

English 11

The Most Dangerous Game – Questions

Answer the following questions.

1. In the story, Rainsford changes his entire philosophy about hunting. Find and write down two lines – one from the beginning of the story and one toward the end – that show the change in Rainsford. Explain how the shift is shown through the lines you've chosen.
2. Personification is a literary technique where the writer gives human qualities to inanimate objects/nature. Find and write down two sentences which use this device.
3. What descriptions about Zaroff's physical features serve to warn Rainsford (and the reader) about the man's brutal nature?
4. What is borsch? What's symbolically significant about this being Zaroff's meal when we first meet him?
5. Zaroff says, "There is no greater bore than perfection." In your own words, explain what he means. Give an example from your life that proves this sentiment to be true.
6. Zaroff also says, "Instinct is no match for reason." Again, explain his meaning in your own words. Is he right? Wrong? Give evidence from your life or the modern world to support your stance.
7. The moment that Zaroff decides Rainsford will not be a hunting partner, but a huntee is very clear. Find and write down the two short sentences that show the General making his decision.
8. Examine the title of the story. What is the double-meaning in the use of the word, "game," in the title?

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Time for the Hunt

Rather than hunting for big game, today you'll take the more-civilized path of hunting for those wiliest of literary devices – similes. Find and record the words from the story to complete each of passages below:

1. The sea was as flat as _____.
2. He strained his eyes in the direction from which the reports had come, but it was like _____.
3. The revolver pointed as rigidly as if _____.
4. ...but his thick eyebrows and pointed military mustache were as black as _____.
5. ...giant rocks with razor edges crouch like a _____ with wide-open jaws. They can crush a ship as easily as _____.
6. An apprehensive night crawled slowly by like _____.
7. He flattened himself down on the limb, and through a screen of leaves almost as _____, he watched.
8. Rainsford's impulse was to hurl himself down like a _____...
9. ...but the muck sucked viciously at his foot as if _____.
10. He stepped back from the quicksand a dozen feet or so, and, like _____, he began to dig.

And, just for fun, find this metaphor:

11. The Cossack was the _____ ; he was the _____.