What figurative language is used in the above quotation?

a. personification

b. onomatopoeia

c. simile

d. alliteration

13. Read the following excerpt:

*“All he knew is that he was safe from his enemy, sea” (24).*

Why is the above quotation ironic?

a. because later he will be saved by the sea

b. because he is saying it sarcastically

c. It reveals that the sea is harsh, cruel, and unrelenting.

d. It emphasizes the conflict that Rainsford has with surviving.

14. Read the following excerpt:

*“‘And now,’ said the general, ‘I want to show you my collection of heads. Will you come with me to the library”* (32).

What is particularly foreboding about the above quotation?

a. Like Rainsford, the reader knows that the general wants to show off his collection of human heads.

b. Rainsford is about to be tricked into being locked in the library before he is to be hunted.

c. The animal heads on the walls of the library set an eerie mood in the story.

d. It foreshadows that General Zaroff is inviting Rainsford to play a deadly game with him.

15. What is the main conflict present in the story?

a. man vs. self

b. man vs. man

c. man vs. nature

d. man vs. society

16. It is suggested that Zaroff doesn’t look directly at Rainsford in the tree because Zaroff –

a. is tired

b. feels sorry for Rainsford

c. wants the game to continue

d. underestimated Rainsford’s abilities

17. Read the following excerpt:

*“’Nerve, nerve, nerve!’ he panted, as he dashed along. A blue gap showed between the trees dead ahead. Ever nearer drew the hounds. Rainsford forced himself on toward that gap. He reached it. It was the shore of the sea. …Rainsford hesitated. He heard the hounds. Then he leaped far out into the sea” (39).*

The above paragraph is filled with short, choppy, simple sentences. Why is the author using this syntactical structure?

a. to lessen the descriptive imagery because the scene is just action

b. to make repetition the focal point of the paragraph

c. to build suspense in a climactic moment

d. to reflect that the thoughts pervading the character’s mind are simple

18. Which line in the story is the resolution?

a. Then he leaped far out into the sea…

b. Rainsford knew now how an animal at bay feels.

c. General Zaroff had an exceedingly good dinner in his great paneled dining hall that evening.

d. He had never slept in a better bed, Rainsford decided.

19. When falling from the yacht, what important characteristic do we learn about Rainsford that would be crucial later on in the story?

a. He has a certain cool-headedness in dangerous situations.

b. He can see very well in the dark.

c. He hated the sea because it was his enemy that nearly killed him.

d. He takes risks when faced with life-threatening situations.

20. Which of the following is NOT a technique that Rainsford used during the game?

a. Burying himself in quicksand

b. Hiding in a tree

c. Digging a pit with stakes

d. Jumping off of a cliff