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READING-RECHARGING
Asosiy o‘rganilayotgan chet tili
(O‘qish va yozish)

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Introduction

Reading Recharged includes a wide range of creative ideas, top tips and medias related to each topic for B1-C1 ss. The book is designed to spark a love of reading for pleasure alongside covering all seven reading skills from the National Curriculum (vocabulary, inference, summarizing, predicting, commentating, author choice and retrieval).

Whether you do whole class reading or you do group guided reading, this is a book that you can use! It is jam packed full of ideas, grouped by the 7 comprehension skills which is perfect because it makes it easy to flick through and use!

There's so much in this and it starts at the beginning with a bit of a guide on how to teach whole class reading and guided reading (as a recent convert to whole class reading, it was really useful to read!). Then there's these incredible pages that show you the different SATs style questions asked in ss. These reference guides by themselves are incredibly useful to teachers even. These question stems/examples are great starters because you can pretty much go anywhere with them!

Good luck!!!

An Excerpt From The Story of Cain and Abel from Genesis 4

The Book of Genesis is the first book of the Hebrew Bible and the Christian Old Testament. In Genesis 4, Cain commits the first murder of mankind and suffers punishment from the Lord for his transgression. As you read, take notes on how the author uses figurative language to illustrate Abel's death.

- [1] Adam made love to his wife Eve,¹ and she became pregnant and gave birth to Cain. She said, "With the help of the Lord I have brought forth a man." Later she gave birth to his brother Abel.

Now Abel kept flocks,² and Cain worked the soil. In the course of time, Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the Lord. And Abel also brought an offering — fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The Lord looked with favor on Abel and his offering, but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor. So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast.



"Cain and Abel LACMA M.88.91.237" by Ashley Van Haeften is licensed under CC BY 2.0.

Then the Lord said to Cain, "Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it."

Now Cain said to his brother Abel, "Let's go out to the field." While they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him.

- [5] Then the Lord said to Cain, "Where is your brother Abel?"

"I don't know," he replied. "Am I my brother's keeper?"

The Lord said, "What have you done? Listen! Your brother's blood cries out to me from the ground. Now you are under a curse and driven from the ground, which opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. When you work the ground, it will no longer yield its crops for you. You will be a restless wanderer on the earth."

Cain said to the Lord, "My punishment is more than I can bear. Today you are driving me from the land, and I

1. According to the Judeo-Christian creation myth, Adam and Eve were the first man and woman on Earth.
2. referring to a group of sheep

will be hidden from your presence; I will be a restless wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me.”

But the Lord said to him, “Not so; anyone who kills Cain will suffer vengeance seven times over.” Then the Lord put a mark on Cain so that no one who found him would kill him. So Cain went out from the Lord’s presence and lived in the land of Nod, east of Eden.

“An Excerpt From The Story of Cain and Abel from Genesis 4” from New International Version Bible (1973) is in the public domain.

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Related media:



Text-Dependent Questions

Directions: For the following questions, choose the best answer or respond in complete sentences.

1. PART A: Which of the following statements best identifies a main theme of the text?
 - A. An affinity for violence is a trait that all humans possess.
 - B. The bonds of family are more important than anything.
 - C. Violence is not the answer to feelings of jealousy or anger.
 - D. As long as you accept punishment for your actions, all will be forgiven.

2. PART B: Which quote from the story best supports the answer to Part A?
 - A. "'With the help of the Lord I have brought forth a man.' Later she gave birth to his brother Abel." (Paragraph 1)
 - B. "In the course of time, Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the Lord. And Abel also brought an offering — fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock." (Paragraph 2)
 - C. "'What have you done? Listen! Your brother's blood cries out to me from the ground.'" (Paragraph 7)
 - D. "Then the Lord put a mark on Cain so that no one who found him would kill him." (Paragraph 9)

3. PART A: How does paragraph 3 contribute to the development of the story's theme?
 - A. The Lord warns Cain about the dangers of his dark thoughts.
 - B. The Lord reveals that he knows exactly what Cain is planning.
 - C. The Lord gives Cain the strength to resist sin.
 - D. The Lord reassures Cain that he likes his and Abel's offerings equally.

4. PART B: Which detail from the text best supports the answer to Part A?
 - A. "The Lord looked with favor on Abel and his offering" (Paragraph 2)
 - B. "So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast." (Paragraph 2)
 - C. "If you do what is right, will you not be accepted?" (Paragraph 3)
 - D. "But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door" (Paragraph 3)

5. How does the text use personification in paragraph 7?

Discussion Questions

Directions: Brainstorm your answers to the following questions in the space provided. Be prepared to share your original ideas in a class discussion.

1. In your opinion, why did the Lord mark Cain to prevent others from harming him?
2. In your opinion, what is this story's purpose in Genesis? Is it meant to teach readers a lesson or explore the darker side of human nature? Cite evidence from this text, your own experience, and other literature, art, or history in your answer.
3. In the context of the story, what drives people to betray? Why did Cain kill Abel and who was he betraying when he decided to commit this crime? Cite evidence from this text, your own experience, and other literature, art, or history in your answer.

Assassination of the President

Attempted Murder of Secretary Seward and Sons.

By Evening Star
1865

This excerpt from an 1865 newspaper, Evening Star, contains multiple accounts of the night President Abraham Lincoln and Secretary of State William Seward were attacked. The attack came only five days after Confederate General Robert E. Lee surrendered his massive army at Appomattox Court House, Virginia, effectively ending the American Civil War. As you read, identify the overall mood and tone of the report, and what this suggests about Lincoln's popularity in the northern United States.

ASSASSINATION OF THE PRESIDENT

* * *

Attempted Murder Of Secretary Seward And Sons.

* * *

Despatches from Secretary Stanton.¹



"The Last Hours of Abraham Lincoln" by Alonzo Chappel is in the public domain.

* * *

War Department,

WASHINGTON, D.C., April 15. 1.30 P.M.²

Major General John A. Dix, New York:

[1] Last evening, at 10.30 p. m., at Ford's Theater, the President, while sitting in his private box with Mrs. Lincoln, Miss Harris, and Maj. Rathbun, was shot by an assassin who suddenly entered the box. He approached behind

1. Edwin McMasters Stanton (1814-1869) was a lawyer and politician who served as Abraham Lincoln's secretary of war during the Civil War (1861-1865). Much of the information in this article comes from reports created by his office.
2. a likely typo in the original document, the time should read 1:30AM. This has been flagged but not changed in order to reflect the original content of the article.

the President. The assassin then leaped upon the stage, brandishing a large dagger or knife, and made his escape by the rear of the theater. The pistol ball entered the back of the President's head. The wound is mortal. The President has been insensible³ ever since it was inflicted, and is now dying.

About the same hour an assassin, either the same or another, entered Mr. Seward's⁴ house and, under pretence of having a prescription, was shown to the Secretary's sick chamber.⁵ The Secretary was in bed, a nurse and Miss Seward with him. The assassin immediately rushed to the bed, inflicting two or three stabs on the throat, and two in the face. It is hoped the wounds may not be mortal. My apprehension⁶ is that they will prove fatal. The nurse alarmed Mr. Frederick Seward, who was in an adjoining room, and hastened to the door of his father's room, where he met the assassin, who inflicted upon him one or more dangerous wounds. The recovery of Frederick Seward is doubtful.⁷

It is not probable that the President will live through the night.

Gen. Grant⁸ and wife were advertised to be at the theater this evening, but the latter started to Burlington at six o'clock last evening.

- [5] At a Cabinet⁹ meeting, at which Gen. Grant was present to-day, the subject of the state of the country, and the prospects of speedy peace was discussed. The President was very cheerful and hopeful, spoke very kindly of Gen. Lee¹⁰ and others of the Confederacy, and the establishment of Government in Virginia. All the members of the Cabinet, except Mr. Seward, are now in attendance upon the President. I have seen Mr. Seward, but he and Frederick were both unconscious.

E.M. Stanton, Secretary of War

* * *

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3. without one's mental faculties
 4. William H. Seward (1801-1872) was the United States Secretary of State from 1861 to 1869 throughout Lincoln's administration.
 5. Seward had been in a carriage accident the week before, and was confined to his bed.
 6. **Apprehension** (*noun*) anxiety or fear that something bad or unpleasant will happen
 7. Actually, no one in the Seward attack died. However, Seward's wife Frances died shortly after, having never fully recovered from the shock of the attack.
 8. General Ulysses S. Grant (1822-1885) was the Commanding General of the United States Army, and worked closely with President Abraham Lincoln to lead the Union Army to victory over the Confederacy in the American Civil War. He would later become the 18th President of the United States.
 9. A "Cabinet," in this case, refers to a body of advisers to the president, composed of the heads of the executive departments of the government.
 10. General Robert Edward Lee (1807-1870) was an American general known for commanding the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia in the American Civil War from 1862 until his surrender in 1865.

War Department,**WASHINGTON, D.C., 3 A.M., April 15, 1865.****Lieutenant General Grant:**

The President still breathes, but is quite insensible, as he has been ever since he was shot. He evidently did not see the person who shot him, but was looking on the stage, as he was approached behind.

Mr. Seward has rallied, and it is hoped he may live. Frederick Seward's condition is very critical. The attendant who was present was stabbed through the lungs, and is not expected to live. The wounds of Major Seward are not serious.

Investigations strongly indicate J. Wilkes Booth as the assassin of the President. Whether it was the same or a different person that attempted to murder Mr. Seward, remains in doubt.

Chief Justice Cartter¹¹ is engaged in taking the evidence. Every exertion has been made to present [sic]¹² the escape of the murderer. His horse has been found on the road near Washington.

Edwin M. Stanton, Secretary of War.

* * *

War Department,**WASHINGTON, D.C., April 15, - 4.10 A.M.****Major General Dix,¹³ New York:**

[10] The President continues insensible, and is sinking. Secretary Seward remains without change. Frederick Seward's skull is fractured in two places, besides a severe cut upon the head. The attendant is still alive, but hopeless.

Major Seward's wounds are not dangerous. It is now ascertained¹⁴ with reasonable certainty, that two

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11. David Kellogg Cartter (1812–1887) was the Chief Justice of the newly established Supreme Court of the District of Columbia (which would later become the United States District Court for the District of Columbia).
 12. The term "sic" is used to highlight places where mistakes or typos were made by the original author. It is likely that they meant "prevent."
 13. **John Adams Dix (1798–1879) was Secretary of the Treasury, Governor of New York and Union major general during the Civil War.**
 14. **Ascertain** (*verb*) to find (something) out for certain; make sure of

assassins were engaged in the horrible crime – Wilkes Booth being the one that shot the President; the other, a companion of his, whose name is not known, but whose description is so clear that he can hardly escape.

It appears, from a letter found in Booth's trunk, that the murder was planned before the fourth of March, but fell through then because the accomplice backed out until Richmond could be heard from. Booth and his accomplice were at the livery stable at six o'clock last evening, and left there with their horses about ten o'clock, or shortly before that hour.

It would seem that they had for several days been seeking their chance, but for some unknown reason, it was not carried into effect until last night. One of them has evidently made his way to Baltimore, the other has not yet been traced.

Edwin M. Stanton, Secretary of War.

* * *

Associated Press Account:

President Lincoln and wife, together with other friends, last evening visited Ford Theater for the purpose of witnessing the performance of the American Cousin.¹⁵ It was announced in the newspapers that Gen. Grant would also be present, but that gentleman, instead, took the late train of cars for New Jersey. The theater was densely crowded, and everybody seemed delighted with the scene before them.

- [15] During the third act, and while there was a temporary pause for one of the actors to enter, a sharp report of a pistol was heard, which merely attracted attention, but suggesting nothing serious, until a man rushed to the front of the President's box, waving a long dagger in his right hand, and exclaiming "Sic Semper Tyrannis,"¹⁶ and immediately leaped from the box, which was of the second tier, to the stage beneath, and ran across to the opposite side, thus making his escape, amid the bewilderment¹⁷ of the audience, from the rear of the theater, and, mounting a horse, fled.

The screams of Mrs. Lincoln first disclosed¹⁸ the fact to the audience that the President had been shot, when all present rose to their feet, rushing toward the stage, exclaiming, "Hang him!" "Hang him!"

The excitement was of the wildest possible character, and, of course, there was an abrupt termination¹⁹ of the theatrical performance.

-
15. The name of the play was actually "Our American Cousin."
 16. "Sic Semper Tyrannis" is a Latin phrase meaning "thus always to tyrants." It is a shortened version of the phrase "Sic semper evellō mortem tyrannīs" ("Thus always I bring death to tyrants"). The phrase was in the pro-Confederate Civil War song "Maryland, My Maryland," which was popular at the time with Southern sympathizers in Maryland, like Booth.
 17. **Bewilder** (*verb*) to confuse completely
 18. **Disclose** (*verb*) to make (secret or new information) known
 19. the action of bringing something or coming to an end

There was a rush towards the President's box, when cries were heard. "Stand back"" "Give him air!" "Has anyone stimulants!" etc.

On a hasty examination it was found that the President had been shot through the head, above and back of the temporal bone, and that some of the brain was oozing out. He was removed to the private residence of Mr. Peterson, opposite to the theater, and the Surgeon General of the Army and other surgeons sent for to attend to his condition.

- [20] On examination of the private box blood was discovered on the back of the cushioned rocking chair in which the President had been sitting, also on the partition and on the floor.

A common single barrelled pocket pistol was found on the carpet.

A military guard was placed in front of the private residence to which the President had been conveyed.²⁰

An immense crowd was in front of it, all deeply anxious to learn the condition of the President. It had been previously announced that the wound was mortal, but all hoped otherwise.

The shock to the community was terrible.

- [25] At midnight the Cabinet, with Messrs. Sumner, Colfax, Farnsworth, Judge Cartter, Gov. Oglesby, General Meigs, Major Hay, and a few personal friends, with Surgeon General Barnes and his medical associates, were around his bedside. The President was in a state of syncope,²¹ totally insensible, and breathing slowly, the blood oozing from the wound at the back of his head. The surgeons were exhausting every possible effort of medical skill, but all hope was gone. The parting of his family with the dying President is too sad for description.

Assassination of the President by Evening Star is in the public domain.

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20. carried or transported to a place
 21. Syncope is a medical term referring to a temporary loss of consciousness and posture, often described as "fainting" or "passing out."

Text-Dependent Questions

Directions: For the following questions, choose the best answer or respond in complete sentences.

1. PART A: How does the collection of multiple accounts of the night of President Lincoln's assassination contribute to the central idea of the article?
 - A. They demonstrate the confusion and conflicting information surrounding the night of Lincoln's assassination.
 - B. They argue, collectively, for increased diligence on the part of security and police surrounding the victims.
 - C. They demonstrate the critical need for national unity during a time of unthinkable loss.
 - D. They illustrate the unanimous national feeling that the loss of Lincoln will be tragic for the country.

2. PART B: Which TWO quotations from the text best supports the answer to Part A?
 - A. "My apprehension is that they will prove fatal." (Paragraph 2)
 - B. "It is not probable that the President will live through the night." (Paragraph 3)
 - C. "He evidently did not see the person who shot him, but was looking on the stage, as he was approached behind." (Paragraph 6)
 - D. "The theater was densely crowded, and everybody seemed delighted with the scene before them." (Paragraph 14)
 - E. "when all present rose to their feet, rushing toward the stage, exclaiming, 'Hang him! Hang him!'" (Paragraph 16)
 - F. "The shock to the community was terrible." (Paragraph 24)

3. PART A: What does the word "accomplice" mean as it is used in paragraph 12?
 - A. the victim of a crime
 - B. a person who helps another commit a crime
 - C. a person who accuses someone else of committing a crime
 - D. a person who is slow to act

4. PART B: Which clue from the text best supports the answer for Part A?
 - A. "Every exertion has been made to prevent [sic] the escape of the murderer." (Paragraph 9)
 - B. "the murder was planned before the fourth of March" (Paragraph 12)
 - C. "It would seem that they had for several days been seeking their chance" (Paragraph 13)
 - D. "but for some unknown reason, it was not carried into effect until last night." (Paragraph 13)

5. Using evidence from the text, how do you expect the newspaper's readers to have responded to the news of Lincoln's assassination? Why?

General Eisenhower's Order of the Day

By General Dwight D. Eisenhower
1944

Dwight D. Eisenhower (1890-1969) was the Supreme Allied Commander of the Invasion of Normandy and Assault on German forces in Europe during World War II; he would later be President of the United States from 1953 to 1961. On June 5, 1944 nearly 3 million troops, 4,000 ships, and 1,200 planes belonging to America and the other Allied forces waited in England for the order to invade the French Coast of Normandy to begin an assault on the Germans who had taken over much of Europe. Eisenhower's Order of the Day was delivered to the 175,000-member expeditionary forces meant to invade Normandy directly on June 5, 1944, the eve of the invasion. As you read, note the language that the author uses to describe Allied forces and their opponents.

[1] Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen of the Allied Expeditionary Forces:¹

You are about to embark upon the Great Crusade,² toward which we have striven these many months. The eyes of the world are upon you. The hopes and prayers of liberty-loving people everywhere march with you. In company with our brave Allies³ and brothers-in-arms on other Fronts⁴ you will bring about the destruction of the German war machine, the elimination of Nazi⁵ tyranny⁶ over oppressed peoples of Europe, and security for ourselves in a free world.



"Into the Jaws of Death" by Robert F. Sargent is in the public domain.

1. These forces were made up of 175,000 military men from America, the United Kingdom, Canada, and the French army of liberation.
2. **Crusade (noun)** a military expedition undertaken for a sacred cause
3. World War II was fought between the Allies (which consisted of America, the U.K., Canada, and others) and the Axis (which consisted of Germany, Italy, and Japan).
4. A "front" in war is a place where two armies meet in open battle; other fronts in World War II included the South Pacific where Allied forces fought against the Japanese.
5. The Nazi party, led by Adolph Hitler, ruled over Germany as a fascist (nationalist to the point of violence), invasive, genocidal country. During World War II, over six million Jews, Romani

Your task will not be an easy one. Your enemy is well trained, well equipped and battle-hardened. He will fight savagely.

But this is the year 1944. Much has happened since the Nazi triumphs of 1940-41.⁷ The United Nations⁸ have inflicted upon the Germans great defeats, in open battle, man-to-man. Our air offensive has seriously reduced their strength in the air and their capacity to wage war on the ground. Our Home Fronts⁹ have given us an overwhelming superiority in weapons and munitions of war, and placed at our disposal great reserves of trained fighting men. The tide has turned. The free men of the world are marching together to victory.

[5] I have full confidence in your courage, devotion to duty, and skill in battle. We will accept nothing less than full victory.

Good Luck! And let us all beseech¹⁰ the blessing of Almighty God upon this great and noble¹¹ undertaking.

General Eisenhower's Order of the Day by General Dwight D. Eisenhower is in the public domain.

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Related media



people, homosexuals, disabled people, political enemies, and people of color were systematically murdered.

6. **Tyranny** (*noun*) an oppressive, unjust government
7. In 1940 and 1941, Germany invaded France and attacked Britain with bombs.
8. This is a reference to the unity of the Allies, not the modern international United Nations organization. The modern U.N. was created after World War II ended in an effort to bring lasting peace to the world.
9. The Home Fronts consist of the many citizens at home in the Allied countries working to support the war.
10. **Beseech** (*verb*) to beg or ask in a serious manner
11. **Noble** (*adjective*) worthy

Text-Dependent Questions

Directions: For the following questions, choose the best answer or respond in complete sentences.

1. PART A: Which of the following best identifies the central idea of this text?
 - A. Americans' independence and freedom relies on the troops' performance.
 - B. Victory is uncertain, given the Nazi's strength in Europe.
 - C. The Allies are positioned to succeed so long as men fight bravely.
 - D. Only God can ensure an Allied victory over the Germans.

2. PART B: Which phrase from the text best supports the answer to Part A?
 - A. "The hopes and prayers of liberty-loving people everywhere march with you." (Paragraph 2)
 - B. "Much has happened since the Nazi triumphs of 1940-41." (Paragraph 4)
 - C. "We will accept nothing less than full victory." (Paragraph 5)
 - D. "And let us all beseech the blessing of Almighty God upon this great and noble undertaking." (Paragraph 6)

3. How does paragraph 3 affect the development of Eisenhower's central ideas?
 - A. It admits that the fight ahead will be difficult.
 - B. It convinces the troops that the enemy will be easily defeated.
 - C. It claims that bravery is stronger in the face of savagery.
 - D. It laments that many of those reading will die in battle.

4. Which statement best describes the relationship between the war during 1941 and 1944?
 - A. In both years, the Germans are winning the war, making 1944 an urgent moment to surprise them.
 - B. In 1941 the Germans were winning but in 1944 the Allies had dealt them many losses.
 - C. In 1941 and 1944, the Allies were winning but not quite able to destroy the German army.
 - D. In 1941, the Germans were better trained than the Allies are in 1944.

5. How does Eisenhower use specific word choice to characterize the Allies and their enemies in this call to arms?

Discussion Questions

Directions: Brainstorm your answers to the following questions in the space provided. Be prepared to share your original ideas in a class discussion.

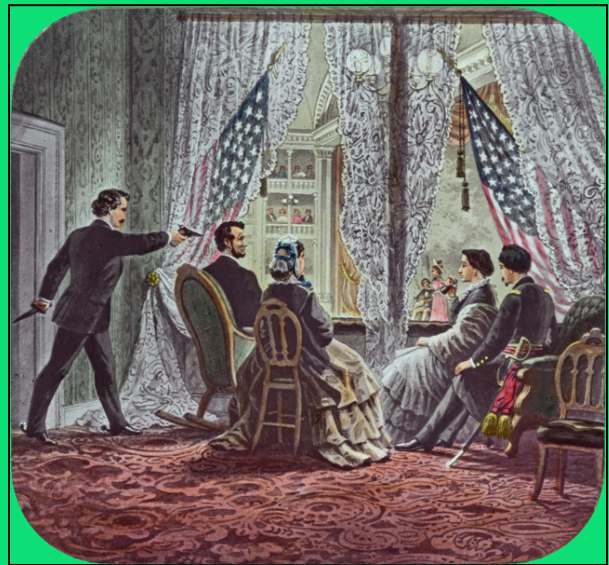
1. Do you believe that General Eisenhower's Order of the Day inspires bravery and courage? Why or why not?
2. Why is honor and bravery so important for troops mounting for a battle?
3. The Invasion of Normandy cost over 12,000 Allied lives. How would you feel re-reading this note as a soldier who survived the invasion, knowing that many of your fellow soldiers and friends had died?

Last Diary Entry of John Wilkes Booth

By John Wilkes Booth 1865

John Wilkes Booth was a famous actor, as well as a Confederate sympathizer during the Civil War. Booth tried on several occasions to kidnap and assassinate President Abraham Lincoln in order to aid the South against the Union. He and his co-conspirators failed to kidnap Lincoln on March 20, 1865 in Richmond Virginia. Booth then hatched another plan upon learning that Lincoln would attend the play "Our America's Cousin" at Ford's Theatre in Washington D.C. on April 14 (five days after the South surrendered). Booth snuck into President Lincoln's private theatre box at 10:15 p.m., shot the president once in the head, stabbed his companion, and jumped onto the stage shouting "Sic semper tyrannis" (thus always to tyrants), which the audience first thought was part of the show. Booth then fled D.C., which he recounts in this diary entry. President Lincoln was taken to a house across the street before he died the following morning, April 15. Booth was tracked on April 26 to a tobacco farm in Virginia where he refused to surrender to Union soldiers. The barn he was hiding in was set on fire and Booth was shot and killed by a soldier before he could escape or surrender. As you read, note the language that Booth uses to describe himself in comparison to others, such as Lincoln.

[1] Until today nothing was ever thought of sacrificing to our country's wrongs. For six months we had worked to capture,¹ but our cause being almost lost, something decisive² and great must be done. But its failure was owing to others, who did not strike for their country with a heart.³ I struck boldly, and not as the papers say. I walked with a firm step through a thousand of his friends, was stopped, but pushed on. A colonel⁴ was at his side. I shouted Sic semper⁵ before I fired. In jumping broke my leg. I passed all his pickets,⁶ rode sixty miles that night with the bone of my leg tearing the flesh at every jump. I can never repent⁷ it, though we hated to kill. Our country owed all her troubles to him, and God simply made me the instrument of his punishment. The country is not what it was. This forced Union is not what I have loved. I care not what becomes of me. I have no desire to outlive my country. The night before the



"Lincoln Assassination slide, 1900" by Unattributed is in the public domain.

1. Booth and several co-conspirators worked for months to kidnap Lincoln and his successors.
2. **Decisive (adjective)** settling an issue; producing a conclusive result
3. Booth conspired with several others to assassinate Lincoln, Vice President Andrew Johnson, and Secretary of State William H. Seward in the same night. Seward was stabbed but survived, and Johnson's assassin failed to attack him at all.
4. A colonel is a military officer. President Lincoln attended the play with his wife, Mary, as well as the young army officer Henry Rathbone and his fiancé Clara Harris. Booth stabbed Rathbone.

deed I wrote a long article and left it for one of the editors of the National Intelligencer,⁸ in which I fully set forth our reasons for our proceedings. He or the govmt -⁹

After being hunted like a dog through swamps, woods, and last night being chased by gunboats till I was forced to return wet, cold, and starving, with every man's hand against me, I am here in despair. And why? For doing what Brutus¹⁰ was honored for. What made Tell¹¹ a hero? And yet I, for striking down a greater tyrant¹² than they ever knew, am looked upon as a common cutthroat.¹³ My action was purer than either of theirs. One hoped to be great himself. The other had not only his country's but his own wrongs to avenge. I hoped for no gain. I knew no private wrong. I struck for my country and that alone. A country that groaned beneath this tyranny, and prayed for this end, and yet now behold the cold hands they extend to me. God cannot pardon¹⁴ me if I have done wrong. Yet I cannot see my wrong, except in serving a degenerate¹⁵ people. The little, the very little, I left behind to clear my name, the Government will not allow to be printed. So ends all. For my country I have given up all that makes life sweet and holy, brought misery upon my family, and am sure there is no pardon in the Heaven for me, since man condemns¹⁶ me so. I have only heard of what has been done (except what I did myself), and it fills me with horror. God, try and forgive me, and bless my mother. Tonight I will once more try the river with the intent to cross. Though I have a greater desire and almost a mind to return to Washington, and in a measure clear my name - which I feel I can do. I do not repent the blow I struck. I may before my God, but not to man. I think I have done well. Though I am abandoned, with the curse of Cain¹⁷ upon me, when, if the world knew my heart, that one blow would have made me great, though I did desire no greatness. Tonight I try to escape these bloodhounds once more. Who, who can read his fate? God's will be done. I have too great a soul to die like a criminal. Oh, may He, may He spare me that, and let me die bravely. I bless the entire world. Have never hated or wronged anyone. This last was not a wrong, unless God deems it so, and it's with Him to damn or bless me. As for this brave boy with me, who often prays (yes, before and since) with a true and sincere heart - was it crime in him? If so, why can he pray the same?

I do not wish to shed a drop of blood, but 'I must fight the course.' 'Tis all that's left to me.

Related media



5. After he assassinated Lincoln and jumped out of the box to the stage, Booth shouted the Latin phrase "sic semper tyrannis," meaning "thus always to tyrants," a yet shorter version of "thus always I bring death to tyrants" (sic semper evello mortem tyrannis).
6. A picket is a party of soldiers performing a particular duty.
7. **Repent** (*verb*) to feel or express regret about a wrongdoing
8. The National Intelligencer newspaper was published in Washington, D.C. from 1800 to 1870. John Wilkes Booth wrote a letter explaining his position on Lincoln to the editors of the newspaper, which he entrusted to his sister who had it published in the Philadelphia Inquirer on April 19, 1865.
9. Here, Booth stops writing for the night. He writes the remainder of the entry the following morning.
10. Brutus was a Roman statesman who murdered Julius Caesar, his father-figure whom he and other Roman senators feared wanted to become dictator of the republic.
11. Tell was a mythic figure in Swiss history that assassinated a tyrant and helped lay the foundations for the Old Swiss Confederacy.
12. **Tyrant** (*noun*) a ruler who has complete power over a country and who is cruel or unfair
13. A cutthroat is a killer or murderer.
14. **Pardon** (*verb*) to forgive
15. **Degenerate** (*adjective*) showing evidence of decline; undesirable
16. **Condemn** (*verb*) to declare something as wrong or evil
17. Cain was the son of Adam and Eve who became the first murderer of the Bible when he slew his brother, Abel.

Text-Dependent Questions

Directions: For the following questions, choose the best answer or respond in complete sentences.

1. PART A: Which TWO of the following best identify the central ideas of this text?
 - A. Booth believes he will be remembered as a hero against tyranny like Brutus.
 - B. Booth sees Lincoln as a tyrant who must be eliminated for the good of all.
 - C. Booth assassinates Lincoln because he feels rejected by the Union, the South, and his family.
 - D. Booth does not want to assassinate Lincoln but must for the good of the Union.
 - E. Booth is willing to sacrifice his future because he does not want to live to see his country destroyed.
 - F. Booth is willing to sacrifice his life to avenge the deaths of his fellow Confederate soldiers.

2. PART B: Which TWO phrases from the text best support the answers to Part A?
 - A. "I care not what becomes of me. I have no desire to outlive my country." (Paragraph 1)
 - B. "I am here in despair. And why? For doing what Brutus was honored for." (Paragraph 2)
 - C. "And yet I, for striking down a greater tyrant than they ever knew, am looked upon as a common cutthroat." (Paragraph 2)
 - D. "For my country I have given up all that makes life sweet and holy, brought misery upon my family," (Paragraph 2)
 - E. "Though I have a greater desire and almost a mind to return to Washington, and in a measure clear my name - which I feel I can do." (Paragraph 2)
 - F. "I do not wish to shed a drop of blood, but 'I must fight the course.'" (Paragraph 3)

3. PART A: How does the relationship between Booth and God develop throughout the text?
 - A. First Booth has forsaken God, and then decides to act in spite of him.
 - B. First, Booth believes he has acted out of God's will, but begins to doubt whether he'll be forgiven for murder.
 - C. Booth knows that God will not forgive him for his sins and only becomes more convinced of this throughout the text.
 - D. Booth has found God after killing Lincoln and then wishes to reconcile with the Lord.

4. PART B: Which TWO phrases from the text best support the answer to Part A?
 - A. "Our country owed all her troubles to him, and God simply made me the instrument of his punishment." (Paragraph 1)
 - B. "God cannot pardon me if I have done wrong." (Paragraph 1)
 - C. "[I] am sure there is no pardon in the Heaven for me, since man condemns me so." (Paragraph 2)
 - D. "Tonight I try to escape these bloodhounds once more. Who, who can read his fate? God's will be done." (Paragraph 2)
 - E. "Oh, may He, may He spare me that, and let me die bravely." (Paragraph 2)
 - F. "This last was not a wrong, unless God deems it so, and it's with Him to damn or bless me." (Paragraph 2)

5. What effect does the repetition of the word "repent" – "I can never repent" (paragraph 1) and "I do not repent" (paragraph 2) – have on the development of Booth's argument?

Discussion Questions

Directions: *Brainstorm your answers to the following questions in the space provided. Be prepared to share your original ideas in a class discussion.*

1. Booth compares himself to some famous and controversial figures such as Brutus and Tell. Do you believe that Booth thought of himself as a hero? Do you believe he may have had delusions of grandeur – false visions of himself as an important person in history?
2. Do you see Booth's writing change as he comes closer to death? Why do you think he chose to write this diary entry – what do you think he wanted to portray to the people reading his diary, especially after death?
3. Do you believe that Booth was acting for himself or for his country? Cite evidence from the text, your experience, and other literature, art, and history in your answer.
4. Booth thinks that his actions were justified and for the good of the country. Do you believe that bad actions can have positive consequences? Cite evidence from the text, your personal experience, and other literature, art, and history in your answer.
5. As a Confederate sympathizer, did Booth have any right to seek revenge against Union leaders? What were his reasons to oppose or feel hatred towards Lincoln?
6. Booth mentions God frequently throughout his diary entry, as well as the fact that he did not want to commit murder. In this context, why do you believe people do bad things?

Letters from Wilbur Wright

By Wilbur Wright
1899 to 1903

Related media



The Wright Brothers, Orville (1871-1948) and Wilbur (1867-1912), were two American brothers, inventors, and aviation pioneers who are credited with inventing and building the world's first successful airplane. They made the first successful sustained flight on December 17, 1903. The brothers were self-taught engineers who experimented for years in the midst of skepticism and criticism from the engineering community. As you read, take notes on Wilbur Wright's ideas on what will be needed for successful human flight.

Wilbur Wright to the Smithsonian Institution (May 30, 1899):

[1] Dear Sirs:

I have been interested in the problem of mechanical and human flights ever since as a boy I constructed a number of bats of various sizes after the story of Cayley's and Penaud's machines. My observations since have only convinced me more firmly that human flight is possible and practicable. It is only a question of knowledge and skill just as in all acrobatic feats.

Birds are the most perfectly trained gymnasts in the world and are specially well fitted for their work, and it may be that man will never equal them, but no one who has watched a bird chasing an insect or another bird can doubt the feats are performed which require three or four times the effort required in ordinary flight. I believe that simply flight at least is possible to man that that the experiments and investigations of a large number of independent workers will result in the accumulation of information and knowledge and skill which will finally lead to accomplished flight.



"Wright 1901 Glider Landing" by Unknown is in the public domain.

Wilbur Wright to His Father (September 3, 1900):

I have my machine nearly finished. It is not to have a motor and is not expected to fly any true sense of the word. My idea is merely to experiment and practice with a view to solving the problem of equilibrium. I have plans which I hope to find much in advance of the methods tried by previous experimenters. When once a machine is under proper control under all conditions, the motor problem will be quickly solved. A failure of motor will then simply mean a slow descent and safe landing instead of a disastrous fall.

In my experiments I do not expect to rise many feet from the ground, and in case I am upset there is nothing but soft sand to strike on. I do not intend to take dangerous chances, both because I have no wish to get hurt and because a fall would stop my experimenting, which I would not like at all. The man who wishes to keep at the problem long enough to really learn anything positively cannot take dangerous risks. Carelessness and overconfidence are usually more dangerous than deliberately accepted risks. I am constructing my machine to sustain about five times my weight and am testing every piece. I think there is no possible chance of its breaking while in the air. If it is broken it will be by awkward landing.

Wilbur Wright to His Father (October 4, 1903):

- [5] *We have increased our time and length of flight [with glider] to 43 seconds, which is 1 and two thirds over last year's record and about three times the best of any one else. We will soon have it up to more than a minute as we are now able to remain practically stationary when a suitable wind blows up a good slope. This is something former experimenters were entirely unable to accomplish.*

Wilbur Wright to His Family (December 14, 1903):

[Discussing his plan with an engine]

We gave machine first trial today with only partial success. The wind was only about 5 miles an hour, so we anticipated difficulty in getting speed enough on our short track (60 ft.) to lift. We took to the hill and after tossing for first whack, which I won, got ready for the start. The wind was a little to one side and the track was not exactly straight down hill, which caused the start to be more difficult than it would otherwise have been. However, the real trouble was an error in judgment in turning up too suddenly after leaving the track, and as the machine had barely enough speed enough for support already, this slowed it down so much that before I could correct the error, the machine began to come down, though turned up at a big angle.

Toward the end it began to speed up again, but I was too late, and it struck the ground while moving a little to one side, due to wind and a rather bad start. A few sticks in the front rudder were broken which will take a day or two to repair probably. It was a nice easy landing for the operator. The machinery all works in entirely satisfactory manner and seems reliable. The power is ample, and but for a trifling error due to lack of experience with the machine and this method of starting, the machine would undoubtedly have flown beautifully.

There is now no question of final success. The strength of the machine is all right, the trouble in the front rudder being easily remedied. We anticipate no further trouble in landings. Will probably have made another trial before you receive this unless weather is unfavorable.

- [10] Note: December 17, 1903, the Wright Brothers flew their machine for 59 seconds, covering 852 feet. This was considered the first successful sustained airplane flight in history. The brothers continued to improve their airplane designs and eventually incorporated the Wright Company in 1909.

Text-Dependent Questions

Directions: For the following questions, choose the best answer or respond in complete sentences.

1. Which of the following statements best summarizes a conclusion about Wilbur Wright based on his 1899 letter to the Smithsonian?
 - A. Wilbur Wright was obsessed with birds as a young boy and this preoccupation hindered his work building an airplane.
 - B. Wilbur Wright looked to nature for inspiration in his flight engineering and had done so since he was a child.
 - C. Wilbur Wright clearly did not believe he would be the one to achieve flight but believed someone more educated would.
 - D. Wilbur Wright was desperate for help and to convince others his and his brother's venture was worthy.

2. PART A: According to Wilbur Wright, how will mankind succeed in learning how to fly?
 - A. Through the genius of one man
 - B. Through a great deal of risk for even more reward
 - C. Through luck and a lot of engine power
 - D. Through careful observation, investigations, and manpower

3. PART B: Which of the following quotes best supports the answer to Part A?
 - A. "My observations since have only convinced me more firmly that human flight is possible and practicable." (Paragraph 2)
 - B. "...the experiments and investigations of a large number of independent workers will result in the accumulation of information and knowledge and skill which will finally lead to accomplished flight." (Paragraph 2)
 - C. "The man who wishes to keep at the problem long enough to really learn anything positively cannot take dangerous risks." (Paragraph 4)
 - D. "We have increased our time and length of flight [with glider] to 43 seconds.... This is something former experimenters were entirely unable to accomplish." (Paragraph 5)

4. Which of the following statements best describes how the Wright Brothers dealt with setbacks?
 - A. They accepted their setbacks, made appropriate changes, and continued on.
 - B. They radically changed their design plans and began again.
 - C. They refused to accept defeat and took perhaps more risk than necessary.
 - D. They reached out to their family and to fellow engineers for support

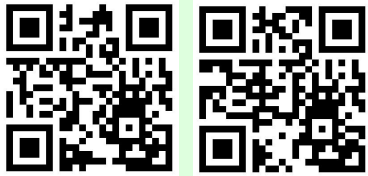
5. How does the following quote contribute to the text's central ideas? "Carelessness and overconfidence are usually more dangerous than deliberately accepted risks." (Paragraph 4)

Discussion Questions

Directions: *Brainstorm your answers to the following questions in the space provided. Be prepared to share your original ideas in a class discussion.*

1. Do you think that most people are like the Wright Brothers? Explain your answer.
2. Think of a modern day analogy to the Wright Brothers—who is an innovator who has succeeded in spite of major setbacks, failures, and skepticism?
3. In the context of this text, why do people succeed? What can you learn about success from these letters? Cite evidence from this text, your own experience, and other literature, art, or history in your answer.

Related media



Manifest Destiny, I Do Believe

By BirdBrain History
2016

In this letter, Cordelia writes to her friend about her plans to become a pioneer, a common ambition during the "Manifest Destiny" era of western settlement in the 19th century. As you read, note how Cordelia mentions God and God's influence on her plans and actions.

[1] Dear Emily,

This is farewell, dear friend. My family and I set out tomorrow. Out past the horizon to see what waits for us in the west. Will there be gold? Will there be trouble? Will there be some place we can call home? Truly, I am terrified. But I know it is the will of President Polk¹ and of God for us to spread as far as we can. So, we will follow that setting sun to our destiny.



"Manifest Destiny" by BirdBrain History is used with permission.

We are going into territory that no one has gone before. I don't just mean the well you and I explored when we were young, dear Emily. No white people have set foot on the path we're about to take. A pioneer, after all, is someone who explores a country for the very first time. Yes, those Indians were here first, but we do not think of them as Christians. Not yet, anyway.

Some people try and kill every Indian they see. But you know me. I am a woman of God. They have blood flowing through their veins just like any other person. That blood can be blessed. I'm a missionary, and it is my goal to bring anyone I can into the light of Christianity. I've seen the Indians with their wives and their children. They seem like they can be good people. They are good hunters, for sure, better than my husband even, but don't tell him I said. I know in my heart that these Indians deserve God's forgiveness, like the rest of us.

[5] What makes me so daring to go out into the dark, you ask? I know that I will have God's help. Manifest Destiny says that God has chosen us to take over this country, all the way to the coast. This means we are meant to overcome everything that gets in our way, be that wars or bad terrain² or Indians. Nothing will stand in the way of the pioneers³ settling this great new land of

1. James K. Polk was the 11th president of the United States from 1845 to 1849.
2. **Terrain** (*noun*) land of a particular kind (such as mountains or woods)

ours. At least, I hope not.

It's dark out there. There are no maps showing us where to go. Dangers could wait around every corner. But as the pioneers bravely march into these new mysterious places, we carry with us a light. We carry the light of civilization, man's most advanced state of society. The wild land will become fields of crops. The Indians will become Christian. The darkness will become light ... at least in our eyes.

Please keep me in your prayers as my husband, Sarah, and I set out into the darkness. I have faith in Manifest Destiny, that the pioneers were meant to bring the light of civilization to this land. As missionaries, my husband and I will bring the word of God to the Indians, if they will have us. Really, Emily, I would have no confidence in myself were it not for God's guiding hand. I know that this is his goal to bring the pioneers to the far sea. But to tell you the truth, I am afraid.

I'll write you often and let you know if God's work is unfolding.

Love,

[10] Cordelia

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3. **Pioneer** (*noun*) someone who is one of the first people to do something, such as move to and live in a new area

Text-Dependent Questions

Directions: For the following questions, choose the best answer or respond in complete sentences.

1. PART A: Which of the following statements best identifies the central theme of the text?
 - A. God first created the land for Indians but then decided to give Americans control because he preferred their civilization.
 - B. God has given Americans the will to spread Christian American civilization from coast to coast.
 - C. It is guaranteed that missionaries will bring Christianity to American Indians, and Cordelia does not want to miss the opportunity to help.
 - D. Pioneers are more likely to succeed if they are also missionaries because then God has blessed them.

2. PART B: Which TWO phrases from the text best support the answer to Part A?
 - A. "I know it is the will of President Polk and of God for us to spread as far as we can." (Paragraph 2)
 - B. "Yes, those Indians were here first, but we do not think of them as Christians." (Paragraph 3)
 - C. "I know in my heart that these Indians deserve God's forgiveness, like the rest of us." (Paragraph 4)
 - D. "Manifest Destiny says that God has chosen us to take over this country, all the way to the coast." (Paragraph 5)
 - E. "The wild land will become fields of crops. The Indians will become Christian. The darkness will become light ..." (Paragraph 6)
 - F. "I would have no confidence in myself were it not for God's guiding hand." (Paragraph 7)

3. What statement best explains how Cordelia responds to the west?
 - A. She is unafraid of the west and ready to explore.
 - B. She is frightened of the west but certain it contains her destiny.
 - C. She is unconvinced that she will succeed in the west.
 - D. She is disgusted by the darkness of the west as it is.

4. How does the speaker's point of view most influence how the events are described in the letter?
- A. Cordelia's plans seem easy and exaggerated.
 - B. Cordelia's plans seem frightening and ill-fated.
 - C. Cordelia's plans seem brave and necessary.
 - D. Cordelia's plans seem silly and unnecessary.
5. How does the author suggest that Manifest Destiny is not as noble as Cordelia makes it out to be? Provide evidence from the text.

Discussion Questions

Directions: Brainstorm your answers to the following questions in the space provided. Be prepared to share your original ideas in a class discussion.

1. What does Cordelia mean when she says that her group carries "the light of civilization"?
2. What is so appealing about Manifest Destiny? Do you think that the risks and negative outcomes for settlers and American Indians were worth the rewards for America the country?
3. In your opinion, what are the most appealing parts of traveling into territory that, for your culture, is uncharted or unexplored?
4. This text discussed some of the motivations behind "Manifest Destiny." In the context of this story, how has America changed over time? Include evidence from this text, your own experience, and other art, literature, or history in your answer. Cite evidence from this text, your own experience, and other literature, art, or history in your answer.
5. Cordelia explains her motivations for heading west in "Manifest Destiny, I Do Believe." In the context of the text, what is good and how do we know? Use evidence from this text, your own experience, and other art or literature to answer this question.

Reports from the Ruins of the San Francisco Earthquake of 1906

Related media



Earthquake of 1906

By Various Authors
1906

At 5:15 a.m. on April 18, 1906, an earthquake with a magnitude of 7.8 on the moment magnitude scale struck San Francisco, California. The earthquake ruptured many main water and gas lines; as a result, leaking gas caused a rapid spread of fires throughout the city and there were limited water sources to fight them. Firefighters from multiple cities used dynamite to blow up strategic buildings to help stop the fires from spreading. In the end, over 3,000 people died and 80% of the city was destroyed, marking one of the deadliest natural disasters in United States history. As you read, note the language and tone used to describe the event in the two different newspaper articles.

THOUSANDS DEAD AT SAN FRANCISCO: MILLIONS GONE IN FIRES STILL RAGING

The Washington Times

April 18, 1906

City Was Tossed Like a Feather as Shock Came

Great Buildings Rose into the Air, Then Collapsed.



"San Francisco Earthquake 1906" by Unknown is in the public domain.

Earth Seemed to Sink

Walls Rocked and Wobbled Like Frail Things in a Storm.

- [1] SAN FRANCISCO, Cal., April 18. — Amid a heap of bricks and mortar which heap up about the telegrapher,¹ this story of the awful calamity² that has befallen San Francisco; a calamity that in

1. A telegraph was a form of communication at a distance through coded signals; journalists used to use telegraphs to report stories from far away.

seriousness and magnitude makes the recent eruption of Vesuvius³ appear trivial, is being sent.

It was exactly at 5:15 o'clock this morning that the city was tossed about like a feather by the wind. The earth seemed to sink for a moment and then the buildings to rise in the air like a balloon. Then there was a short of sinking, the like of which no mortal ever experienced a second time. Then the buildings of the town rocked and wobbled like a frail thing in the storm.

No mortal can ever experience the peculiar sensation that accompanied this upheaval twice, for not city can twice withstand such a shock. Three minutes after the awful earthquake the town was a mass of torn streets and the city filled with automobiles and hacks.⁴ Immediately a force of volunteer rescuers appeared and the work of gathering the dead and injured began without delay.

The shock of the trembling earth was followed by a multitude of fires, which swept the water front and the southern portion of the city, destroying within an hour over \$20,000,000 worth of tenements⁵ and business property.

- [5] The catastrophe came like a thunderbolt out of the clear sky. Tuesday was an ideal Western day, made up of bracing breezes and a soothing sunset. The night came on like a quiet sleep. Hundreds of hacks and automobiles wheeled and whirled to the opera to hear Fremstadt and Caruso in "Carmen," as the day died away and the night stole on.

The Grand Opera House was thronged with music loving people. Then came the end of the show and the after supper. Later diners had scarcely reached their homes when the entire peninsula⁶ was rocked like a reed in the wind.

At first the bystanders thought the trembling of the earth was an ordinary quiver. Then the cornices of the main buildings began to drop into Market street. The rattling of the brick and the shrieks of the wounded mingled in a sound of horror.

The Postal Telegraph Building is still rocking like ocean waves, in consequence of a second shock, a little more than three hours after the first shock.

Word has just been received of the death of Fire Chief Sullivan and Policeman Fenner. They died like heroes fighting the fire.

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2. **Calamity** (*noun*) a disastrous event marked by great loss and suffering
 3. Mount Vesuvius, near Naples, Italy, erupted on April 5, 1906, killing over 100 people.
 4. A hack was a common horse-drawn wagon.
 5. A tenement is a house used as a dwelling or apartment.
 6. A peninsula is a portion of land surrounded by water on most sides and connected to a mainland. San Francisco is located on a peninsula on the west coast of California.

[10] Already the ghouls⁷ are in action, and in consequence a regiment⁸ of soldiers has been detailed from the Presidio to watch the business district. Martial law⁹ will, in all probability, prevail¹⁰ as a result of the advent of the ghouls.¹¹

The public library, donated to the city by former Mayor James D. Phelan, is a mass of disordered bricks, and the picturesque tower of the new city hall is a mere skeleton of rusted steel.

Emergency Hospitals Opened.

At the morgue twenty-five bodies have been received, and the authorities have pressed the Mechanics pavilion and the basement of the Hall of Justice into service as an emergency hospital.

The magnificent office of the Postal Telegraph Company, on Market street, opposite Second, is a mass of broken telegraph instruments and heaps of brick and plaster. Hysterical women and frenzied men are rushing about offering to do anything in their power to get the news of San Francisco's fate to the world. Word has just been received of the burning of the Winchester House, on Third street, between Mission and Market, and of the magnificent Aronson building, on the corner of Mission and Third streets.

The sight of the thousands of poor who have been rendered¹² homeless by the combined efforts of the tossing earth and flames is pathetic in the extreme. Women are seen by the hundreds heaped up on piles of blankets appealing to the firemen to save the remaining sticks of their furniture. Mothers with babes in their arms rush about frantically screaming for their husbands. The shrieking of these women and the crackling of the flames produce a sound that is simply appalling.

[15] Word has just come in that Police Sergeant Bunner was crushed in the collapse of a fire house.

Numerous fires are reported from the Potrero district. This is the section of the city that surrounds the Union Iron Works, where the great battleship Oregon was built. Throughout the entire southern portion of the city buildings are momentarily reported to have collapsed. This section of the city is made up of small tenements.

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7. thieves and looters
 8. a military unit
 9. Martial law is when the military administers the law for an area, usually in times of crisis.
 10. **Prevail** (*verb*) to be or become effective or influential
 11. Martial law was, in fact, declared after this story was printed.
 12. **Render** (*verb*) to cause to be or become

The Grand Opera House, where Metropolitan Opera company was playing, is now in flames, and the adjoining buildings, which are occupied by manufacturing, are rapidly giving way to the flames.

SWIRL OF FIRE ENDS AND HOPE RUNS HIGH

The Call

April 22, 1906

People's Courage Grows Strong as the Flames Subside

The fire has been stopped. Relief work is progressing favorably. The financial outlook is bright. Work of clearing the city has begun. The people are courageous and cheerful. Those who have not reached homes of relatives or friends will be succored¹³ well. The situation is one of hope.

GREAT FIRE STOPPED AT CITY FRONT

Conflagration¹⁴ That Has Raged Three Days Is at Last at an End.

Saving of Wharves and Ferry Building Accomplished by Fire Boats.

Fire Department Loses Houses and Apparatus,¹⁵ and Many of Its Hose Lines.

Shortly after dawn yesterday morning the conflagration that brought suffering and ruin to San Francisco reached its limits and concluded its work of destruction. After raging for a period of three days, fought desperately, in face of its tremendous advantage, it subsided when it had reduced hundreds of blocks of valuable property to ashes and rendered over 250,000 people homeless

[20] Dynamite accomplished the work of staying of the flames on Van Ness avenue and in the Mission District.¹⁶ The water front checked the hurricane of fire on the north and east, while Channel street served to good advantage on the south. The area of ashes and desolation runs south of Market street from the water front along Channel as far west as Twenty-second, between Bryant and Dolores streets. On the north of Market it extends beyond Van Ness

13. helped

14. **Conflagration** (*noun*) an extensive fire which destroys a great deal of land or property

15. **Apparatus** (*noun*) a set of materials or equipment designed for a particular use

16. Firefighters used dynamite to destroy strategic buildings before they could catch on fire.

avenue as far as Laguna street in Hayes Valley, but it continues along the line of Van Ness avenue north of Golden Gate avenue, except for a distance of five blocks, where it reached Franklin street. It is bounded on the north and east by the waters of the bay.¹⁷

In this vast territory but few buildings remain. Several surmount¹⁸ the summits of Russian and Telegraph hills and scattered about in the heart of the ruins are a few more. The appraisers' building stands on Washington street, though fire was all around it, and a short distance up the building known as the Washington block withstood the fire under the same conditions. On lower Howard street a large structure was untouched and along the water front several warehouses and factories resisted the fury of the destroyer.

LAST STAND OF FIREMEN.

The last stand taken by the firemen was on the water front and ferry building, which latter seemed doomed late Friday night. Fire and tug boats were utilized in keeping down the blaze which swept around Telegraph Hill from the wharves¹⁹ that extend from Lombard street. The numerous streams of salt water thrown upon the blazing structures subdued the fire and saved the sheds. Then the great blaze had exhausted itself and the fire fighters withdrew. The fire had been stopped at Van Ness avenue late Friday night.

Just east of Telegraph Hill a cluster of buildings, including the Asti Colony's wine warehouse, the plant of the American Canning Company²⁰ and the Merchants' Ice and Cold Storage Company, escaped destruction. The branch freight office of the Southern Pacific Company was also spared and a number of freight cars on the Belt Railroad were moved from time to time and saved. The contents of these cars were taken by the Government and hauled to the food headquarters. About 100 cars were burned on sidetracks and adjacent freight landings at the foot of Broadway.

REMOVING THE DEBRIS.

Work of clearing away the debris from the principal thoroughfares²¹ used for transportation

17. San Francisco's city center was destroyed by the fires, which did reach the city's historic water front but did not burn down the fishing wharves, piers, and docks.
18. **Surmount** (*verb*) to stand or lie at the top of (something)
19. A wharf is a structure built at an angle to the shore so that ships can dock alongside it to load or unload passengers and cargo.
20. A canning company cans fish to be shipped around the world; they were very common sources of economic prosperity and employment in California's coastal cities.
21. main roads

between the ferry and the inhabited districts was begun yesterday. The military authorities pressed men into service and heaps of brick and other wreckage were moved from the center of the streets. Trolley and other wires were taken down by the Board of Electricity, and the work of tearing down dangerous walls will begin very soon. The Government will undertake the task of removing the bulk of the wreckage. This will occupy a great deal of time and will give employment to a large number of men. The street repairs will be attended to by the Board of Public Works and the street railway companies.

- [25] Many of the thoroughfares are in extremely bad condition, due to the earthquake, and in the burned district the street railways will all have to be rebuilt. Tracks are warped and twisted and cable slots closed. The rolling stock of a number of lines, including the Powell, Jackson, Sacramento, California, O'Farrell, Sutter and Union street lines, together with their power houses, were completely destroyed.

DEPARTMENT CRIPPLED.

After the fight to save the ferry and the wharves had been won by the fire fighters Chief Shaughnessy found the department in a dilapidated²² condition. Twelve engine houses had been destroyed and the Central fire alarm station was out [of] existence. There were several engines and hose wagons lost, along the two sections of the seawall when the fire swept from North Beach. The flames approached so rapidly that the firemen were obliged to abandon the machines and run for their lives to places of safety. A large number of horses were killed and some of the engines are badly scorched and put out of commission. As soon as the telephone service is restored in the city it will be utilized for the sending in of alarms until the Board of Electricity can secure a new Central station.

The department is also sadly in need of hope. Thousands of feet [of hose lines] were destroyed during the conflagration and but little is available for use. Yesterday Chief Shaughnessy telegraphed to Los Angeles, Sacramento, and Oakland for chemicals with which to charge the tanks of the chemical engines. Small fires still blaze among the ruins and the department, in the absence of a water supply, must rely on its chemical engines to extinguish them.

The population of the last district to be destroyed spread in many directions. Most of the poorer classes are destitute²³ and helpless and but little of their personal effects were saved. Fishermen's wharf was not damaged and Meiggs wharf survived. Both of these are crowded with humanity. Many people have taken refuge along the water front, but the bulk of people from this district is quartered on vacant lots and at Fort Mason.

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22. **Dilapidated** (*adjective*) decayed, destroyed, or fallen into ruin
 23. **Destitute** (*adjective*) lacking in possessions and resources

PLACE OF REFUGE.

There are two public squares in the district — Washington and Portsmouth — the latter opposite the Hall of Justice. It is in charge of Detective Sergeant Charles Taylor and contains many of the Police Department records.

[30] With the assistance of many brave policemen and citizens, who have remained with him since Wednesday afternoon, Taylor has established a model place of refuge, buried the dead, while fire raged around, and fed thousands who were victims of the disaster.

The Chinese and Japanese population, for the most part, have decamped.²⁴ The few that loiter²⁵ in the vicinity of their homes are fed in the square, but the majority stampeded to Oakland and huddled into the heathen²⁶ quarter of that city. They are cared for by their fellow-countrymen and by the various relief committees.

A. police officer, a sailor and John C. Ennis of Company. E, First Artillery, prevented the fire from crossing Van Ness avenue at California street at the risk of their lives. They extinguished a small blaze on the corner of the building and would have saved the structure had not the fire come from the south.

"Reports from the Ruins of the San Francisco Earthquake of 1906" by Various Authors (1906) is in the public domain.

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- 24. departed suddenly
- 25. **Loiter** (*verb*) to remain in an area for no obvious reason
- 26. strange; uncivilized

Text-Dependent Questions

Directions: For the following questions, choose the best answer or respond in complete sentences.

1. Which statement best describes how The Washington Times introduces the earthquake in the first article?
 - A. The author focuses on the noise of the calamity and how it gripped the people.
 - B. The author compares the entire city to small, easily movable objects to describe how the earthquake physically destroyed buildings.
 - C. The author explains how the earthquake destroyed a peaceful and idyllic city scene through vivid imagery that is very relatable to the reader.
 - D. The author focuses on the appearance of the city following the earthquake to help readers understand how the earth moved during the quake.

2. PART A: Which of the following best identifies the central idea of the first article?
 - A. San Francisco faces unimaginable destruction that is still ongoing as people flee spreading fires.
 - B. The city's destruction is magnified by the peaceful scene the night before the earthquake struck.
 - C. Thousands of people have been reported dead due to collapsing buildings.
 - D. Fires broke out throughout the city because the earthquake caused gas leaks.

3. PART B: Which phrase from the text best support the answers to Part A?
 - A. "The catastrophe came like a thunderbolt out of the clear sky. Tuesday was an ideal Western day, made up of bracing breezes and a soothing sunset." (Paragraph 5)
 - B. "At the morgue twenty-five bodies have been received, and the authorities have pressed the Mechanics pavilion and the basement of the Hall of Justice into service as an emergency hospital." (Paragraph 12)
 - C. "The sight of the thousands of poor who have been rendered homeless by the combined efforts of the tossing earth and flames is pathetic in the extreme." (Paragraph 14)
 - D. "The Grand Opera House, where Metropolitan Opera company was playing, is now in flames, and the adjoining buildings, which are occupied by manufacturing, are rapidly giving way to the flames." (Paragraph 17)

4. PART A: Which of the following best identifies the central idea of the second article?
- A. It will take years to rebuild the city because the fire destroyed the city center.
 - B. The disaster allowed first responders and civilians to become celebrated heroes as they save the city from complete destruction.
 - C. The city's top priority is rebuilding telegraph, railway and trolley lines to reconnect San Francisco with the rest of the world.
 - D. There is hope because plans are already underway to clear debris, rebuild the city, and take care of its citizens.
5. PART B: Which phrase from the text best supports the answer to Part A?
- A. "After raging for a period of three days, fought desperately, in face of its tremendous advantage, it subsided when it had reduced hundreds of blocks of valuable property to ashes and rendered over 250,000 people homeless." (Paragraph 19)
 - B. "The Government will undertake the task of removing the bulk of the wreckage. This will occupy a great deal of time and will give employment to a large number of men." (Paragraph 24)
 - C. "As soon as the telephone service is restored in the city it will be utilized for the sending in of alarms until the Board of Electricity can secure a new Central station." (Paragraph 26)
 - D. "With the assistance of many brave policemen and citizens, who have remained with him since Wednesday afternoon, Taylor has established a model place of refuge, buried the dead, while fire raged around, and fed thousands who were victims of the disaster." (Paragraph 30)
6. What is the effect of the reporters' tones, as highlighted in the sub-headlines in both articles? Cite evidence from the text in your answer.

Discussion Questions

Directions: Brainstorm your answers to the following questions in the space provided. Be prepared to share your original ideas in a class discussion.

1. In the context of this article, who is in control: man or nature? Cite evidence from the text, your personal experience, and other art, literature, or history in your answer.
2. Both newspaper articles discuss the men and women who volunteered to quell the fires following the San Franciscan earthquake. How were their actions influenced by fear? What else may have influenced them?
3. Over 3,000 people died in the Great San Francisco Earthquake of 1906. In the context of this article, how do people face death?
4. Both newspaper articles use many sub-headlines to grab readers' attention. Do you believe that the headlines support or undermine the articles? What do they add to the process of news-telling?

Related media



The Battle of Gettysburg was a decisive battle between the Union and Confederate armies that took place in 1863, in the middle of the American Civil War (1861-1865). As you read, identify what effect the Battle of Gettysburg had on both the Union and the Confederacy.

- [1] In June of 1863, Confederate Army Commander of the Army of Northern Virginia Robert E. Lee had a vision to bring the Civil War out of the South and West and into the North. His troops had yet to successfully do so, though they had tried once before. He hoped that a major shift in the fighting locations would help the South win the war.

The previous September, Lee had attempted to invade Union territory in Maryland, resulting in a heavy blow to the Confederacy at the Battle of Antietam, the bloodiest day of the war yet. Just after Antietam, feeling victorious despite heavy Union losses, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, which would abolish slavery in the South and free all African-Americans from bondage¹ should the North regain control of the southern states. And after the Union's success at Antietam, rumors ceased² that France and England were thinking of recognizing the Confederacy.³

Now however, Lee proposed to take the offensive once again, this time invading Pennsylvania and defeating the Union Army in its own territory. This second invasion of the North in the summer of 1863 would come to be known as the Gettysburg Campaign.



["Gettysburg Flags"](#) by Beau Considine is licensed under CC BY-NC-SA 2.0.

1. slavery or servitude
2. **Cease (verb)** to end or stop
3. If France or England recognized the Confederate States of America as a legitimate country, it would greatly increase their claim to independence. Ironically, when the war broke out, the French people strongly supported the Confederates at the beginning of the war despite the fact that the French had already abolished slavery in 1794. The French and British governments never officially recognized the Confederacy though.

Such a victory in Pennsylvania would relieve Virginia of the burden of war, strengthen the hand of “Peace Democrats” in the North who wanted an immediate end to the war, and undermine President Abraham Lincoln's chances for reelection. It would reopen the possibility for European support that was closed at Antietam. And perhaps, it would even lead to peace.

- [5] The result of Lee’s vision was the largest battle ever fought on the North American continent. This was the Battle of Gettysburg, where more than 170,000 troops fought and over 40,000 were killed or injured.

Lee began his quest in mid-June, leading 75,000 soldiers out of Virginia into south-central Pennsylvania. Forty miles to the south of Lee, the new commander of the Union Army of the Potomac, General George Meade, headed north with his 95,000 soldiers. When Lee learned of the approach of this concentrated⁴ force, he sent messengers to his generals with orders to reunite just west of Gettysburg, a town not far from the Virginia-Pennsylvania border, to do battle.

As sections of the Confederate Army moved to join together, Confederate States Army General A.P. Hill heard a rumor that there was a large supply of shoes in the town of Gettysburg. Eager for extra supplies, on July 1, 1863, he sent one of his divisions⁵ to get them. While there, Hill’s division was surprised to see Union troops under the command of Brigadier General John Buford arriving south of town. When Hill received word, he went against Lee’s directions — to avoid any engagement with the enemy until the entire Confederate force was concentrated — and set off for Gettysburg.

As Hill approached Gettysburg from the west, he met with Buford’s troops. Messengers from both sides were sent out for reinforcements. By early afternoon, 40,000 troops were on the battlefield, aligned in a semicircle north and west of the town. The Confederates drove the outnumbered Union troops towards Cemetery Hill, just south of town, where Union artillery⁶ located on the hill halted the retreat.

At noon on July 2, the second day of the battle, reinforcements continued to arrive on both sides. The Union stationed a large number of troops in the center of its fishhook shaped formation, so that they could reinforce any of the front lines.⁷ Lee ordered his divisions to attack, hoping to crumble both sides of the Union line and win the battle. The Big Round Top and Little Round Top were two nearby hills that had been left unprotected. If the Confederates could take positions on top of these hills, they could surround the Union forces.

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4. tightly packed
 5. A division is a large military unit of 10,000 to 20,000 soldiers.
 6. Artillery consists of shooting weapons such as guns and cannon. In this instance, there was a large supply of cannons at Cemetery Hill.
 7. A front line is a place where direct battle takes place.

[10] Union troops under Colonel Joshua Chamberlain arrived just in time to meet Confederate troops charging up the hill to Little Round Top.⁸ In some of the most ferocious⁹ fighting of the battle, Chamberlain's soldiers held on to Little Round Top and perhaps saved the Union from defeat.

Lee was determined to leave Pennsylvania with a victory. On the third day of battle, he ordered a major assault against the center of the Union line on Cemetery Ridge. Confederate batteries¹⁰ started to fire into the center of the Union forces. The firing continued for two hours. At 3 p.m. under the command of General George Pickett, 14,000 Confederate soldiers began their famous charge across three-quarters of a mile of open field to the Union line.

Few Confederates made it. Lee's attempt for a decisive victory in Pennsylvania had failed. He had lost 28,000 troops — one-third of his army. A month later, he offered his resignation to Confederate President Jefferson Davis, which was refused. Meade, in comparison, had lost 23,000 Union soldiers. Even so, the Union had halted the invasion of the North and come out as the victors of the battle.

The hope for Southern recognition by any foreign government was dashed. The war continued for two more years, but Gettysburg marked the end of Lee's major offensives. The Confederacy would stumble from there on out towards its defeat.

Lincoln recognized the Battle of Gettysburg as the turning point that it was. However, he felt the need to raise the Unions' spirits considering how bloody and hard-fought the victory at Gettysburg had been. Four months after the battle, Lincoln spoke at the dedication of the new Soldier's National Cemetery in Gettysburg. There, he encouraged the Union to honor its tens of thousands of fallen soldiers by winning the war in a speech famously known as the Gettysburg Address.

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8. These troops came from the reinforcement troops stationed in the center of the Union formation.
 9. **Ferocious** (*adjective*) savagely fierce, violent, or cruel
 10. A battery is a large group of guns.

Text-Dependent Questions

Directions: For the following questions, choose the best answer or respond in complete sentences.

1. PART A: Which of the following best describes a central idea of the text?
 - A. If the Battle of Gettysburg had not occurred by accident, the Confederate Army would have successfully invaded the North.
 - B. The Battle of Gettysburg was a pivotal battle lost by the Confederacy that discouraged any other attempt to invade the North.
 - C. The Battle of Gettysburg did not benefit either the Union or the Confederacy, because of the high number of lives lost.
 - D. It was not possible to invade the North because the Union had the superior number of troops.

2. PART B: Which phrase from the text best supports the answer to Part A?
 - A. "This was the Battle of Gettysburg, where more than 170,000 troops fought and over 40,000 were killed or injured." (Paragraph 5)
 - B. "While there, Hill's division was surprised to see Union troops under the command of Brigadier General John Buford arriving south of town." (Paragraph 7)
 - C. "The Confederates drove the outnumbered Union troops towards Cemetery Hill, just south of town, where Union artillery located on the hill halted the retreat." (Paragraph 8)
 - D. "the Union had halted the invasion of the North and come out as the victors of the battle." (Paragraph 12)

3. Which statement best describes the connection between the Battle of Gettysburg and the governments of France and England?
 - A. The Battle of Gettysburg convinced France and England to send soldiers to support the Union.
 - B. Both France and England decided not to recognize the Union after its loss during the battle.
 - C. After the battle, there was no more talk about how the foreign governments of France and England might officially acknowledge the Confederacy.
 - D. The Battle of Gettysburg revealed that French and English support would be necessary for the Confederacy to defeat the Union.

4. How do paragraphs 11-12 contribute to the development of ideas in the article?
- A. They describe the motivation behind a key mistake that made the battle such a decisive loss for the Confederacy.
 - B. They demonstrate the reasons why the Confederacy had no chance to defeat the Union.
 - C. They reveal why Jefferson Davis refused to replace General Lee with someone else.
 - D. They discuss why the strategies used by the Confederacy were not as effective as those used by the Union.

5. How does the author develop the central idea over the course of the article?

Discussion Questions

Directions: Brainstorm your answers to the following questions in the space provided. Be prepared to share your original ideas in a class discussion.

1. Why was it important for General Lee to regain support of foreign powers such as France and England?
2. The Battle of Gettysburg is the bloodiest battle ever held on American soil. When considering the outcome of the battle on the war, and the war on America, you believe that the casualties were worth it?
3. The Battle of Gettysburg is one of the best-known battles in American history. Why do you believe this is? What does it imply about America's identity as a country?

The Legend of Sleepy Hollow

By Washington Irving 1820

Related media



Washington Irving (1783-1859) was an American author, essayist, biographer, historian, and diplomat, known best for his short stories. He was America's first internationally bestselling author, and an advocate for writing as a legitimate profession. "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow" is one of Irving's most famous short stories and is among the earliest examples of American fiction with enduring popularity. Although Irving wrote "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow" from England, the story takes place in the Hudson River Valley, a region in New York first colonized by the Dutch. As you read, consider the tone and characterization of the narrator and the method of storytelling that he employs.

[1] In the bosom of one of those spacious coves which indent the eastern shore of the Hudson, at that broad expansion of the river denominated by the ancient Dutch navigators the Tappan Zee,¹ and where they always prudently shortened sail and implored the protection of St. Nicholas when they crossed, there lies a small market town or rural port, which by some is called Greensburgh, but which is more generally and properly known by the name of Tarry Town. This name was given, we are told, in former days, by the good housewives of the adjacent country, from the inveterate² propensity of their husbands to linger about the village tavern on market days. Be that as it may, I do not vouch for the fact, but merely advert to it, for the sake of being precise and authentic. Not far from this village, perhaps about two miles, there is a little valley or rather lap of land among high hills, which is one of the quietest places in the whole world. A small brook glides through it, with just murmur enough to lull one to repose; and the occasional whistle of a quail or tapping of a woodpecker is almost the only sound that ever breaks in upon the uniform tranquility.



"Ichabod's Chase" by F.O.C. Darley is in the public domain.

I recollect that, when a stripling,³ my first exploit in squirrel-shooting was in a grove of tall walnut-trees that shades one side of the valley. I had wandered into it at noontime, when all nature is peculiarly quiet, and was startled by the roar of my own gun, as it broke the Sabbath stillness around and was prolonged and reverberated by the angry echoes. If ever I should wish for a retreat whither I might steal from the world and its distractions, and dream quietly away the remnant of a troubled life, I know of none more promising than this

1. The Tappan Zee is a natural widening of the Hudson River in southeastern New York in the United States. Its width is about three miles at its widest, and runs about ten miles long.
2. **Inveterate** (*adjective*) settled or confirmed in a habit, practice, feeling, or the like
3. **Stripling** (*noun*) a young man

little valley.

From the listless repose of the place, and the peculiar character of its inhabitants, who are descendants from the original Dutch settlers, this sequestered glen has long been known by the name of SLEEPY HOLLOW, and its rustic lads are called the Sleepy Hollow Boys throughout all the neighboring country. A drowsy, dreamy influence seems to hang over the land, and to pervade the very atmosphere. Some say that the place was bewitched by a High German doctor, during the early days of the settlement; others, that an old Indian chief, the prophet or wizard of his tribe, held his powwows there before the country was discovered by Master Hendrick Hudson.⁴ Certain it is, the place still continues under the sway of some witching power, that holds a spell over the minds of the good people, causing them to walk in a continual reverie. They are given to all kinds of marvellous beliefs, are subject to trances and visions, and frequently see strange sights, and hear music and voices in the air. The whole neighborhood abounds with local tales, haunted spots, and twilight superstitions; stars shoot and meteors glare oftener across the valley than in any other part of the country, and the nightmare, with her whole ninefold, seems to make it the favorite scene of her gambols.⁵

The dominant spirit, however, that haunts this enchanted region, and seems to be commander-in-chief of all the powers of the air, is the apparition of a figure on horseback, without a head. It is said by some to be the ghost of a Hessian⁶ trooper, whose head had been carried away by a cannon-ball, in some nameless battle during the Revolutionary War, and who is ever and anon seen by the country folk hurrying along in the gloom of night, as if on the wings of the wind. His haunts are not confined to the valley, but extend at times to the adjacent roads, and especially to the vicinity of a church at no great distance. Indeed, certain of the most authentic historians of those parts, who have been careful in collecting and collating the floating facts concerning this spectre, allege that the body of the trooper having been buried in the churchyard, the ghost rides forth to the scene of battle in nightly quest of his head, and that the rushing speed with which he sometimes passes along the Hollow, like a midnight blast, is owing to his being belated, and in a hurry to get back to the churchyard before daybreak.

- [5] Such is the general purport of this legendary superstition, which has furnished materials for many a wild story in that region of shadows; and the spectre is known at all the country firesides, by the name of the Headless Horseman of Sleepy Hollow.

It is remarkable that the visionary propensity I have mentioned is not confined to the native inhabitants of the valley, but is unconsciously imbibed⁷ by every one who resides there for a time. However wide awake they may have been before they entered that sleepy region, they are sure, in a little time, to inhale the witching influence of the air, and begin to grow imaginative, to dream dreams, and see apparitions.

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4. Hendrick Hudson (died in 1611), also known as Henry Hudson, was an English sea explorer and navigator in the early 17th century. While searching for a western route to Asia for the Dutch East India Company, he explored the region around the modern New York metropolitan area. He explored the river which would eventually be named for him, and thereby laid the foundation for Dutch colonization of the region.
 5. **Gambol** (*noun*) a skipping about; frolic
 6. Hessian is the term given to the 18th-century German soldiers contracted for military service by the British government. The Hessian soldiers fought in several conflicts, including the American Revolutionary War (1775-1783).
 7. **Imbibe** (*verb*) to absorb or soak up; to take or receive into the mind, as knowledge, ideas, or the like

I mention this peaceful spot with all possible laud,⁸ for it is in such little retired Dutch valleys, found here and there embosomed in the great State of New York, that population, manners, and customs remain fixed, while the great torrent of migration and improvement, which is making such incessant changes in other parts of this restless country, sweeps by them unobserved. They are like those little nooks of still water, which border a rapid stream, where we may see the straw and bubble riding quietly at anchor, or slowly revolving in their mimic harbor, undisturbed by the rush of the passing current. Though many years have elapsed since I trod the drowsy shades of Sleepy Hollow, yet I question whether I should not still find the same trees and the same families vegetating in its sheltered bosom.

In this by-place of nature there abode, in a remote period of American history, that is to say, some thirty years since, a worthy wight⁹ of the name of Ichabod Crane, who sojourned, or, as he expressed it, "tarried," in Sleepy Hollow, for the purpose of instructing the children of the vicinity. He was a native of Connecticut, a State which supplies the Union with pioneers for the mind as well as for the forest, and sends forth yearly its legions of frontier woodmen and country schoolmasters. The cognomen¹⁰ of Crane was not inapplicable to his person. He was tall, but exceedingly lank, with narrow shoulders, long arms and legs, hands that dangled a mile out of his sleeves, feet that might have served for shovels, and his whole frame most loosely hung together. His head was small, and flat at top, with huge ears, large green glassy eyes, and a long snipe nose, so that it looked like a weather-cock perched upon his spindle neck to tell which way the wind blew. To see him striding along the profile of a hill on a windy day, with his clothes bagging and fluttering about him, one might have mistaken him for the genius of famine¹¹ descending upon the earth, or some scarecrow eloped from a cornfield.

His schoolhouse was a low building of one large room, rudely constructed of logs; the windows partly glazed, and partly patched with leaves of old copybooks. It was most ingeniously secured at vacant hours, by a withe¹² twisted in the handle of the door, and stakes set against the window shutters; so that though a thief might get in with perfect ease, he would find some embarrassment in getting out,—an idea most probably borrowed by the architect, Yost Van Houten, from the mystery of an eelpot.¹³ The schoolhouse stood in a rather lonely but pleasant situation, just at the foot of a woody hill, with a brook running close by, and a formidable birch-tree growing at one end of it. From hence the low murmur of his pupils' voices, conning over their lessons, might be heard in a drowsy summer's day, like the hum of a beehive; interrupted now and then by the authoritative voice of the master, in the tone of menace or command, or, peradventure,¹⁴ by the appalling sound of the birch, as he urged some tardy loiterer along the flowery path of knowledge. Truth to say, he was a conscientious man, and ever bore in mind the golden maxim, "Spare the rod and spoil the child." Ichabod Crane's scholars certainly were not spoiled.

[10] I would not have it imagined, however, that he was one of those cruel potentates of the school who joy in the smart of their subjects; on the contrary, he administered justice with discrimination rather than severity; taking the burden off the backs of the weak, and laying it on those of the strong. Your mere puny stripling, that winced

8. **Laud** (*verb*) to praise highly

9. Another term for a knight.

10. **Cognomen** (*noun*) name or nickname

11. Likely a reference to Shakespeare's Henry IV, in which the narrator refers to an extremely thin character as a "genius of famine."

12. Any tough, flexible twig or stem suitable for binding things together.

13. A boxlike structure with funnel-shaped traps for catching eels.

14. **Peradventure** (*noun*) chance, doubt, or uncertainty

at the least flourish of the rod, was passed by with indulgence; but the claims of justice were satisfied by inflicting a double portion on some little tough wrong-headed, broad-skirted Dutch urchin, who sulked and swelled and grew dogged and sullen beneath the birch. All this he called "doing his duty by their parents;" and he never inflicted a chastisement without following it by the assurance, so consolatory to the smarting urchin, that "he would remember it and thank him for it the longest day he had to live."

When school hours were over, he was even the companion and playmate of the larger boys; and on holiday afternoons would convoy some of the smaller ones home, who happened to have pretty sisters, or good housewives for mothers, noted for the comforts of the cupboard. Indeed, it behooved him to keep on good terms with his pupils. The revenue arising from his school was small, and would have been scarcely sufficient to furnish him with daily bread, for he was a huge feeder, and, though lank, had the dilating powers of an anaconda; but to help out his maintenance, he was, according to country custom in those parts, boarded and lodged at the houses of the farmers whose children he instructed. With these he lived successively a week at a time, thus going the rounds of the neighborhood, with all his worldly effects tied up in a cotton handkerchief.

That all this might not be too onerous¹⁵ on the purses of his rustic patrons, who are apt to consider the costs of schooling a grievous burden, and schoolmasters as mere drones, he had various ways of rendering himself both useful and agreeable. He assisted the farmers occasionally in the lighter labors of their farms, helped to make hay, mended the fences, took the horses to water, drove the cows from pasture, and cut wood for the winter fire. He laid aside, too, all the dominant dignity and absolute sway with which he lorded it in his little empire, the school, and became wonderfully gentle and ingratiating. He found favor in the eyes of the mothers by petting the children, particularly the youngest; and like the lion bold, which whilom¹⁶ so magnanimously the lamb did hold, he would sit with a child on one knee, and rock a cradle with his foot for whole hours together.

In addition to his other vocations, he was the singing-master of the neighborhood, and picked up many bright shillings by instructing the young folks in psalmody.¹⁷ It was a matter of no little vanity to him on Sundays, to take his station in front of the church gallery, with a band of chosen singers; where, in his own mind, he completely carried away the palm from the parson. Certain it is, his voice resounded far above all the rest of the congregation; and there are peculiar quavers¹⁸ still to be heard in that church, and which may even be heard half a mile off, quite to the opposite side of the millpond, on a still Sunday morning, which are said to be legitimately descended from the nose of Ichabod Crane. Thus, by divers little makeshifts, in that ingenious way which is commonly denominated "by hook and by crook," the worthy pedagogue¹⁹ got on tolerably enough, and was thought, by all who understood nothing of the labor of headwork, to have a wonderfully easy life of it.

The schoolmaster is generally a man of some importance in the female circle of a rural neighborhood; being considered a kind of idle, gentlemanlike personage, of vastly superior taste and accomplishments to the rough country swains,²⁰ and, indeed, inferior in learning only to the parson. His appearance, therefore, is apt to occasion some little stir at the tea-table of a farmhouse, and the addition of a supernumerary dish of cakes or sweetmeats, or, peradventure, the parade of a silver teapot. Our man of letters, therefore, was peculiarly happy

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15. **Onerous** (*adjective*) burdensome, oppressive, or troublesome
 16. **Whilom** (*adjective*) formerly; at one time
 17. The act, practice, or art of setting psalms to music.
 18. In music, an eighth note.
 19. **Pedagogue** (*noun*) a teacher
 20. **Swain** (*noun*) male suitor

in the smiles of all the country damsels. How he would figure among them in the churchyard, between services on Sundays; gathering grapes for them from the wild vines that overran the surrounding trees; reciting for their amusement all the epitaphs on the tombstones; or sauntering, with a whole bevy of them, along the banks of the adjacent millpond; while the more bashful country bumpkins hung sheepishly back, envying his superior elegance and address.

- [15] From his half-itinerant²¹ life, also, he was a kind of travelling gazette, carrying the whole budget of local gossip from house to house, so that his appearance was always greeted with satisfaction. He was, moreover, esteemed by the women as a man of great erudition,²² for he had read several books quite through, and was a perfect master of Cotton Mather's "History of New England Witchcraft," in which, by the way, he most firmly and potently believed.

He was, in fact, an odd mixture of small shrewdness and simple credulity.²³ His appetite for the marvellous, and his powers of digesting it, were equally extraordinary; and both had been increased by his residence in this spell-bound region. No tale was too gross or monstrous for his capacious²⁴ swallow. It was often his delight, after his school was dismissed in the afternoon, to stretch himself on the rich bed of clover bordering the little brook that whimpered by his schoolhouse, and there con over old Mather's direful tales, until the gathering dusk of evening made the printed page a mere mist before his eyes. Then, as he wended²⁵ his way by swamp and stream and awful woodland, to the farmhouse where he happened to be quartered, every sound of nature, at that witching hour, fluttered his excited imagination,—the moan of the whip-poor-will²⁶ from the hillside, the boding cry of the tree toad, that harbinger of storm, the dreary hooting of the screech owl, or the sudden rustling in the thicket of birds frightened from their roost. The fireflies, too, which sparkled most vividly in the darkest places, now and then startled him, as one of uncommon brightness would stream across his path; and if, by chance, a huge blockhead of a beetle came winging his blundering flight against him, the poor varlet²⁷ was ready to give up the ghost, with the idea that he was struck with a witch's token. His only resource on such occasions, either to drown thought or drive away evil spirits, was to sing psalm tunes and the good people of Sleepy Hollow, as they sat by their doors of an evening, were often filled with awe at hearing his nasal melody, "in linked sweetness long drawn out," floating from the distant hill, or along the dusky road.

Another of his sources of fearful pleasure was to pass long winter evenings with the old Dutch wives, as they sat spinning by the fire, with a row of apples roasting and spluttering along the hearth, and listen to their marvellous tales of ghosts and goblins, and haunted fields, and haunted brooks, and haunted bridges, and haunted houses, and particularly of the headless horseman, or Galloping Hessian of the Hollow, as they sometimes called him. He would delight them equally by his anecdotes of witchcraft, and of the direful omens and portentous²⁸ sights and sounds in the air, which prevailed in the earlier times of Connecticut; and would frighten them woefully with speculations upon comets and shooting stars; and with the alarming fact that the

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21. **Itinerant** (*adjective*) characterized by traveling frequently
 22. **Erudition** (*noun*) knowledge acquired by study, research, etc.; learning; scholarship
 23. **Credulity** (*noun*) willingness to believe or trust too readily, especially without proper or adequate evidence; gullibility
 24. **Capacious** (*adjective*) capable of holding much; spacious or roomy
 25. **Wend** (*verb*) to pursue or direct (one's way)
 26. A type of bird.
 27. An attendant or servant; a page who serves a knight; a rascal.
 28. **Portentous** (*adjective*) ominously significant or indicative; marvelous; amazing

world did absolutely turn round, and that they were half the time topsy-turvy!

But if there was a pleasure in all this, while snugly cuddling in the chimney corner of a chamber that was all of a ruddy glow from the crackling wood fire, and where, of course, no spectre dared to show its face, it was dearly purchased by the terrors of his subsequent walk homewards. What fearful shapes and shadows beset his path, amidst the dim and ghastly glare of a snowy night! With what wistful look did he eye every trembling ray of light streaming across the waste fields from some distant window! How often was he appalled by some shrub covered with snow, which, like a sheeted spectre, beset his very path! How often did he shrink with curdling awe at the sound of his own steps on the frosty crust beneath his feet; and dread to look over his shoulder, lest he should behold some uncouth being tramping close behind him! And how often was he thrown into complete dismay by some rushing blast, howling among the trees, in the idea that it was the Galloping Hessian on one of his nightly scourings!²⁹

All these, however, were mere terrors of the night, phantoms of the mind that walk in darkness; and though he had seen many spectres in his time, and been more than once beset by Satan in divers shapes, in his lonely perambulations,³⁰ yet daylight put an end to all these evils; and he would have passed a pleasant life of it, in despite of the Devil and all his works, if his path had not been crossed by a being that causes more perplexity to mortal man than ghosts, goblins, and the whole race of witches put together, and that was—a woman.

[20] Among the musical disciples who assembled, one evening in each week, to receive his instructions in psalmody, was Katrina Van Tassel, the daughter and only child of a substantial Dutch farmer. She was a blooming lass of fresh eighteen; plump as a partridge; ripe and melting and rosy-cheeked as one of her father's peaches, and universally famed, not merely for her beauty, but her vast expectations. She was withal a little of a coquette,³¹ as might be perceived even in her dress, which was a mixture of ancient and modern fashions, as most suited to set off her charms. She wore the ornaments of pure yellow gold, which her great-great-grandmother had brought over from Saardam;³² the tempting stomacher of the olden time, and withal a provokingly short petticoat, to display the prettiest foot and ankle in the country round.

Ichabod Crane had a soft and foolish heart towards the sex; and it is not to be wondered at that so tempting a morsel soon found favor in his eyes, more especially after he had visited her in her paternal mansion. Old Baltus Van Tassel was a perfect picture of a thriving, contented, liberal-hearted farmer. He seldom, it is true, sent either his eyes or his thoughts beyond the boundaries of his own farm; but within those everything was snug, happy and well-conditioned. He was satisfied with his wealth, but not proud of it; and piqued himself upon the hearty abundance, rather than the style in which he lived. His stronghold was situated on the banks of the Hudson, in one of those green, sheltered, fertile nooks in which the Dutch farmers are so fond of nestling. A great elm tree spread its broad branches over it, at the foot of which bubbled up a spring of the softest and sweetest water, in a little well formed of a barrel; and then stole sparkling away through the grass, to a neighboring brook, that babbled along among alders and dwarf willows. Hard by the farmhouse was a vast barn, that might have served for a church; every window and crevice of which seemed bursting forth with the treasures of the farm; the flail³³ was busily resounding within it from morning to night; swallows and martins

29. Dirt removed from grain.

30. **Perambulate** (*verb*) to travel over or through especially on foot

31. **Coquette** (*noun*) a woman who flirts

32. Saardam is a port in the West Netherlands, in North Holland, formed in 1974.

33. A tool used to separate grain from a plant, consisting of a wooden staff with a short heavy stick swinging

skimmed twittering about the eaves; and rows of pigeons, some with one eye turned up, as if watching the weather, some with their heads under their wings or buried in their bosoms, and others swelling, and cooing, and bowing about their dames, were enjoying the sunshine on the roof. Sleek unwieldy porkers were grunting in the repose and abundance of their pens, from whence sallied forth, now and then, troops of sucking pigs, as if to snuff the air. A stately squadron of snowy geese were riding in an adjoining pond, convoying whole fleets of ducks; regiments of turkeys were gobbling through the farmyard, and Guinea fowls fretting about it, like ill-tempered housewives, with their peevish, discontented cry. Before the barn door strutted the gallant cock, that pattern of a husband, a warrior and a fine gentleman, clapping his burnished wings and crowing in the pride and gladness of his heart,—sometimes tearing up the earth with his feet, and then generously calling his ever-hungry family of wives and children to enjoy the rich morsel which he had discovered.

The pedagogue's mouth watered as he looked upon this sumptuous promise of luxurious winter fare. In his devouring mind's eye, he pictured to himself every roasting-pig running about with a pudding in his belly, and an apple in his mouth; the pigeons were snugly put to bed in a comfortable pie, and tucked in with a coverlet of crust; the geese were swimming in their own gravy; and the ducks pairing cosily in dishes, like snug married couples, with a decent competency of onion sauce. In the porkers he saw carved out the future sleek side of bacon, and juicy relishing ham; not a turkey but he beheld daintily trussed up, with its gizzard under its wing, and, peradventure, a necklace of savory sausages; and even bright chanticleer³⁴ himself lay sprawling on his back, in a side dish, with uplifted claws, as if craving that quarter which his chivalrous spirit disdained to ask while living.

As the enraptured Ichabod fancied all this, and as he rolled his great green eyes over the fat meadow lands, the rich fields of wheat, of rye, of buckwheat, and Indian corn, and the orchards burdened with ruddy fruit, which surrounded the warm tenement of Van Tassel, his heart yearned after the damsel who was to inherit these domains, and his imagination expanded with the idea, how they might be readily turned into cash, and the money invested in immense tracts of wild land, and shingle palaces in the wilderness. Nay, his busy fancy already realized his hopes, and presented to him the blooming Katrina, with a whole family of children, mounted on the top of a wagon loaded with household trumpery, with pots and kettles dangling beneath; and he beheld himself bestriding a pacing mare, with a colt at her heels, setting out for Kentucky, Tennessee,—or the Lord knows where!

When he entered the house, the conquest of his heart was complete. It was one of those spacious farmhouses, with high-ridged but lowly sloping roofs, built in the style handed down from the first Dutch settlers; the low projecting eaves forming a piazza along the front, capable of being closed up in bad weather. Under this were hung flails, harness, various utensils of husbandry,³⁵ and nets for fishing in the neighboring river. Benches were built along the sides for summer use; and a great spinning-wheel at one end, and a churn at the other, showed the various uses to which this important porch might be devoted. From this piazza the wondering Ichabod entered the hall, which formed the centre of the mansion, and the place of usual residence. Here rows of resplendent pewter, ranged on a long dresser, dazzled his eyes. In one corner stood a huge bag of wool, ready to be spun; in another, a quantity of linsey-woolsey just from the loom; ears of Indian corn, and strings of dried apples and peaches, hung in gay festoons along the walls, mingled with the gaud of red peppers; and a door left ajar gave him a peep into the best parlor, where the claw-footed chairs and dark mahogany tables shone

from it.

34. A name given to a rooster, especially in fairy tales

35. The care, cultivation, and breeding of crops and animals.

like mirrors; andirons, with their accompanying shovel and tongs, glistened from their covert of asparagus tops; mock-oranges and conch-shells decorated the mantelpiece; strings of various-colored birds eggs were suspended above it; a great ostrich egg was hung from the centre of the room, and a corner cupboard, knowingly left open, displayed immense treasures of old silver and well-mended china.

[25] From the moment Ichabod laid his eyes upon these regions of delight, the peace of his mind was at an end, and his only study was how to gain the affections of the peerless daughter of Van Tassel. In this enterprise, however, he had more real difficulties than generally fell to the lot of a knight-errant of yore, who seldom had anything but giants, enchanters, fiery dragons, and such like easily conquered adversaries, to contend with and had to make his way merely through gates of iron and brass, and walls of adamant to the castle keep, where the lady of his heart was confined; all which he achieved as easily as a man would carve his way to the centre of a Christmas pie; and then the lady gave him her hand as a matter of course. Ichabod, on the contrary, had to win his way to the heart of a country coquette, beset with a labyrinth of whims and caprices,³⁶ which were forever presenting new difficulties and impediments; and he had to encounter a host of fearful adversaries of real flesh and blood, the numerous rustic admirers, who beset every portal to her heart, keeping a watchful and angry eye upon each other, but ready to fly out in the common cause against any new competitor.

Among these, the most formidable was a burly, roaring, roustering blade, of the name of Abraham, or, according to the Dutch abbreviation, Brom Van Brunt, the hero of the country round, which rang with his feats of strength and hardihood. He was broad-shouldered and double-jointed, with short curly black hair, and a bluff but not unpleasant countenance, having a mingled air of fun and arrogance. From his Herculean frame and great powers of limb he had received the nickname of BROM BONES, by which he was universally known. He was famed for great knowledge and skill in horsemanship, being as dexterous on horseback as a Tartar.³⁷ He was foremost at all races and cock fights; and, with the ascendancy which bodily strength always acquires in rustic life, was the umpire in all disputes, setting his hat on one side, and giving his decisions with an air and tone that admitted of no gainsay or appeal. He was always ready for either a fight or a frolic; but had more mischief than ill-will in his composition; and with all his overbearing roughness, there was a strong dash of waggish good humor at bottom. He had three or four boon companions, who regarded him as their model, and at the head of whom he scoured the country, attending every scene of feud or merriment for miles round. In cold weather he was distinguished by a fur cap, surmounted with a flaunting fox's tail; and when the folks at a country gathering descried this well-known crest at a distance, whisking about among a squad of hard riders, they always stood by for a squall.³⁸ Sometimes his crew would be heard dashing along past the farmhouses at midnight, with whoop and halloo, like a troop of Don Cossacks; and the old dames, startled out of their sleep, would listen for a moment till the hurry-scurry had clattered by, and then exclaim, "Ay, there goes Brom Bones and his gang!" The neighbors looked upon him with a mixture of awe, admiration, and good-will; and, when any madcap prank or rustic brawl occurred in the vicinity, always shook their heads, and warranted Brom Bones was at the bottom of it.

This rantipole³⁹ hero had for some time singled out the blooming Katrina for the object of his uncouth gallantries, and though his amorous toyings were something like the gentle caresses and endearments of a bear, yet it was whispered that she did not altogether discourage his hopes. Certain it is, his advances were

36. **Caprice** (*noun*) a sudden and unaccountable change of mood or behavior

37. The Tatars are a Turkic people living in Asia and Europe.

38. **Squall** (*noun*) a sudden violent gust of wind or a localized storm, especially one bringing rain, snow, or sleet

39. **Rantipole** (*noun*) a wild, reckless, sometimes quarrelsome person

signals for rival candidates to retire, who felt no inclination to cross a lion in his amours; insomuch, that when his horse was seen tied to Van Tassel's paling, on a Sunday night, a sure sign that his master was courting, or, as it is termed, "sparking," within, all other suitors passed by in despair, and carried the war into other quarters.

Such was the formidable rival with whom Ichabod Crane had to contend, and, considering all things, a stouter man than he would have shrunk from the competition, and a wiser man would have despaired. He had, however, a happy mixture of pliability and perseverance in his nature; he was in form and spirit like a supple-jack⁴⁰—yielding, but tough; though he bent, he never broke; and though he bowed beneath the slightest pressure, yet, the moment it was away—jerk!—he was as erect, and carried his head as high as ever.

To have taken the field openly against his rival would have been madness; for he was not a man to be thwarted in his amours, any more than that stormy lover, Achilles.⁴¹ Ichabod, therefore, made his advances in a quiet and gently insinuating manner. Under cover of his character of singing-master, he made frequent visits at the farmhouse; not that he had anything to apprehend from the meddlesome interference of parents, which is so often a stumbling-block in the path of lovers. Balt Van Tassel was an easy indulgent soul; he loved his daughter better even than his pipe, and, like a reasonable man and an excellent father, let her have her way in everything. His notable little wife, too, had enough to do to attend to her housekeeping and manage her poultry; for, as she sagely observed, ducks and geese are foolish things, and must be looked after, but girls can take care of themselves. Thus, while the busy dame bustled about the house, or plied her spinning-wheel at one end of the piazza, honest Balt would sit smoking his evening pipe at the other, watching the achievements of a little wooden warrior, who, armed with a sword in each hand, was most valiantly fighting the wind on the pinnacle of the barn. In the mean time, Ichabod would carry on his suit with the daughter by the side of the spring under the great elm, or sauntering along in the twilight, that hour so favorable to the lover's eloquence.

[30] I profess not to know how women's hearts are wooed and won. To me they have always been matters of riddle and admiration. Some seem to have but one vulnerable point, or door of access; while others have a thousand avenues, and may be captured in a thousand different ways. It is a great triumph of skill to gain the former, but a still greater proof of generalship to maintain possession of the latter, for man must battle for his fortress at every door and window. He who wins a thousand common hearts is therefore entitled to some renown; but he who keeps undisputed sway over the heart of a coquette is indeed a hero. Certain it is, this was not the case with the redoubtable Brom Bones; and from the moment Ichabod Crane made his advances, the interests of the former evidently declined: his horse was no longer seen tied to the palings on Sunday nights, and a deadly feud gradually arose between him and the preceptor⁴² of Sleepy Hollow.

Brom, who had a degree of rough chivalry in his nature, would fain have carried matters to open warfare and have settled their pretensions to the lady, according to the mode of those most concise and simple reasoners, the knights-errant of yore,—by single combat; but Ichabod was too conscious of the superior might of his adversary to enter the lists against him; he had overheard a boast of Bones, that he would "double the schoolmaster up, and lay him on a shelf of his own schoolhouse;" and he was too wary to give him an opportunity. There was something extremely provoking in this obstinately pacific system; it left Brom no alternative but to draw upon the funds of rustic waggery in his disposition, and to play off boorish practical

40. A strong, bendable cane or walking stick.

41. In Greek mythology, Achilles as a Greek hero of the Trojan War and the central character and greatest warrior of Homer's Iliad.

42. **Preceptor** (*noun*) a teacher or instructor

jokes upon his rival. Ichabod became the object of whimsical persecution to Bones and his gang of rough riders. They harried his hitherto peaceful domains; smoked out his singing school by stopping up the chimney; broke into the schoolhouse at night, in spite of its formidable fastenings of withe and window stakes, and turned everything topsy-turvy, so that the poor schoolmaster began to think all the witches in the country held their meetings there. But what was still more annoying, Brom took all opportunities of turning him into ridicule in presence of his mistress, and had a scoundrel dog whom he taught to whine in the most ludicrous manner, and introduced as a rival of Ichabod's, to instruct her in psalmody.

In this way matters went on for some time, without producing any material effect on the relative situations of the contending powers. On a fine autumnal afternoon, Ichabod, in pensive mood, sat enthroned on the lofty stool from whence he usually watched all the concerns of his little literary realm. In his hand he swayed a ferule,⁴³ that sceptre of despotic⁴⁴ power; the birch of justice reposed on three nails behind the throne, a constant terror to evil doers, while on the desk before him might be seen sundry contraband articles and prohibited weapons, detected upon the persons of idle urchins, such as half-munched apples, popguns, whirligigs, fly-cages, and whole legions of rampant little paper gamecocks. Apparently there had been some appalling act of justice recently inflicted, for his scholars were all busily intent upon their books, or slyly whispering behind them with one eye kept upon the master; and a kind of buzzing stillness reigned throughout the schoolroom. It was suddenly interrupted by the appearance of a negro in tow-cloth jacket and trowsers, a round-crowned fragment of a hat, like the cap of Mercury,⁴⁵ and mounted on the back of a ragged, wild, half-broken colt, which he managed with a rope by way of halter. He came clattering up to the school door with an invitation to Ichabod to attend a merry-making or "quilting frolic," to be held that evening at Mynheer⁴⁶ Van Tassel's; and having delivered his message with that air of importance, and effort at fine language, which a negro is apt to display on petty embassies of the kind, he dashed over the brook, and was seen scampering away up the hollow, full of the importance and hurry of his mission.

All was now bustle and hubbub in the late quiet schoolroom. The scholars were hurried through their lessons without stopping at trifles; those who were nimble skipped over half with impunity, and those who were tardy had a smart application now and then in the rear, to quicken their speed or help them over a tall word. Books were flung aside without being put away on the shelves, inkstands were overturned, benches thrown down, and the whole school was turned loose an hour before the usual time, bursting forth like a legion of young imps, yelping and racketing about the green in joy at their early emancipation.

The gallant Ichabod now spent at least an extra half hour at his toilet,⁴⁷ brushing and furbishing up his best, and indeed only suit of rusty black, and arranging his locks by a bit of broken looking-glass that hung up in the schoolhouse. That he might make his appearance before his mistress in the true style of a cavalier, he borrowed a horse from the farmer with whom he was domiciliated,⁴⁸ a choleric⁴⁹ old Dutchman of the name of Hans Van Ripper, and, thus gallantly mounted, issued forth like a knight-errant in quest of adventures. But it is meet I should, in the true spirit of romantic story, give some account of the looks and equipments of my hero

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43. A flat ruler with a widened end, formerly used for punishing children
 44. **Despotic** (*adjective*) tyrannical
 45. Mercury is the Roman name for Hermes, the messenger of the gods.
 46. A male from the Netherlands (a Dutchman); used as a title equivalent to Mr.
 47. Here, "toilet" refers to the act of grooming oneself.
 48. **Domiciliate** (*verb*) to establish a residence for oneself or one's family
 49. **Choleric** (*adjective*) extremely irritable or easily angered

and his steed. The animal he bestrode was a broken-down plow-horse, that had outlived almost everything but its viciousness. He was gaunt and shagged, with a ewe neck,⁵⁰ and a head like a hammer; his rusty mane and tail were tangled and knotted with burs; one eye had lost its pupil, and was glaring and spectral, but the other had the gleam of a genuine devil in it. Still he must have had fire and mettle in his day, if we may judge from the name he bore of Gunpowder. He had, in fact, been a favorite steed of his master's, the choleric Van Ripper, who was a furious rider, and had infused, very probably, some of his own spirit into the animal; for, old and broken-down as he looked, there was more of the lurking devil in him than in any young filly in the country.

[35] Ichabod was a suitable figure for such a steed. He rode with short stirrups, which brought his knees nearly up to the pommel of the saddle; his sharp elbows stuck out like grasshoppers; he carried his whip perpendicularly in his hand, like a sceptre, and as his horse jogged on, the motion of his arms was not unlike the flapping of a pair of wings. A small wool hat rested on the top of his nose, for so his scanty strip of forehead might be called, and the skirts of his black coat fluttered out almost to the horse's tail. Such was the appearance of Ichabod and his steed as they shambled out of the gate of Hans Van Ripper, and it was altogether such an apparition as is seldom to be met with in broad daylight.

It was, as I have said, a fine autumnal day; the sky was clear and serene, and nature wore that rich and golden livery which we always associate with the idea of abundance. The forests had put on their sober brown and yellow, while some trees of the tenderer kind had been nipped by the frosts into brilliant dyes of orange, purple, and scarlet. Streaming files of wild ducks began to make their appearance high in the air; the bark of the squirrel might be heard from the groves of beech and hickory-nuts, and the pensive whistle of the quail at intervals from the neighboring stubble field.

The small birds were taking their farewell banquets. In the fullness of their revelry, they fluttered, chirping and frolicking from bush to bush, and tree to tree, capricious from the very profusion⁵¹ and variety around them. There was the honest cock robin, the favorite game of stripling sportsmen, with its loud querulous note; and the twittering blackbirds flying in sable clouds; and the golden-winged woodpecker with his crimson crest, his broad black gorget, and splendid plumage; and the cedar bird, with its red-tipt wings and yellow-tipt tail and its little monteiro cap of feathers; and the blue jay, that noisy coxcomb, in his gay light blue coat and white underclothes, screaming and chattering, nodding and bobbing and bowing, and pretending to be on good terms with every songster of the grove.

As Ichabod jogged slowly on his way, his eye, ever open to every symptom of culinary abundance, ranged with delight over the treasures of jolly autumn. On all sides he beheld vast store of apples; some hanging in oppressive opulence on the trees; some gathered into baskets and barrels for the market; others heaped up in rich piles for the cider-press. Farther on he beheld great fields of Indian corn, with its golden ears peeping from their leafy coverts, and holding out the promise of cakes and hasty-pudding; and the yellow pumpkins lying beneath them, turning up their fair round bellies to the sun, and giving ample prospects of the most luxurious of pies; and anon he passed the fragrant buckwheat fields breathing the odor of the beehive, and as he beheld them, soft anticipations stole over his mind of dainty slapjacks, well buttered, and garnished with honey or treacle, by the delicate little dimpled hand of Katrina Van Tassel.

Thus feeding his mind with many sweet thoughts and "sugared suppositions," he journeyed along the sides of a

50. "Ewe neck" refers to a thin neck with a concave arch occurring as a defect in dogs and horses.

51. **Profusion** (*noun*) abundance; a great quantity or amount

range of hills which look out upon some of the goodliest scenes of the mighty Hudson. The sun gradually wheeled his broad disk down in the west. The wide bosom of the Tappan Zee lay motionless and glassy, excepting that here and there a gentle undulation waved and prolonged the blue shadow of the distant mountain. A few amber clouds floated in the sky, without a breath of air to move them. The horizon was of a fine golden tint, changing gradually into a pure apple green, and from that into the deep blue of the mid-heaven. A slanting ray lingered on the woody crests of the precipices that overhung some parts of the river, giving greater depth to the dark gray and purple of their rocky sides. A sloop was loitering in the distance, dropping slowly down with the tide, her sail hanging uselessly against the mast; and as the reflection of the sky gleamed along the still water, it seemed as if the vessel was suspended in the air.

[40] It was toward evening that Ichabod arrived at the castle of the Heer Van Tassel, which he found thronged with the pride and flower of the adjacent country. Old farmers, a spare leathern-faced race, in homespun coats and breeches, blue stockings, huge shoes, and magnificent pewter buckles. Their brisk, withered little dames, in close-crimped caps, long-waisted short gowns, homespun petticoats, with scissors and pincushions, and gay calico pockets hanging on the outside. Buxom lasses, almost as antiquated as their mothers, excepting where a straw hat, a fine ribbon, or perhaps a white frock, gave symptoms of city innovation. The sons, in short square-skirted coats, with rows of stupendous brass buttons, and their hair generally queued in the fashion of the times, especially if they could procure an eel-skin for the purpose, it being esteemed throughout the country as a potent nourisher and strengthener of the hair.

Brom Bones, however, was the hero of the scene, having come to the gathering on his favorite steed Daredevil, a creature, like himself, full of mettle and mischief, and which no one but himself could manage. He was, in fact, noted for preferring vicious animals, given to all kinds of tricks which kept the rider in constant risk of his neck, for he held a tractable, well-broken horse as unworthy of a lad of spirit.

Fain would I pause to dwell upon the world of charms that burst upon the enraptured gaze of my hero, as he entered the state parlor of Van Tassel's mansion. Not those of the bevy of buxom lasses, with their luxurious display of red and white; but the ample charms of a genuine Dutch country tea-table, in the sumptuous time of autumn. Such heaped up platters of cakes of various and almost indescribable kinds, known only to experienced Dutch housewives! There was the doughty doughnut, the tender oly koek, and the crisp and crumbling cruller;⁵² sweet cakes and short cakes, ginger cakes and honey cakes, and the whole family of cakes. And then there were apple pies, and peach pies, and pumpkin pies; besides slices of ham and smoked beef; and moreover delectable dishes of preserved plums, and peaches, and pears, and quinces; not to mention broiled shad and roasted chickens; together with bowls of milk and cream, all mingled higgledy-piggledy, pretty much as I have enumerated them, with the motherly teapot sending up its clouds of vapor from the midst—Heaven bless the mark! I want breath and time to discuss this banquet as it deserves, and am too eager to get on with my story. Happily, Ichabod Crane was not in so great a hurry as his historian, but did ample justice to every dainty.

He was a kind and thankful creature, whose heart dilated in proportion as his skin was filled with good cheer, and whose spirits rose with eating, as some men's do with drink. He could not help, too, rolling his large eyes round him as he ate, and chuckling with the possibility that he might one day be lord of all this scene of almost unimaginable luxury and splendor. Then, he thought, how soon he'd turn his back upon the old schoolhouse; snap his fingers in the face of Hans Van Ripper, and every other niggardly⁵³ patron, and kick any itinerant

52. Types of Dutch desserts.

pedagogue out of doors that should dare to call him comrade!

Old Baltus Van Tassel moved about among his guests with a face dilated with content and good humor, round and jolly as the harvest moon. His hospitable attentions were brief, but expressive, being confined to a shake of the hand, a slap on the shoulder, a loud laugh, and a pressing invitation to "fall to, and help themselves."

- [45] And now the sound of the music from the common room, or hall, summoned to the dance. The musician was an old gray-headed negro, who had been the itinerant orchestra of the neighborhood for more than half a century. His instrument was as old and battered as himself. The greater part of the time he scraped on two or three strings, accompanying every movement of the bow with a motion of the head; bowing almost to the ground, and stamping with his foot whenever a fresh couple were to start.

Ichabod prided himself upon his dancing as much as upon his vocal powers. Not a limb, not a fibre about him was idle; and to have seen his loosely hung frame in full motion, and clattering about the room, you would have thought St. Vitus himself, that blessed patron of the dance, was figuring before you in person. He was the admiration of all the negroes; who, having gathered, of all ages and sizes, from the farm and the neighborhood, stood forming a pyramid of shining black faces at every door and window, gazing with delight at the scene, rolling their white eyeballs, and showing grinning rows of ivory from ear to ear. How could the flogger of urchins be otherwise than animated and joyous? The lady of his heart was his partner in the dance, and smiling graciously in reply to all his amorous oglings; while Brom Bones, sorely smitten with love and jealousy, sat brooding by himself in one corner.

When the dance was at an end, Ichabod was attracted to a knot of the sager folks, who, with Old Van Tassel, sat smoking at one end of the piazza, gossiping over former times, and drawing out long stories about the war.

This neighborhood, at the time of which I am speaking, was one of those highly favored places which abound with chronicle and great men. The British and American line had run near it during the war; it had, therefore, been the scene of marauding and infested with refugees, cowboys, and all kinds of border chivalry. Just sufficient time had elapsed to enable each storyteller to dress up his tale with a little becoming fiction, and, in the indistinctness of his recollection, to make himself the hero of every exploit.

There was the story of Doffue Martling, a large blue-bearded Dutchman, who had nearly taken a British frigate⁵⁴ with an old iron nine-pounder from a mud breastwork, only that his gun burst at the sixth discharge. And there was an old gentleman who shall be nameless, being too rich a mynheer to be lightly mentioned, who, in the battle of White Plains, being an excellent master of defence, parried a musket-ball with a small sword, insomuch that he absolutely felt it whiz round the blade, and glance off at the hilt; in proof of which he was ready at any time to show the sword, with the hilt a little bent. There were several more that had been equally great in the field, not one of whom but was persuaded that he had a considerable hand in bringing the war to a happy termination.

- [50] But all these were nothing to the tales of ghosts and apparitions that succeeded. The neighborhood is rich in legendary treasures of the kind. Local tales and superstitions thrive best in these sheltered, long-settled

53. An archaic term meaning stingy or not generous.

54. A sailing warship.

retreats; but are trampled under foot by the shifting throng that forms the population of most of our country places. Besides, there is no encouragement for ghosts in most of our villages, for they have scarcely had time to finish their first nap and turn themselves in their graves, before their surviving friends have travelled away from the neighborhood; so that when they turn out at night to walk their rounds, they have no acquaintance left to call upon. This is perhaps the reason why we so seldom hear of ghosts except in our long-established Dutch communities.

The immediate cause, however, of the prevalence of supernatural stories in these parts, was doubtless owing to the vicinity of Sleepy Hollow. There was a contagion in the very air that blew from that haunted region; it breathed forth an atmosphere of dreams and fancies infecting all the land. Several of the Sleepy Hollow people were present at Van Tassel's, and, as usual, were doling out their wild and wonderful legends. Many dismal tales were told about funeral trains, and mourning cries and wailings heard and seen about the great tree where the unfortunate Major André was taken, and which stood in the neighborhood. Some mention was made also of the woman in white, that haunted the dark glen at Raven Rock, and was often heard to shriek on winter nights before a storm, having perished there in the snow. The chief part of the stories, however, turned upon the favorite spectre of Sleepy Hollow, the Headless Horseman, who had been heard several times of late, patrolling the country; and, it was said, tethered his horse nightly among the graves in the churchyard.

The sequestered situation of this church seems always to have made it a favorite haunt of troubled spirits. It stands on a knoll, surrounded by locust-trees and lofty elms, from among which its decent, whitewashed walls shine modestly forth, like Christian purity beaming through the shades of retirement. A gentle slope descends from it to a silver sheet of water, bordered by high trees, between which, peeps may be caught at the blue hills of the Hudson. To look upon its grass-grown yard, where the sunbeams seem to sleep so quietly, one would think that there at least the dead might rest in peace. On one side of the church extends a wide woody dell, along which raves a large brook among broken rocks and trunks of fallen trees. Over a deep black part of the stream, not far from the church, was formerly thrown a wooden bridge; the road that led to it, and the bridge itself, were thickly shaded by overhanging trees, which cast a gloom about it, even in the daytime; but occasioned a fearful darkness at night. Such was one of the favorite haunts of the Headless Horseman, and the place where he was most frequently encountered. The tale was told of old Brouwer, a most heretical disbeliever in ghosts, how he met the Horseman returning from his foray into Sleepy Hollow, and was obliged to get up behind him; how they galloped over bush and brake, over hill and swamp, until they reached the bridge; when the Horseman suddenly turned into a skeleton, threw old Brouwer into the brook, and sprang away over the tree-tops with a clap of thunder.

This story was immediately matched by a thrice marvellous adventure of Brom Bones, who made light of the Galloping Hessian as an arrant⁵⁵ jockey. He affirmed that on returning one night from the neighboring village of Sing Sing, he had been overtaken by this midnight trooper; that he had offered to race with him for a bowl of punch, and should have won it too, for Daredevil beat the goblin horse all hollow, but just as they came to the church bridge, the Hessian bolted, and vanished in a flash of fire.

All these tales, told in that drowsy undertone with which men talk in the dark, the countenances of the listeners only now and then receiving a casual gleam from the glare of a pipe, sank deep in the mind of Ichabod. He repaid them in kind with large extracts from his invaluable author, Cotton Mather, and added many marvellous events that had taken place in his native State of Connecticut, and fearful sights which he had seen in his nightly

55. **Arrant** (*adjective*) complete, utter

walks about Sleepy Hollow.

[55] The revel now gradually broke up. The old farmers gathered together their families in their wagons, and were heard for some time rattling along the hollow roads, and over the distant hills. Some of the damsels mounted on pillions behind their favorite swains, and their light-hearted laughter, mingling with the clatter of hoofs, echoed along the silent woodlands, sounding fainter and fainter, until they gradually died away,—and the late scene of noise and frolic was all silent and deserted. Ichabod only lingered behind, according to the custom of country lovers, to have a tête-à-tête⁵⁶ with the heiress; fully convinced that he was now on the high road to success. What passed at this interview I will not pretend to say, for in fact I do not know. Something, however, I fear me, must have gone wrong, for he certainly sallied forth, after no very great interval, with an air quite desolate and chapfallen. Oh, these women! these women! Could that girl have been playing off any of her coquettish tricks? Was her encouragement of the poor pedagogue all a mere sham to secure her conquest of his rival? Heaven only knows, not !! Let it suffice to say, Ichabod stole forth with the air of one who had been sacking a henroost, rather than a fair lady's heart. Without looking to the right or left to notice the scene of rural wealth, on which he had so often gloated, he went straight to the stable, and with several hearty cuffs and kicks roused his steed most uncourteously from the comfortable quarters in which he was soundly sleeping, dreaming of mountains of corn and oats, and whole valleys of timothy and clover.

It was the very witching time of night that Ichabod, heavy-hearted and crestfallen, pursued his travels homewards, along the sides of the lofty hills which rise above Tarry Town, and which he had traversed so cheerily in the afternoon. The hour was as dismal as himself. Far below him the Tappan Zee spread its dusky and indistinct waste of waters, with here and there the tall mast of a sloop, riding quietly at anchor under the land. In the dead hush of midnight, he could even hear the barking of the watchdog from the opposite shore of the Hudson; but it was so vague and faint as only to give an idea of his distance from this faithful companion of man. Now and then, too, the long-drawn crowing of a cock, accidentally awakened, would sound far, far off, from some farmhouse away among the hills—but it was like a dreaming sound in his ear. No signs of life occurred near him, but occasionally the melancholy chirp of a cricket, or perhaps the guttural twang of a bullfrog from a neighboring marsh, as if sleeping uncomfortably and turning suddenly in his bed.

All the stories of ghosts and goblins that he had heard in the afternoon now came crowding upon his recollection. The night grew darker and darker; the stars seemed to sink deeper in the sky, and driving clouds occasionally hid them from his sight. He had never felt so lonely and dismal. He was, moreover, approaching the very place where many of the scenes of the ghost stories had been laid. In the centre of the road stood an enormous tulip-tree, which towered like a giant above all the other trees of the neighborhood, and formed a kind of landmark. Its limbs were gnarled and fantastic, large enough to form trunks for ordinary trees, twisting down almost to the earth, and rising again into the air. It was connected with the tragical story of the unfortunate André, who had been taken prisoner hard by; and was universally known by the name of Major André's tree. The common people regarded it with a mixture of respect and superstition, partly out of sympathy for the fate of its ill-starred namesake, and partly from the tales of strange sights, and doleful lamentations, told concerning it.

As Ichabod approached this fearful tree, he began to whistle; he thought his whistle was answered; it was but a blast sweeping sharply through the dry branches. As he approached a little nearer, he thought he saw something white, hanging in the midst of the tree: he paused and ceased whistling but, on looking more

56. A French phrase denoting a private conversation between two people.

narrowly, perceived that it was a place where the tree had been scathed by lightning, and the white wood laid bare. Suddenly he heard a groan—his teeth chattered, and his knees smote against the saddle: it was but the rubbing of one huge bough upon another, as they were swayed about by the breeze. He passed the tree in safety, but new perils lay before him.

About two hundred yards from the tree, a small brook crossed the road, and ran into a marshy and thickly-wooded glen, known by the name of Wiley's Swamp. A few rough logs, laid side by side, served for a bridge over this stream. On that side of the road where the brook entered the wood, a group of oaks and chestnuts, matted thick with wild grape-vines, threw a cavernous gloom over it. To pass this bridge was the severest trial. It was at this identical spot that the unfortunate André was captured, and under the covert of those chestnuts and vines were the sturdy yeomen concealed who surprised him. This has ever since been considered a haunted stream, and fearful are the feelings of the schoolboy who has to pass it alone after dark.

[60] As he approached the stream, his heart began to thump; he summoned up, however, all his resolution, gave his horse half a score of kicks in the ribs, and attempted to dash briskly across the bridge; but instead of starting forward, the perverse old animal made a lateral movement, and ran broadside against the fence. Ichabod, whose fears increased with the delay, jerked the reins on the other side, and kicked lustily with the contrary foot: it was all in vain; his steed started, it is true, but it was only to plunge to the opposite side of the road into a thicket of brambles and alder bushes. The schoolmaster now bestowed both whip and heel upon the starveling ribs of old Gunpowder, who dashed forward, snuffing and snorting, but came to a stand just by the bridge, with a suddenness that had nearly sent his rider sprawling over his head. Just at this moment a plashy tramp by the side of the bridge caught the sensitive ear of Ichabod. In the dark shadow of the grove, on the margin of the brook, he beheld something huge, misshapen and towering. It stirred not, but seemed gathered up in the gloom, like some gigantic monster ready to spring upon the traveller.

The hair of the affrighted pedagogue rose upon his head with terror. What was to be done? To turn and fly was now too late; and besides, what chance was there of escaping ghost or goblin, if such it was, which could ride upon the wings of the wind? Summoning up, therefore, a show of courage, he demanded in stammering accents, "Who are you?" He received no reply. He repeated his demand in a still more agitated voice. Still there was no answer. Once more he cudgelled⁵⁷ the sides of the inflexible Gunpowder, and, shutting his eyes, broke forth with involuntary fervor into a psalm tune. Just then the shadowy object of alarm put itself in motion, and with a scramble and a bound stood at once in the middle of the road. Though the night was dark and dismal, yet the form of the unknown might now in some degree be ascertained. He appeared to be a horseman of large dimensions, and mounted on a black horse of powerful frame. He made no offer of molestation or sociability, but kept aloof on one side of the road, jogging along on the blind side of old Gunpowder, who had now got over his fright and waywardness.

Ichabod, who had no relish for this strange midnight companion, and bethought himself of the adventure of Brom Bones with the Galloping Hessian, now quickened his steed in hopes of leaving him behind. The stranger, however, quickened his horse to an equal pace. Ichabod pulled up, and fell into a walk, thinking to lag behind,—the other did the same. His heart began to sink within him; he endeavored to resume his psalm tune, but his parched tongue clove⁵⁸ to the roof of his mouth, and he could not utter a stave. There was something in the moody and dogged silence of this pertinacious⁵⁹ companion that was mysterious and appalling. It was soon

57. **Cudgel** (*verb*) to beat or smack

58. **Clove** (*verb*) to adhere closely; to stick or cling

fearfully accounted for. On mounting a rising ground, which brought the figure of his fellow-traveller in relief against the sky, gigantic in height, and muffled in a cloak, Ichabod was horror-struck on perceiving that he was headless!—but his horror was still more increased on observing that the head, which should have rested on his shoulders, was carried before him on the pommel of his saddle! His terror rose to desperation; he rained a shower of kicks and blows upon Gunpowder, hoping by a sudden movement to give his companion the slip; but the spectre started full jump with him. Away, then, they dashed through thick and thin; stones flying and sparks flashing at every bound. Ichabod's flimsy garments fluttered in the air, as he stretched his long lank body away over his horse's head, in the eagerness of his flight.

They had now reached the road which turns off to Sleepy Hollow; but Gunpowder, who seemed possessed with a demon, instead of keeping up it, made an opposite turn, and plunged headlong downhill to the left. This road leads through a sandy hollow shaded by trees for about a quarter of a mile, where it crosses the bridge famous in goblin story; and just beyond swells the green knoll on which stands the whitewashed church.

As yet the panic of the steed had given his unskilful rider an apparent advantage in the chase, but just as he had got half way through the hollow, the girths of the saddle gave way, and he felt it slipping from under him. He seized it by the pommel, and endeavored to hold it firm, but in vain; and had just time to save himself by clasping old Gunpowder round the neck, when the saddle fell to the earth, and he heard it trampled under foot by his pursuer. For a moment the terror of Hans Van Ripper's wrath passed across his mind,—for it was his Sunday saddle; but this was no time for petty fears; the goblin was hard on his haunches; and (unskilful rider that he was!) he had much ado to maintain his seat; sometimes slipping on one side, sometimes on another, and sometimes jolted on the high ridge of his horse's backbone, with a violence that he verily feared would cleave him asunder.

- [65] An opening in the trees now cheered him with the hopes that the church bridge was at hand. The wavering reflection of a silver star in the bosom of the brook told him that he was not mistaken. He saw the walls of the church dimly glaring under the trees beyond. He recollected the place where Brom Bones's ghostly competitor had disappeared. "If I can but reach that bridge," thought Ichabod, "I am safe." Just then he heard the black steed panting and blowing close behind him; he even fancied that he felt his hot breath. Another convulsive kick in the ribs, and old Gunpowder sprang upon the bridge; he thundered over the resounding planks; he gained the opposite side; and now Ichabod cast a look behind to see if his pursuer should vanish, according to rule, in a flash of fire and brimstone. Just then he saw the goblin rising in his stirrups, and in the very act of hurling his head at him. Ichabod endeavored to dodge the horrible missile, but too late. It encountered his cranium with a tremendous crash,—he was tumbled headlong into the dust, and Gunpowder, the black steed, and the goblin rider, passed by like a whirlwind.

The next morning the old horse was found without his saddle, and with the bridle under his feet, soberly cropping the grass at his master's gate. Ichabod did not make his appearance at breakfast; dinner-hour came, but no Ichabod. The boys assembled at the schoolhouse, and strolled idly about the banks of the brook; but no schoolmaster. Hans Van Ripper now began to feel some uneasiness about the fate of poor Ichabod, and his saddle. An inquiry was set on foot, and after diligent investigation they came upon his traces. In one part of the road leading to the church was found the saddle trampled in the dirt; the tracks of horses' hoofs deeply dented in the road, and evidently at furious speed, were traced to the bridge, beyond which, on the bank of a broad part of the brook, where the water ran deep and black, was found the hat of the unfortunate Ichabod, and

close beside it a shattered pumpkin.

The brook was searched, but the body of the schoolmaster was not to be discovered. Hans Van Ripper as executor of his estate, examined the bundle which contained all his worldly effects. They consisted of two shirts and a half; two stocks for the neck; a pair or two of worsted stockings; an old pair of corduroy small-clothes; a rusty razor; a book of psalm tunes full of dog's-ears; and a broken pitch-pipe. As to the books and furniture of the schoolhouse, they belonged to the community, excepting Cotton Mather's "History of Witchcraft," a "New England Almanac," and a book of dreams and fortune-telling; in which last was a sheet of foolscap much scribbled and blotted in several fruitless attempts to make a copy of verses in honor of the heiress of Van Tassel. These magic books and the poetic scrawl were forthwith consigned to the flames by Hans Van Ripper; who, from that time forward, determined to send his children no more to school, observing that he never knew any good come of this same reading and writing. Whatever money the schoolmaster possessed, and he had received his quarter's pay but a day or two before, he must have had about his person at the time of his disappearance.

The mysterious event caused much speculation at the church on the following Sunday. Knots of gazers and gossips were collected in the churchyard, at the bridge, and at the spot where the hat and pumpkin had been found. The stories of Brouwer, of Bones, and a whole budget of others were called to mind; and when they had diligently considered them all, and compared them with the symptoms of the present case, they shook their heads, and came to the conclusion that Ichabod had been carried off by the Galloping Hessian. As he was a bachelor, and in nobody's debt, nobody troubled his head any more about him; the school was removed to a different quarter of the hollow, and another pedagogue reigned in his stead.

It is true, an old farmer, who had been down to New York on a visit several years after, and from whom this account of the ghostly adventure was received, brought home the intelligence that Ichabod Crane was still alive; that he had left the neighborhood partly through fear of the goblin and Hans Van Ripper, and partly in mortification at having been suddenly dismissed by the heiress; that he had changed his quarters to a distant part of the country; had kept school and studied law at the same time; had been admitted to the bar; turned politician; electioneered; written for the newspapers; and finally had been made a justice of the Ten Pound Court. Brom Bones, too, who, shortly after his rival's disappearance conducted the blooming Katrina in triumph to the altar, was observed to look exceedingly knowing whenever the story of Ichabod was related, and always burst into a hearty laugh at the mention of the pumpkin; which led some to suspect that he knew more about the matter than he chose to tell.

[70] The old country wives, however, who are the best judges of these matters, maintain to this day that Ichabod was spirited away by supernatural means; and it is a favorite story often told about the neighborhood round the winter evening fire. The bridge became more than ever an object of superstitious awe; and that may be the reason why the road has been altered of late years, so as to approach the church by the border of the millpond. The schoolhouse being deserted soon fell to decay, and was reported to be haunted by the ghost of the unfortunate pedagogue and the plowboy, loitering homeward of a still summer evening, has often fancied his voice at a distance, chanting a melancholy psalm tune among the tranquil solitudes of Sleepy Hollow.

Postscript

FOUND IN THE HANDWRITING OF MR. KNICKERBOCKER.

The preceding tale is given almost in the precise words in which I heard it related at a Corporation meeting at the ancient city of Manhattoes, at which were present many of its sagest and most illustrious burghers. The

narrator was a pleasant, shabby, gentlemanly old fellow, in pepper-and-salt clothes, with a sadly humourous face, and one whom I strongly suspected of being poor—he made such efforts to be entertaining. When his story was concluded, there was much laughter and approbation, particularly from two or three deputy aldermen, who had been asleep the greater part of the time. There was, however, one tall, dry-looking old gentleman, with beetling eyebrows, who maintained a grave and rather severe face throughout, now and then folding his arms, inclining his head, and looking down upon the floor, as if turning a doubt over in his mind. He was one of your wary men, who never laugh but upon good grounds—when they have reason and law on their side. When the mirth of the rest of the company had subsided, and silence was restored, he leaned one arm on the elbow of his chair, and sticking the other akimbo, demanded, with a slight, but exceedingly sage motion of the head, and contraction of the brow, what was the moral of the story, and what it went to prove?

The story-teller, who was just putting a glass of wine to his lips, as a refreshment after his toils, paused for a moment, looked at his inquirer with an air of infinite deference, and, lowering the glass slowly to the table, observed that the story was intended most logically to prove—

“That there is no situation in life but has its advantages and pleasures—provided we will but take a joke as we find it:

“That, therefore, he that runs races with goblin troopers is likely to have rough riding of it.

[75] “Ergo, for a country schoolmaster to be refused the hand of a Dutch heiress is a certain step to high preferment in the state.”

The cautious old gentleman knit his brows tenfold closer after this explanation, being sorely puzzled by the ratiocination⁶⁰ of the syllogism,⁶¹ while, methought, the one in pepper-and-salt eyed him with something of a triumphant leer. At length he observed that all this was very well, but still he thought the story a little on the extravagant--there were one or two points on which he had his doubts.

“Faith, sir,” replied the story-teller, “as to that matter, I don’t believe one-half of it myself.” D. K.

THE END.

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60. **Ratiocination** (*noun*) the process of exact thinking; a reasoned train of thought

61. **Syllogism** (*noun*) a subtle, specious, or crafty argument; deductive reasoning

Text-Dependent Questions

Directions: For the following questions, choose the best answer or respond in complete sentences.

1. How is the description of setting in paragraph 7 important to the development of the passage's central theme of America's changing history?

2. PART A: In paragraph 8, the narrator uses the phrase "worthy wight" to describe Crane. What tone does this suggest?

- A. facetious
- B. impressed
- C. critical
- D. skeptical

3. PART B: What detail from the story best supports the answer to Part A?

- A. Crane's standing in society as schoolteacher and choirmaster.
- B. The setting – an idyllic, mysterious rural town in early America.
- C. The cartoon-ish quality of Crane's appearance.
- D. Crane's propensity to socialize with women rather than men.

4. As used in paragraph 10, what does the word "smarting" mean?

- A. yelling
- B. thinking
- C. laughing
- D. hurting

5. PART A: How does Ichabod Crane's "capacious" appetite make him an easy target for Brom Bones' tricks?

- A. He is always hungry so he cannot think logically.
- B. He will do anything for a meal.
- C. He is eager to believe the stories he is fed.
- D. He is too imaginative.

6. PART B: Which paragraph offers the best evidence for the answer in PART A?
- A. Paragraph 11
 - B. Paragraph 16
 - C. Paragraph 22
 - D. Paragraph 25
7. Which of the following best states what happens to Ichabod in the end?
- A. He is "spirited away by supernatural means."
 - B. He moved away out of fear and embarrassment.
 - C. The Headless Horseman captured him.
 - D. He becomes the subject of legend.
8. "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow" is considered an example of American mythology. Which statement best summarizes how the passage's central theme of gluttony allows for this creation of mythology?
- A. Mythology cannot exist without eager consumers who are willing to believe.
 - B. An American mythology can only arise in an affluent community where the people are naturally gluttonous.
 - C. The perpetuation of an American mythology relies on those who love to tell gossip.
 - D. A mythology must include stories that are attractive to consume.
9. How do Ichabod Crane's and Brom Bones' individual treatments of the legend of the Headless Horseman reveal their differing perspectives in the passage?

10. What does the author's choice to tell the story through the voice of such a familiar and chatty narrator contribute to the overall meaning of the text?

Discussion Questions

Directions: *Brainstorm your answers to the following questions in the space provided. Be prepared to share your original ideas in a class discussion.*

1. The title of the story tells us that we are reading a "Legend." How does the narrator establish Sleepy Hollow as a legendary place? What role does the theme of legend and gossip play in the passage?
2. How does Ichabod's love for Katrina Van Tassel emerge? Is he really in love with her? How does the object of his "love" motivate his actions?
3. Consider this story as a classic example of American mythology. In the context of this story, what makes America unique? Cite evidence from this text, your own experience, and other literature, art, or history in your answer.
4. Fear is an important theme in this passage. How does Brom use fear to manipulate Crane? How are the people of the town manipulated by fear of the legends? In other examples from life and literature, how has fear been used to manipulate people?

The Ten Commandments

By (As taken from the Book of Exodus, Chapter 20, v 1-26, King James Version)

The Ten Commandments is a set of Biblical principles relating to ethics (right vs. wrong) and worship that play a central role in Christianity and Judaism. The Ten Commandments appear twice in the Bible, in the books Exodus and Deuteronomy. More than 100 English translations of the Bible exist. The King James Version (KJV) was the first Bible translation that common people could access. Commissioned in 1604, the KJV is considered one of the great literary works in the English language. The following passage is the KJV of the expectations for the people of Israel, as found in Exodus 20:1-26 As you read, take notes on the values and priorities the commandments teach and the author's description of the relationship between God and the Israelites.



Related media

- [1] I am the Lord thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image,¹ or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.

Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity² of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;

- [5] And shewing³ mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.

Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain;⁴ for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.

Remember the sabbath⁵ day, to keep it holy.

Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work:

But the seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor



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1. a carved or sculpted image or object made to represent a god.
2. **Iniquity (noun)** being wicked or immoral in nature or character
3. the archaic spelling of showing
4. **Vain (noun)** disrespect, especially by swearing
5. Sabbath is the seventh day of the week, considered a holy day of rest

thy daughter, thy manservant,⁶ nor thy maidservant,⁷ nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates:

[10] For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed⁸ it.

Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.

Thou shalt not kill.

Thou shalt not commit adultery.

Thou shalt not steal.

[15] Thou shalt not bear false witness⁹ against thy neighbour.

Thou shalt not covet¹⁰ thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass,¹¹ nor any thing that is thy neighbour's.

And all the people saw the thunderings, and the lightnings, and the noise of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking: and when the people saw it, they removed, and stood afar off.

And they said unto Moses,¹² Speak thou with us, and we will hear: but let not God speak with us, lest we die.

And Moses said unto the people, Fear not: for God is come to prove you, and that his fear may be before your faces, that ye sin not.

[20] And the people stood afar off, and Moses drew near unto the thick darkness where God was.

And the Lord said unto Moses, Thus thou shalt say unto the children of Israel, Ye have seen that I have talked with you from heaven.

Ye shall not make with me gods of silver, neither shall ye make unto you gods of gold.

An altar of earth thou shalt make unto me, and shalt sacrifice thereon thy burnt offerings,¹³ and thy peace

6. **Manservant** (*noun*) a male slave

7. **Maidservant** (*noun*) a female slave

8. **Hallowed** (*adjective*) holy, consecrated, sacred, revered "False witness" refers to a lie.

9. "False witness" refers to a lie.

10. **Covet** (*verb*) to desire or want to possess something

11. **Ass** (*noun*) a long-eared, slow, patient, sure-footed domesticated mammal, related to the horse, used chiefly as a beast of burden.

12. Moses is a major prophet in many religions, pertaining mostly to Judaism and Christianity. According to the Book of Exodus, Moses led the Hebrew people out of Egypt and to the Promised Land.

13. a twice-daily animal sacrifice offered on the altar in the temple in Jerusalem that was completely consumed by fire

offerings,¹⁴ thy sheep, and thine oxen: in all places where I record my name I will come unto thee, and I will bless thee.

And if thou wilt make me an altar of stone, thou shalt not build it of hewn stone: for if thou lift up thy tool upon it, thou hast polluted¹⁵ it.

[25] Neither shalt thou go up by steps unto mine altar, that thy nakedness be not discovered thereon.

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-
14. an offering made to secure peace with God
 15. **Pollute** (*verb*) to defile or make unclean

Text-Dependent Questions

Directions: For the following questions, choose the best answer or respond in complete sentences.

1. How does the speaker describe God and the relationship with His followers?
 - A. The speaker describes God as jealous and unpredictable, and that the best chance one has is to follow His commandments, despite it not being a guarantee of salvation.
 - B. The speaker describes God all-knowing and all-powerful, lurking in the darkness; yet the people are not frightened of Him and choose to follow God.
 - C. The speaker (God) describes Himself as a jealous god who will either punish or reward generations depending on if they follow His commandments.
 - D. The speaker (God) describes Himself as merciful and forgiving of his people, even when they break or forget his commandments.

2. Which of the following statements best summarizes the first three commandments?
 - A. The first three commandments all discuss the power and jealousy of God.
 - B. The first three commandments all pertain to how to worship and honor God properly.
 - C. The first three commandments differ from the rest because they include punishments if not followed.
 - D. The first three commandments differ from the rest because they discuss the image of God and how he must be portrayed in speech and art.

3. Why were the Israelites commanded not to work on a certain day?
 - A. The Israelites were instructed not to work on the Sabbath because to do so would be to claim to be better than God, who rested on the seventh day.
 - B. The Israelites were instructed not to work on the Sabbath, the seventh day, reflecting God's rest after six days of creation.
 - C. The Israelites were instructed not to work on the Sabbath because God had a strong preference for worship over work.
 - D. The Israelites were instructed not to work on the Sabbath, the day dedicated to only worship.

4. At the end of the passage, what do the Israelites' reactions to the commandments reveal about how they view God?
 - A. They are willing to follow His commandments; however, they clearly fear Him for they keep their distance.
 - B. They are only willing to speak to God through Moses, indicating that they actually worship the prophet more than God.
 - C. They keep their distance from Moses and God (in the mountain), revealing that they are not likely to keep the commandments.
 - D. They happily promise to keep his Commandments, though they keep their distance so as to avoid having the fear of God put in them.

5. Do the Ten Commandments generally require people to take action or refrain from certain actions?

Discussion Questions

Directions: Brainstorm your answers to the following questions in the space provided. Be prepared to share your original ideas in a class discussion.

1. Some of our modern laws have similar principles to those found in the Ten Commandments. What elements of the Ten Commandments influence modern law?
2. Are there some commandments that are less relevant in modern times? Explain your answer.
3. How do moral codes emerge? Does every society need a written moral code? Explain your answer.
4. In the context of this passage, what is "good" and "bad" and how do cultures decide this? Use evidence from this text, your own experience, and other art or literature in your answer.

Winged Blackmail

By Jack London
1910

"Winged Blackmail" is a short story by the famous American writer Jack London (1876- 1916). The story opens as Peter Winn plots to take control for personal gain. Instead, he is met with an unexpected surprise in the form of a pigeon. As you read, consider how fear drives the action in this narrative.

[1] Peter Winn lay back comfortably in a library chair, with closed eyes, deep in the cogitation of a scheme of campaign destined in the near future to make a certain coterie of hostile financiers sit up. The central idea had come to him the night before, and he was now reveling in the planning of the remoter, minor details. By obtaining control of a certain up-country bank, two general stores, and several logging camps, he could come into control of a certain dinky jerkwater line which shall here be nameless, but which, in his hands, would prove the key to a vastly larger situation involving more main-line mileage almost than there were spikes in the aforesaid dinky jerkwater. It was so simple that he had almost laughed aloud when it came to him. No wonder those astute and ancient enemies of his had passed it by.



"A Columba Oenas" by Jim Gifford is licensed under CC0.

The library door opened, and a slender, middle-aged man, weak-eyed and eye glassed, entered. In his hands was an envelope and an open letter. As Peter Winn's secretary it was his task to weed out, sort, and classify his employer's mail.

"This came in the morning post," he ventured apologetically and with the hint of a titter. "Of course it doesn't amount to anything, but I thought you would like to see it."

"Read it," Peter Winn commanded, without opening his eyes.

[5] The secretary cleared his throat.

"It is dated July seventeenth, but is without address. Postmark San Francisco. It is also quite illiterate. The spelling is atrocious. Here it is:

"Mr. Peter Winn, SIR: I send you respectfully by express a pigeon worth good money. She's a loo-loo—"

"What is a loo-loo?" Peter Winn interrupted.

The secretary tittered.

[10] "I'm sure I don't know, except that it must be a superlative of some sort. The letter continues:

"Please freight it with a couple of thousand-dollar bills and let it go. If you do I wont never annoy you no more. If you don't you will be sorry.

"That is all. It is unsigned. I thought it would amuse you."

"Has the pigeon come?" Peter Winn demanded.

"I'm sure I never thought to enquire."

[15] "Then do so."

In five minutes the secretary was back.

"Yes, sir. It came this morning."

"Then bring it in."

The secretary was inclined to take the affair as a practical joke, but Peter Winn, after an examination of the pigeon, thought otherwise.

[20] "Look at it," he said, stroking and handling it. "See the length of the body and that elongated neck. A proper carrier. I doubt if I've ever seen a finer specimen. Powerfully winged and muscled. As our unknown correspondent remarked, she is a loo-loo. It's a temptation to keep her."

The secretary tittered.

"Why not? Surely you will not let it go back to the writer of that letter."

Peter Winn shook his head.

"I'll answer. No man can threaten me, even anonymously or in foolery."

[25] On a slip of paper he wrote the succinct message, "Go to hell," signed it, and placed it in the carrying apparatus with which the bird had been thoughtfully supplied.

"Now we'll let her loose. Where's my son? I'd like him to see the flight."

"He's down in the workshop. He slept there last night, and had his breakfast sent down this morning."

"He'll break his neck yet," Peter Winn remarked, half-fiercely, half-proudly, as he led the way to the veranda.

Standing at the head of the broad steps, he tossed the pretty creature outward and upward. She caught herself with a quick beat of wings, fluttered about undecidedly for a space, then rose in the air.

[30] Again, high up, there seemed indecision; then, apparently getting her bearings, she headed east, over the oak-trees that dotted the park-like grounds.

"Beautiful, beautiful," Peter Winn murmured. "I almost wish I had her back."

But Peter Winn was a very busy man, with such large plans in his head and with so many reins in his hands that he quickly forgot the incident. Three nights later the left wing of his country house was blown up. It was not a heavy explosion, and nobody was hurt, though the wing itself was ruined. Most of the windows of the rest of the house were broken, and there was a deal of general damage. By the first ferry boat of the morning half a dozen San Francisco detectives arrived, and several hours later the secretary, in high excitement, erupted on Peter Winn.

"It's come!" the secretary gasped, the sweat beading his forehead and his eyes bulging behind their glasses.

"What has come?" Peter demanded.

[35] "It—the—the loo-loo bird."

Then the financier understood.

"Have you gone over the mail yet?"

"I was just going over it, sir."

"Then continue, and see if you can find another letter from our mysterious friend, the pigeon fancier."

[40] The letter came to light. It read:

Mr. Peter Winn, HONORABLE SIR: Now don't be a fool. If you'd come through, your shack would not have blew up—I beg to inform you respectfully, am sending same pigeon. Take good care of same, thank you. Put five one thousand dollar bills on her and let her go. Don't feed her. Don't try to follow bird. She is wise to the way now and makes better time. If you don't come through, watch out.

Peter Winn was genuinely angry. This time he indited¹ no message for the pigeon to carry. Instead, he called in the detectives, and, under their advice, weighted the pigeon heavily with shot. Her previous flight having been eastward toward the bay, the fastest motor-boat in Tiburon was commissioned to take up the chase if it led out over the water.

But too much shot had been put on the carrier, and she was exhausted before the shore was reached. Then the mistake was made of putting too little shot on her, and she rose high in the air, got her bearings and started eastward across San Francisco Bay. She flew straight over Angel Island, and here the motor-boat lost her, for it had to go around the island.

That night, armed guards patrolled the grounds. But there was no explosion. Yet, in the early morning Peter Winn learned by telephone that his sister's home in Alameda had been burned to the ground.

[45] Two days later the pigeon was back again, coming this time by freight in what had seemed a barrel of potatoes. Also came another letter:

Mr. Peter Winn, RESPECTABLE SIR: It was me that fixed your sister's house. You have raised hell, ain't you. Send ten thousand now. Going up all the time. Don't put any more handicap weights on that bird. You sure can't follow her, and it's cruelty to animals.

Peter Winn was ready to acknowledge himself beaten. The detectives were powerless, and Peter did not know where next the man would strike—perhaps at the lives of those near and dear to him. He even telephoned to San Francisco for ten thousand dollars in bills of large denomination. But Peter had a son, Peter Winn, Junior, with the same firm-set jaw as his fathers, and the same knitted, brooding determination in his eyes. He was only twenty-six, but he was all man, a secret terror and delight to the financier, who alternated between pride in his son's aeroplane feats and fear for an untimely and terrible end.

"Hold on, father, don't send that money," said Peter Winn, Junior. "Number Eight is ready, and I know I've at last got that reefing² down fine. It will work, and it will revolutionize flying. Speed—that's what's needed, and so are the large sustaining surfaces for getting started and for altitude. I've got them both. Once I'm up I reef down. There it is. The smaller the sustaining surface, the higher the speed. That was the law discovered by Langley. And I've applied it. I can rise when the air is calm and full of holes, and I can rise when its boiling, and by my control of

1. "Indite" is an archaic verb meaning to write or compose.
2. "Reefing" is actually a sailing term that means to reduce the area of a sail by rolling or folding a portion of it in. In 1910, when this story was published, flying an aircraft was a very new phenomenon – the first controlled, sustained flight of a powered, heavier-than-air aircraft was flown by the Wright brothers just a few years earlier. It's likely that London was using sailing terminology to describe Peter Jr.'s flying technique of adjusting the plane's wing length to maneuver it in certain ways.

my plane areas I can come pretty close to making any speed I want. Especially with that new Sangster-Endholm engine."

"You'll come pretty close to breaking your neck one of these days," was his father's encouraging remark.

[50] "Dad, I'll tell you what I'll come pretty close to—ninety miles an hour—Yes, and a hundred. Now listen! I was going to make a trial tomorrow. But it won't take two hours to start today. I'll tackle it this afternoon. Keep that money. Give me the pigeon and I'll follow her to her loft where ever it is. Hold on, let me talk to the mechanics."

He called up the workshop, and in crisp, terse sentences gave his orders in a way that went to the older man's heart. Truly, his one son was a chip off the old block, and Peter Winn had no meek notions concerning the intrinsic value of said old block.

Timed to the minute, the young man, two hours later, was ready for the start. In a holster at his hip, for instant use, cocked and with the safety on, was a large-caliber automatic pistol. With a final inspection and overhauling he took his seat in the aeroplane. He started the engine, and with a wild burr of gas explosions the beautiful fabric darted down the launching ways and lifted into the air. Circling, as he rose, to the west, he wheeled about and jockeyed and maneuvered for the real start of the race.

This start depended on the pigeon. Peter Winn held it. Nor was it weighted with shot this time. Instead, half a yard of bright ribbon was firmly attached to its leg—this the more easily to enable its flight being followed. Peter Winn released it, and it arose easily enough despite the slight drag of the ribbon. There was no uncertainty about its movements. This was the third time it had made particular homing passage, and it knew the course.

At an altitude of several hundred feet it straightened out and went due east. The aeroplane swerved into a straight course from its last curve and followed. The race was on. Peter Winn, looking up, saw that the pigeon was outdistancing the machine. Then he saw something else. The aeroplane suddenly and instantly became smaller. It had reefed. Its high-speed plane-design was now revealed. Instead of the generous spread of surface with which it had taken the air, it was now a lean and hawklike monoplane balanced on long and exceedingly narrow wings.

[55] When young Winn reefed down so suddenly, he received a surprise. It was his first trial of the new device, and while he was prepared for increased speed he was not prepared for such an astonishing increase. It was better than he dreamed, and, before he knew it, he was hard upon the pigeon. That little creature, frightened by this, the most monstrous hawk it had ever seen, immediately darted upward, after the manner of pigeons that strive always to rise above a hawk.

In great curves the monoplane followed upward, higher and higher into the blue. It was difficult, from underneath to see the pigeon, and young Winn dared not lose it from his sight. He even

shook out his reefs in order to rise more quickly. Up, up they went, until the pigeon, true to its instinct, dropped and struck at what it thought to be the back of its pursuing enemy. Once was enough, for, evidently finding no life in the smooth cloth surface of the machine, it ceased soaring and straightened out on its eastward course.

A carrier pigeon on a passage can achieve a high rate of speed, and Winn reefed again. And again, to his satisfaction, he found that he was beating the pigeon. But this time he quickly shook out a portion of his reefed sustaining surface and slowed down in time. From then on he knew he had the chase safely in hand, and from then on a chant rose to his lips which he continued to sing at intervals, and unconsciously, for the rest of the passage. It was: "Going some; going some; what did I tell you!—going some."

Even so, it was not all plain sailing. The air is an unstable medium at best, and quite without warning, at an acute angle, he entered an aerial tide which he recognized as the gulf stream of wind that poured through the drafty-mouthed Golden Gate. His right wing caught it first—a sudden, sharp puff that lifted and tilted the monoplane and threatened to capsize it. But he rode with a sensitive "loose curb," and quickly, but not too quickly, he shifted the angles of his wing-tips, depressed the front horizontal rudder, and swung over the rear vertical rudder to meet the tilting thrust of the wind. As the machine came back to an even keel, and he knew that he was now wholly in the invisible stream, he readjusted the wing-tips, rapidly away from him during the several moments of his discomfiture.

The pigeon drove straight on for the Alameda County shore, and it was near this shore that Winn had another experience. He fell into an air-hole. He had fallen into air-holes before, in previous flights, but this was a far larger one than he had ever encountered. With his eyes strained on the ribbon attached to the pigeon, by that fluttering bit of color he marked his fall. Down he went, at the pit of his stomach that old sink sensation which he had known as a boy he first negotiated quick-starting elevators. But Winn, among other secrets of aviation, had learned that to go up it was sometimes necessary first to go down. The air had refused to hold him. Instead of struggling futilely and perilously against this lack of sustension, he yielded to it. With steady head and hand, he depressed the forward horizontal rudder—just recklessly enough and not a fraction more—and the monoplane dived head foremost and sharply down the void. It was falling with the keenness of a knife-blade. Every instant the speed accelerated frightfully. Thus he accumulated the momentum that would save him. But few instants were required, when, abruptly shifting the double horizontal rudders forward and astern, he shot upward on the tense and straining plane and out of the pit.

[60] At an altitude of five hundred feet, the pigeon drove on over the town of Berkeley and lifted its flight to the Contra Costa hills. Young Winn noted the campus and buildings of the University of California—his university—as he rose after the pigeon.

Once more, on these Contra Costa hills, he early came to grief. The pigeon was now flying low, and where a grove of eucalyptus presented a solid front to the wind, the bird was suddenly sent fluttering wildly upward for a distance of a hundred feet. Winn knew what it meant. It had been caught in an air-surf that beat upward hundreds of feet where the fresh west wind smote the upstanding wall of the grove. He reefed hastily to the uttermost, and at the same time

depressed the angle of his flight to meet that upward surge. Nevertheless, the monoplane was tossed fully three hundred feet before the danger was left astern.

Two or more ranges of hills the pigeon crossed, and then Winn saw it dropping down to a landing where a small cabin stood in a hillside clearing. He blessed that clearing. Not only was it good for alighting, but, on account of the steepness of the slope, it was just the thing for rising again into the air.

A man, reading a newspaper, had just started up at the sight of the returning pigeon, when he heard the burr of Winn's engine and saw the huge monoplane, with all surfaces set, drop down upon him, stop suddenly on an air-cushion manufactured on the spur of the moment by a shift of the horizontal rudders, glide a few yards, strike ground, and come to rest not a score of feet away from him. But when he saw a young man, calmly sitting in the machine and leveling a pistol at him, the man turned to run. Before he could make the corner of the cabin, a bullet through the leg brought him down in a sprawling fall.

"What do you want!" he demanded sullenly, as the other stood over him.

[65] "I want to take you for a ride in my new machine," Winn answered. "Believe me, she is a loo-loo."

The man did not argue long, for this strange visitor had most convincing ways. Under Winn's instructions, covered all the time by the pistol, the man improvised a tourniquet and applied it to his wounded leg. Winn helped him to a seat in the machine, then went to the pigeon-loft and took possession of the bird with the ribbon still fast to its leg.

A very tractable prisoner, the man proved. Once up in the air, he sat close, in an ecstasy of fear. An adept at winged blackmail, he had no aptitude for wings himself, and when he gazed down at the flying land and water far beneath him, he did not feel moved to attack his captor, now defenseless, both hands occupied with flight.

Instead, the only way the man felt moved was to sit closer.

Peter Winn, Senior, scanning the heavens with powerful glasses, saw the monoplane leap into view and grow large over the rugged backbone of Angel Island. Several minutes later he cried out to the waiting detectives that the machine carried a passenger. Dropping swiftly and piling up an abrupt air-cushion, the monoplane landed.

[70] "That reefing device is a winner!" young Winn cried, as he climbed out. "Did you see me at the start? I almost ran over the pigeon. Going some, dad! Going some! What did I tell you? Going some!"

"But who is that with you?" his father demanded.

The young man looked back at his prisoner and remembered.

"Why, that's the pigeon-fancier," he said. "I guess the officers can take care of him."

Peter Winn gripped his son's hand in grim silence, and fondled the pigeon which his son had passed to him. Again he fondled the pretty creature. Then he spoke.

"Exhibit A,³ for the People," he said.

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Related Media



3. An "exhibit," in a court case or trial, is physical or documentary evidence brought before the jury.

Text-Dependent Questions

Directions: For the following questions, choose the best answer or respond in complete sentences.

1. How does the theme of fear play into the story? Explain using evidence from the text.

2. What does Winn's initial reaction to the pigeon and letter reveal about his character?

- A. Peter Winn is more impressed with the pigeon than he is intimidated by the threatening letter, revealing his haughty and superficial personality.
- B. Peter Winn is more impressed with the pigeon than he is intimidated by the threatening letter, revealing his limited intelligence.
- C. Peter Winn is too distracted by the ransom letter to acknowledge the pigeon, revealing his distracted and short-sighted personality.
- D. Peter Winn cares more about the value of the pigeon than the price of ransom, indicating his preoccupation with wealth.

3. What does the word "succinct" most likely mean as used in paragraph 25?

- A. Apologetic
- B. Sarcastic
- C. Brief
- D. Wordy

4. How does the resolution of the story (i.e. comedic, tragic, etc.) affect the story's overall meaning?

Excerpt from The Adventures of Huckleberry

Finn

By Mark Twain

1885

Related info & media



Mark Twain (1835-1910) was an American author and humorist. His book, The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, published in 1885, was called the "Great American Novel." The setting of the novel is antebellum Mississippi. Huckleberry or "Huck" Finn, a friend of Tom Sawyer, narrates the entire book. As you read, take notes about the relationship between Huck Finn and Tom Sawyer.

From Chapter 2

- [1] Well, when Tom and me got to the edge of the hilltop we looked away down into the village and could see three or four lights twinkling, where there was sick folks, maybe; and the stars over us was sparkling ever so fine; and down by the village was the river, a whole mile broad, and awful still and grand. We went down the hill and found Jo Harper and Ben Rogers, and two or three more of the boys, hid in the old tanyard. So we unhitched a skiff and pulled down the river two mile and a half, to the big scar on the hillside, and went ashore.



"Tom Sawyer's Fence" by Richard Urban is licensed under CC0.

We went to a clump of bushes, and Tom made everybody swear to keep the secret, and then showed them a hole in the hill, right in the thickest part of the bushes. Then we lit the candles, and crawled in on our hands and knees. We went about two hundred yards, and then the cave opened up. Tom poked about amongst the passages, and pretty soon ducked under a wall where you wouldn't a noticed that there was a hole. We went along a narrow place and got into a kind of room, all damp and sweaty and cold, and there we stopped. Tom says:

"Now, we'll start this band of robbers and call it Tom Sawyer's Gang. Everybody that wants to join has got to take an oath, and write his name in blood."

Everybody was willing. So Tom got out a sheet of paper that he had wrote the oath on, and read it. It swore every boy to stick to the band, and never tell any of the secrets; and if anybody done anything to any boy in the band, whichever boy was ordered to kill that person and his family must do it, and he mustn't eat and he mustn't sleep till he had killed them and hacked a cross in their breasts, which was the sign of the band. And nobody that didn't belong to the band could use that mark, and if he did he must be sued; and if he done it again he must be killed. And if anybody that belonged to the band told the secrets, he must have his throat cut, and then have his carcass burnt up and the ashes scattered all around, and his name blotted off of the list with blood and never mentioned again by the gang, but have a curse put on it and be forgot forever.

- [5] Everybody said it was a real beautiful oath, and asked Tom if he got it out of his own head. He said, some of it, but the rest was out of pirate-books and robber-books, and every gang that was high-toned had it.

Some thought it would be good to kill the families of boys that told the secrets. Tom said it was a good idea, so he took a pencil and wrote it in. Then Ben Rogers says:

"Here's Huck Finn, he hain't got no family; what you going to do 'bout him?"

"Well, hain't he got a father?" says Tom Sawyer.

"Yes, he's got a father, but you can't never find him these days. He used to lay drunk with the hogs in the tanyard, but he hain't been seen in these parts for a year or more."

- [10] They talked it over, and they was going to rule me out, because they said every boy must have a family or somebody to kill, or else it wouldn't be fair and square for the others. Well, nobody could think of anything to do—everybody was stumped, and set still. I was most ready to cry; but all at once I thought of a way, and so I offered them Miss Watson—they could kill her. Everybody said:

"Oh, she'll do. That's all right. Huck can come in."

Then they all stuck a pin in their fingers to get blood to sign with, and I made my mark on the paper.

"Now," says Ben Rogers, "what's the line of business of this Gang?"

"Nothing only robbery and murder," Tom said.

- [15] "But who are we going to rob?—houses, or cattle, or—"

"Stuff! stealing cattle and such things ain't robbery; it's burglary," says Tom Sawyer. "We ain't burglars. That ain't no sort of style. We are highwaymen. We stop stages and carriages on the road, with masks on, and kill the people and take their watches and money."

"Must we always kill the people?"

"Oh, certainly. It's best. Some authorities think different, but mostly it's considered best to kill them—except some that you bring to the cave here, and keep them till they're ransomed."

"Ransomed? What's that?"

- [20] "I don't know. But that's what they do. I've seen it in books; and so of course that's what we've got to do."

"But how can we do it if we don't know what it is?"

"Why, blame it all, we've got to do it. Don't I tell you it's in the books? Do you want to go to doing different from what's in the books, and get things all muddled up?"

"Oh, that's all very fine to say, Tom Sawyer, but how in the nation are these fellows going to be ransomed if we don't know how to do it to them?—that's the thing I want to get at. Now, what do you reckon it is?"

"Well, I don't know. But per'aps if we keep them till they're ransomed, it means that we keep them till they're dead."

[25] "Now, that's something like. That'll answer. Why couldn't you said that before? We'll keep them till they're ransomed to death; and a bothersome lot they'll be, too—eating up everything, and always trying to get loose."

"How you talk, Ben Rogers. How can they get loose when there's a guard over them, ready to shoot them down if they move a peg?"

"A guard! Well, that is good. So somebody's got to set up all night and never get any sleep, just so as to watch them. I think that's foolishness. Why can't a body take a club and ransom them as soon as they get here?"

"Because it ain't in the books so—that's why. Now, Ben Rogers, do you want to do things regular, or don't you?—that's the idea. Don't you reckon that the people that made the books knows what's the correct thing to do? Do you reckon you can learn 'em anything? Not by a good deal. No, sir, we'll just go on and ransom them in the regular way."

"All right. I don't mind; but I say it's a fool way, anyhow. Say, do we kill the women, too?"

[30] "Well, Ben Rogers, if I was as ignorant as you I wouldn't let on. Kill the women? No; nobody ever saw anything in the books like that. You fetch them to the cave, and you're always as polite as pie to them; and by and by they fall in love with you, and never want to go home any more."

"Well, if that's the way I'm agreed, but I don't take no stock in it. Mighty soon we'll have the cave so cluttered up with women, and fellows waiting to be ransomed, that there won't be no place for the robbers. But go ahead, I ain't got nothing to say."

Little Tommy Barnes was asleep now, and when they waked him up he was scared, and cried, and said he wanted to go home to his ma, and didn't want to be a robber any more.

So they all made fun of him, and called him cry-baby, and that made him mad, and he said he would go straight and tell all the secrets. But Tom give him five cents to keep quiet, and said we would all go home and meet next week, and rob somebody and kill some people.

Ben Rogers said he couldn't get out much, only Sundays, and so he wanted to begin next Sunday; but all the boys said it would be wicked to do it on Sunday, and that settled the thing. They agreed to get together and fix a day as soon as they could, and then we elected Tom Sawyer first captain and Jo Harper second captain of the Gang, and so started home.

[35] I clumb up the shed and crept into my window just before day was breaking. My new clothes was all greased up and clayey, and I was dog-tired.

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain (1885) is in the public domain.

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Text-Dependent Questions

Directions: For the following questions, choose the best answer or respond in complete sentences.

1. PART A: Which of the following best identifies a theme of the excerpt?
 - A. Children often do not understand the consequences of their actions and can act cruelly towards other and one another as a result.
 - B. Youthful naivety prompts children to want to imitate influential ideas in ways they don't always understand.
 - C. While young people have beautifully active imaginations, it is better to be old and wise than young and foolish.
 - D. Strong family units help prevent crime and cruelty among younger family members.

2. PART B: Which of the following quotes best supports the answer to Part A?
 - A. "It swore every boy to stick to the band, and never tell any of the secrets; and if anybody done anything to any boy in the band, whichever boy was ordered to kill that person and his family must do it" (Paragraph 4)
 - B. "Everybody said it was a real beautiful oath, and asked Tom if he got it out of his own head. He said, some of it, but the rest was out of pirate-books and robber-books" (Paragraph 5)
 - C. "'Yes, he's got a father, but you can't never find him these days. He used to lay drunk with the hogs in the tanyard, but he hain't been seen in these parts for a year or more.'" (Paragraph 9)
 - D. "Ben Rogers said he couldn't get out much, only Sundays, and so he wanted to begin next Sunday; but all the boys said it would be wicked to do it on Sunday, and that settled the thing." (Paragraph 34)

3. PART A: Which of the following statements best describes the boys' friendship?
 - A. The boys dislike one another and are eager to "betray" one another.
 - B. They have a strong bond that leads them to form a gang and take a blood oath.
 - C. They jointly follow Tom but do not hesitate to squabble or poke fun at one another.
 - D. The boys form a friendship more out of boredom than actual affection.

4. PART B: Which of the following quotes best supports the answer to Part A?
 - A. "'Now, we'll start this band of robbers and call it Tom Sawyer's Gang.'" (Paragraph 3)
 - B. "And if anybody that belonged to the band told the secrets, he must have his throat cut, and then have his carcass burnt up and the ashes scattered all around, and his name blotted off of the list with blood and never mentioned again by the gang" (Paragraph 4)
 - C. "They talked it over, and they was going to rule me out, because they said every boy must have a family or somebody to kill, or else it wouldn't be fair and square for the others." (Paragraph 10)
 - D. "Then they all stuck a pin in their fingers to get blood to sign with, and I made my mark on the paper." (Paragraph 12)

5. What do the rules and language of the oath suggest about the boys, especially Tom Sawyer who composed it? Cite evidence from the text in your answer.

The Most Dangerous Game

By Richard Connell

1924

Richard Connell (1893-1949) was an American author and journalist. This short story, which is his most famous, is an action-adventure tale inspired partly by the big-game safari tours in Africa and South America that were popular in the 1920s. This tale was also influenced by Connell's experience in World War I, which may have contributed to the story's message. As you read this story, take note of the devices the author uses to build suspense.

[1] "Off there to the right — somewhere — is a large island," said Whitney. "It's rather a mystery — "

"What island is it?" Rainsford asked.

"The old charts call it 'Ship-Trap Island,'" Whitney replied. "A suggestive name, isn't it? Sailors have a curious dread of the place. I don't know why. Some superstition — "

"Can't see it," remarked Rainsford, trying to peer through the dank tropical night that was palpable¹ as it pressed its thick warm blackness in upon the yacht.

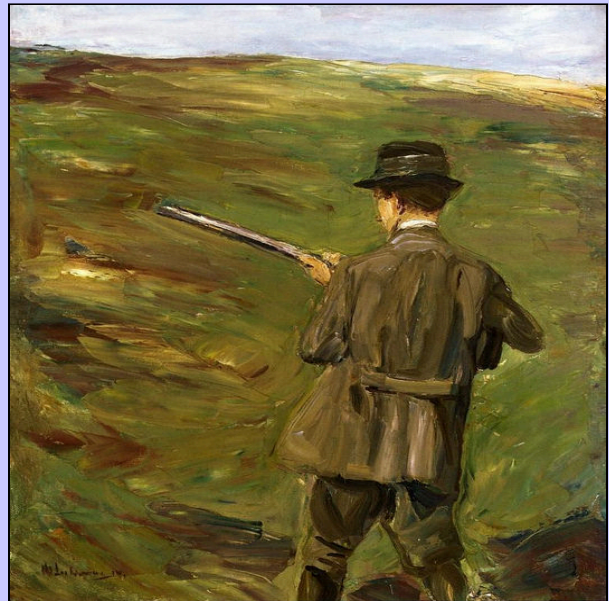
[5] "You've good eyes," said Whitney, with a laugh, "and I've seen you pick off a moose moving in the brown fall bush at four hundred yards, but even you can't see four miles or so through a moonless Caribbean night."

"Nor four yards," admitted Rainsford. "Ugh! It's like moist black velvet."

"It will be light in Rio," promised Whitney. "We should make it in a few days. I hope the jaguar guns have come from Purdey's. We should have some good hunting up the Amazon. Great sport, hunting."

"The best sport in the world," agreed Rainsford.

"For the hunter," amended Whitney. "Not for the jaguar."



"A Hunter In The Dunes" by Max Liebermann is in the public domain.

1. **Palpable** (*adjective*) easily noticed or perceptible

[10] “Don’t talk rot, Whitney,” said Rainsford. “You’re a big-game² hunter, not a philosopher. Who cares how a jaguar feels?”

“Perhaps the jaguar does,” observed Whitney.

“Bah! They’ve no understanding.”

“Even so, I rather think they understand one thing — fear. The fear of pain and the fear of death.”

“Nonsense,” laughed Rainsford. “This hot weather is making you soft, Whitney. Be a realist. The world is made up of two classes — the hunters and the huntees. Luckily, you and I are the hunters. Do you think we’ve passed that island yet?”

[15] “I can’t tell in the dark. I hope so.”

“Why?” asked Rainsford.

“The place has a reputation — a bad one.”

“Cannibals?” suggested Rainsford.

“Hardly. Even cannibals wouldn’t live in such a godforsaken place. But it’s gotten into sailor lore, somehow. Didn’t you notice that the crew’s nerves seemed a bit jumpy today?”

[20] “They were a bit strange, now you mention it. Even Captain Nielsen — ”

“Yes, even that tough-minded old Swede, who’d go up to the devil himself and ask him for a light. Those fishy blue eyes held a look I never saw there before. All I could get out of him was: ‘This place has an evil name among seafaring men, sir.’ Then he said to me, very gravely: ‘Don’t you feel anything?’ — as if the air about us was actually poisonous. Now, you mustn’t laugh when I tell you this — I did feel something like a sudden chill.

“There was no breeze. The sea was as flat as a plate-glass window. We were drawing near the island then. What I felt was a — a mental chill; a sort of sudden dread.”

“Pure imagination,” said Rainsford. “One superstitious sailor can taint the whole ship’s company with his fear.”

“Maybe. But sometimes I think sailors have an extra sense that tells them when they are in danger. Sometimes I think evil is a tangible³ thing — with wavelengths, just as sound and light have. An evil place can, so to speak, broadcast vibrations of evil. Anyhow, I’m glad we’re getting out of this zone. Well, I think I’ll turn in now, Rainsford.”

[25] “I’m not sleepy,” said Rainsford. “I’m going to smoke another pipe up on the afterdeck.”

2. “Game” refers to wild animals or birds that are hunted for sport and sometimes cooked and eaten.
3. **Tangible** (*adjective*) capable of being touched

"Good night, then, Rainsford. See you at breakfast."

"Right. Good night, Whitney."

There was no sound in the night as Rainsford sat there but the muffled throb of the engine that drove the yacht swiftly through the darkness, and the swish and ripple of the wash of the propeller.

Rainsford, reclining in a steamer chair, indolently⁴ puffed on his favorite brier.⁵ The sensuous⁶ drowsiness of the night was on him." It's so dark," he thought, "that I could sleep without closing my eyes; the night would be my eyelids —"

- [30] An abrupt sound startled him. Off to the right he heard it, and his ears, expert in such matters, could not be mistaken. Again he heard the sound, and again. Somewhere, off in the blackness, someone had fired a gun three times.

Rainsford sprang up and moved quickly to the rail, mystified. He strained his eyes in the direction from which the reports had come, but it was like trying to see through a blanket. He leaped upon the rail and balanced himself there, to get greater elevation; his pipe, striking a rope, was knocked from his mouth. He lunged for it; a short, hoarse cry came from his lips as he realized he had reached too far and had lost his balance. The cry was pinched off short as the blood-warm waters of the Caribbean Sea closed over his head.

He struggled up to the surface and tried to cry out, but the wash from the speeding yacht slapped him in the face and the salt water in his open mouth made him gag and strangle. Desperately he struck out with strong strokes after the receding lights of the yacht, but he stopped before he had swum fifty feet. A certain coolheadedness had come to him; it was not the first time he had been in a tight place. There was a chance that his cries could be heard by someone aboard the yacht, but that chance was slender and grew more slender as the yacht raced on. He wrestled himself out of his clothes and shouted with all his power. The lights of the yacht became faint and ever-vanishing fireflies; then they were blotted out entirely by the night.

Rainsford remembered the shots. They had come from the right, and doggedly⁷ he swam in that direction, swimming with slow, deliberate strokes, conserving his strength. For a seemingly endless time he fought the sea. He began to count his strokes; he could do possibly a hundred more and then —

Rainsford heard a sound. It came out of the darkness, a high screaming sound, the sound of an animal in an extremity of anguish⁸ and terror.

- [35] He did not recognize the animal that made the sound; he did not try to; with fresh vitality⁹ he swam toward the sound. He heard it again; then it was cut short by another noise, crisp, staccato.¹⁰

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4. **Indolently** (*adverb*) lazily
 5. a tobacco pipe
 6. pleasing to the senses
 7. **Dogged** (*adjective*) stubbornly determined
 8. **Anguish** (*noun*) severe emotional or physical pain
 9. **Vitality** (*noun*) great energy and liveliness
 10. Staccato describes a series of sounds that are short and separate.

"Pistol shot," muttered Rainsford, swimming on.

10 minutes of determined effort brought another sound to his ears — the most welcome he had ever heard — the muttering and growling of the sea breaking on a rocky shore. He was almost on the rocks before he saw them; on a night less calm he would have been shattered against them. With his remaining strength he dragged himself from the swirling waters. Jagged crags appeared to jut up into the opaqueness;¹¹ he forced himself upward, hand over hand. Gasping, his hands raw, he reached a flat place at the top. Dense jungle came down to the very edge of the cliffs. What perils that tangle of trees and underbrush might hold for him did not concern Rainsford just then. All he knew was that he was safe from his enemy, the sea, and that utter weariness was on him. He flung himself down at the jungle edge and tumbled headlong into the deepest sleep of his life.

When he opened his eyes he knew from the position of the sun that it was late in the afternoon. Sleep had given him new vigor;¹² a sharp hunger was picking at him. He looked about him, almost cheerfully.

"Where there are pistol shots, there are men. Where there are men, there is food," he thought. But what kind of men, he wondered, in so forbidding a place? An unbroken front of snarled and ragged jungle fringed the shore.

[40] He saw no sign of a trail through the closely knit web of weeds and trees; it was easier to go along the shore, and Rainsford floundered along by the water. Not far from where he landed, he stopped.

Some wounded thing, by the evidence, a large animal, had thrashed about in the underbrush; the jungle weeds were crushed down and the moss was lacerated;¹³ one patch of weeds was stained crimson. A small, glittering object not far away caught Rainsford's eye and he picked it up. It was an empty cartridge.

"A 22,"¹⁴ he remarked. "That's odd. It must have been a fairly large animal too. The hunter had his nerve with him to tackle it with a light gun. It's clear that the brute put up a fight. I suppose the first three shots I heard was when the hunter flushed his quarry and wounded it. The last shot was when he trailed it here and finished it."

He examined the ground closely and found what he had hoped to find — the print of hunting boots. They pointed along the cliff in the direction he had been going. Eagerly he hurried along, now slipping on a rotten log or a loose stone, but making headway; night was beginning to settle down on the island.

Bleak darkness was blacking out the sea and jungle when Rainsford sighted the lights. He came upon them as he turned a crook in the coastline; and his first thought was that he had come upon a village, for there were many lights. But as he forged along he saw to his great astonishment that all the lights were in one enormous building — a lofty structure with pointed towers plunging upward into the gloom. His eyes made out the shadowy outlines of a palatial¹⁵ chateau;¹⁶ it was set on a high bluff, and on three sides of it cliffs dived down to where the sea licked greedy lips in the shadows.

-
11. the opposite of transparency; something you can't see through
 12. **Vigor** (*noun*) energy and enthusiasm
 13. **Lacerate** (*verb*) to cut
 14. a type of bullet
 15. palace-like
 16. a castle-like manor house

[45] “Mirage,” thought Rainsford. But it was no mirage, he found, when he opened the tall spiked iron gate. The stone steps were real enough; the massive door with a leering gargoyle for a knocker was real enough; yet about it all hung an air of unreality.

He lifted the knocker, and it creaked up stiffly, as if it had never before been used. He let it fall, and it startled him with its booming loudness. He thought he heard steps within; the door remained closed. Again Rainsford lifted the heavy knocker and let it fall. The door opened then — opened as suddenly as if it were on a spring — and Rainsford stood blinking in the river of glaring gold light that poured out. The first thing Rainsford’s eyes discerned was the largest man Rainsford had ever seen — a gigantic creature, solidly made and black-bearded to the waist. In his hand the man held a long-barreled revolver, and he was pointing it straight at Rainsford’s heart.

Out of the snarl of beard two small eyes regarded Rainsford.

“Don’t be alarmed,” said Rainsford, with a smile which he hoped was disarming. “I’m no robber. I fell off a yacht. My name is Sanger Rainsford of New York City.”

The menacing look in the eyes did not change. The revolver pointing as rigidly as if the giant were a statue. He gave no sign that he understood Rainsford’s words, or that he had even heard them. He was dressed in uniform — a black uniform trimmed with gray astrakhan.¹⁷

[50] “I’m Sanger Rainsford of New York,” Rainsford began again. “I fell off a yacht. I am hungry.”

The man’s only answer was to raise with his thumb the hammer of his revolver. Then Rainsford saw the man’s free hand go to his forehead in a military salute, and he saw him click his heels together and stand at attention. Another man was coming down the broad marble steps, an erect, slender man in evening clothes. He advanced to Rainsford and held out his hand.

In a cultivated voice marked by a slight accent that gave it added precision and deliberateness, he said, “It is a very great pleasure and honor to welcome Mr. Sanger Rainsford, the celebrated hunter, to my home.”

Automatically Rainsford shook the man’s hand.

“I’ve read your book about hunting snow leopards in Tibet, you see,” explained the man. “I am General Zaroff.”

[55] Rainsford’s first impression was that the man was singularly handsome; his second was that there was an original, almost bizarre quality about the general’s face. He was a tall man past middle age, for his hair was a vivid¹⁸ white; but his thick eyebrows and pointed military mustache were as black as the night from which Rainsford had come. His eyes, too, were black and very bright. He had high cheekbones, a sharp-cut nose, a spare, dark face — the face of a man used to giving orders, the face of an aristocrat.

Turning to the giant in uniform, the general made a sign. The giant put away his pistol, saluted, withdrew.

17. Astrakhan is grey or black curly fur made from lamb skin.

18. **Vivid** (*adjective*) intensely bright

"Ivan is an incredibly strong fellow," remarked the general, "but he has the misfortune to be deaf and dumb. A simple fellow, but, I'm afraid, like all his race, a bit of a savage."

"Is he Russian?"

"He is a Cossack,"¹⁹ said the general, and his smile showed red lips and pointed teeth. "So am I."

[60] "Come," he said, "we shouldn't be chatting here. We can talk later. Now you want clothes, food, rest. You shall have them. This is a most restful spot."

Ivan had reappeared, and the general spoke to him with lips that moved but gave forth no sound.

"Follow Ivan, if you please, Mr. Rainsford," said the general. "I was about to have my dinner when you came. I'll wait for you. You'll find that my clothes will fit you, I think."

It was to a huge, beam-ceilinged bedroom with a canopied bed big enough for six men that Rainsford followed the silent giant. Ivan laid out an evening suit, and Rainsford, as he put it on, noticed that it came from a London tailor who ordinarily cut and sewed for none below the rank of duke.

The dining room to which Ivan conducted him was in many ways remarkable. There was a medieval magnificence about it; it suggested a baronial hall of feudal times with its oaken panels, its high ceiling, its vast refectory tables where twoscore²⁰ men could sit down to eat. About the hall were mounted heads of many animals — lions, tigers, elephants, moose, bears; larger or more perfect specimens Rainsford had never seen. At the great table the general was sitting, alone.

[65] "You'll have a cocktail, Mr. Rainsford," he suggested. The cocktail was surpassingly good; and, Rainsford noted, the table appointments were of the finest — the linen, the crystal, the silver, the china.

They were eating borsch, the rich, red soup with whipped cream so dear to Russian palates. Half apologetically General Zaroff said, "We do our best to preserve the amenities²¹ of civilization here. Please forgive any lapses. We are well off the beaten track, you know. Do you think the champagne has suffered from its long ocean trip?"

"Not in the least," declared Rainsford. He was finding the general a most thoughtful and affable²² host, a true cosmopolite. But there was one small trait of the general's that made Rainsford uncomfortable. Whenever he looked up from his plate he found the general studying him, appraising him narrowly.

"Perhaps," said General Zaroff, "you were surprised that I recognized your name. You see, I read all books on hunting published in English, French, and Russian. I have but one passion in my life, Mr. Rainsford, and it is the hunt."

19. Cossacks are people who come from southern Russia or Ukraine.

20. forty

21. comfortable features

22. **Affable** (*adjective*) friendly and pleasant

"You have some wonderful heads here," said Rainsford as he ate a particularly well-cooked filet mignon. "That Cape buffalo is the largest I ever saw."

[70] "Oh, that fellow. Yes, he was a monster."

"Did he charge you?"

"Hurled me against a tree," said the general. "Fractured my skull. But I got the brute."

"I've always thought," said Rainsford, "that the Cape buffalo is the most dangerous of all big game."

For a moment the general did not reply; he was smiling his curious red-lipped smile. Then he said slowly, "No. You are wrong, sir. The Cape buffalo is not the most dangerous big game." He sipped his wine. "Here in my preserve on this island," he said in the same slow tone, "I hunt more dangerous game."

[75] Rainsford expressed his surprise. "Is there big game on this island?"

The general nodded. "The biggest."

"Really?"

"Oh, it isn't here naturally, of course. I have to stock the island."

"What have you imported, general?" Rainsford asked. "Tigers?"

[80] The general smiled. "No," he said. "Hunting tigers ceased to interest me some years ago. I exhausted their possibilities, you see. No thrill left in tigers, no real danger. I live for danger, Mr. Rainsford."

The general took from his pocket a gold cigarette case and offered his guest a long black cigarette with a silver tip; it was perfumed and gave off a smell like incense.

"We will have some capital hunting, you and I," said the general. "I shall be most glad to have your society."

"But what game — " began Rainsford.

"I'll tell you," said the general. "You will be amused, I know. I think I may say, in all modesty, that I have done a rare thing. I have invented a new sensation. May I pour you another glass of port?"

[85] "Thank you, general."

The general filled both glasses, and said, "God makes some men poets. Some He makes kings, some beggars. Me He made a hunter. My hand was made for the trigger, my father said. He was a very rich man, with a quarter of a million acres in the Crimea,²³ and he was an ardent²⁴ sportsman. When I was only five years old he

23. The Crimea is a piece of land in Europe near Russia and Ukraine.

gave me a little gun, specially made in Moscow for me, to shoot sparrows with. When I shot some of his prize turkeys with it, he did not punish me; he complimented me on my marksmanship. I killed my first bear in the Caucasus²⁵ when I was 10. My whole life has been one prolonged hunt. I went into the army — it was expected of noblemen's sons — and for a time commanded a division of Cossack cavalry, but my real interest was always the hunt. I have hunted every kind of game in every land. It would be impossible for me to tell you how many animals I have killed."

The general puffed at his cigarette.

"After the debacle in Russia I left the country, for it was imprudent for an officer of the Czar²⁶ to stay there. Many noble Russians lost everything. I, luckily, had invested heavily in American securities, so I shall never have to open a tearoom in Monte Carlo or drive a taxi in Paris. Naturally, I continued to hunt — grizzlies in your Rockies, crocodiles in the Ganges, rhinoceroses in East Africa. It was in Africa that the Cape buffalo hit me and laid me up for six months. As soon as I recovered I started for the Amazon to hunt jaguars, for I had heard they were unusually cunning. They weren't." The Cossack sighed. "They were no match at all for a hunter with his wits about him, and a high-powered rifle. I was bitterly disappointed. I was lying in my tent with a splitting headache one night when a terrible thought pushed its way into my mind. Hunting was beginning to bore me! And hunting, remember, had been my life. I have heard that in America businessmen often go to pieces when they give up the business that has been their life."

"Yes, that's so," said Rainsford.

[90] The general smiled. "I had no wish to go to pieces," he said. "I must do something. Now, mine is an analytical mind, Mr. Rainsford. Doubtless, that is why I enjoy the problems of the chase."

"No doubt, General Zaroff."

"So," continued the general, "I asked myself why the hunt no longer fascinated me. You are much younger than I am, Mr. Rainsford, and have not hunted as much, but you perhaps can guess the answer."

"What was it?"

"Simply this: hunting had ceased to be what you call 'a sporting proposition.' It had become too easy. I always got my quarry.²⁷ Always. There is no greater bore than perfection."

[95] The general lit a fresh cigarette.

"No animal had a chance with me anymore. That is no boast; it is a mathematical certainty. The animal had nothing but his legs and his instinct. Instinct is no match for reason. When I thought of this, it was a tragic

24. **Ardent** (*adjective*) passionate

25. The Caucasus is a mountainous region between Europe and Asia.

26. This refers to the Russian emperor. The Russian monarchy was overthrown and replaced with a different form of government at around this time, leaving supporters of the czar in danger.

27. the object of the hunt, the prey

moment for me, I can tell you."

Rainsford leaned across the table, absorbed in what his host was saying.

"It came to me as an inspiration what I must do," the general went on.

"And that was?"

[100] The general smiled the quiet smile of one who has faced an obstacle and surmounted it with success. "I had to invent a new animal to hunt," he said.

"A new animal? You're joking."

"Not at all," said the general. "I never joke about hunting. I needed a new animal. I found one. So I bought this island, built this house, and here I do my hunting. The island is perfect for my purposes — there are jungles with a maze of trails in them, hills, swamps — "

"But the animal, General Zaroff?"

"Oh," said the general, "it supplies me with the most exciting hunting in the world. No other hunting compares with it for an instant. Every day I hunt, and I never grow bored now, for I have a quarry with which I can match my wits."

[105] Rainsford's bewilderment showed in his face.

"I wanted the ideal animal to hunt," explained the general. "So I said, 'What are the attributes of an ideal quarry?' And the answer was, of course, 'It must have courage, cunning, and, above all, it must be able to reason.'"

"But no animal can reason," objected Rainsford.

"My dear fellow," said the general, "there is one that can."

"But you can't mean — " gasped Rainsford.

[110] "And why not?"

"I can't believe you are serious, General Zaroff. This is a grisly joke."

"Why should I not be serious? I am speaking of hunting."

"Hunting? Great Guns, General Zaroff, what you speak of is murder."

The general laughed with entire good nature. He regarded Rainsford quizzically. "I refuse to believe that so modern and civilized a young man as you seem to be harbors romantic ideas about the value of human life. Surely your experiences in the war — "

[115] "Did not make me condone²⁸ cold-blooded murder," finished Rainsford stiffly.

Laughter shook the general. "How extraordinarily droll²⁹ you are!" he said. "One does not expect nowadays to find a young man of the educated class, even in America, with such a naïve, and, if I may say so, mid-Victorian point of view. It's like finding a snuffbox in a limousine. Ah, well, doubtless you had Puritan ancestors. So many Americans appear to have had. I'll wager you'll forget your notions when you go hunting with me. You've a genuine new thrill in store for you, Mr. Rainsford."

"Thank you, I'm a hunter, not a murderer."

"Dear me," said the general, quite unruffled, "again that unpleasant word. But I think I can show you that your scruples³⁰ are quite ill-founded."

"Yes?"

[120] "Life is for the strong, to be lived by the strong, and, if needs be, taken by the strong. The weak of the world were put here to give the strong pleasure. I am strong. Why should I not use my gift? If I wish to hunt, why should I not? I hunt the scum of the earth: sailors from tramp ships — lascars,³¹ blacks, Chinese, whites, mongrels — a thoroughbred horse or hound is worth more than a score of them."

"But they are men," said Rainsford hotly.

"Precisely," said the general. "That is why I use them. It gives me pleasure. They can reason, after a fashion. So they are dangerous."

"But where do you get them?"

The general's left eyelid fluttered down in a wink. "This island is called Ship-Trap," he answered. "Sometimes an angry god of the high seas sends them to me. Sometimes, when Providence is not so kind, I help Providence a bit. Come to the window with me."

[125] Rainsford went to the window and looked out toward the sea.

"Watch! Out there!" exclaimed the general, pointing into the night. Rainsford's eyes saw only blackness, and then, as the general pressed a button, far out to sea Rainsford saw the flash of lights.

The general chuckled. "They indicate a channel," he said, "where there's none; giant rocks with razor edges crouch like a sea monster with wide-open jaws. They can crush a ship as easily as I crush this nut." He dropped a walnut on the hardwood floor and brought his heel grinding down on it. "Oh, yes," he said, casually, as if in answer to a question, "I have electricity. We try to be civilized here."

"Civilized? And you shoot down men?"

28. **Condone** (*verb*) to accept or allow

29. If someone is droll, they have an amusing or odd manner.

30. moral principles or beliefs that make you unwilling to do something that seems wrong

31. a sailor from India or Southeast Asia

A trace of anger was in the general's black eyes, but it was there for but a second, and he said, in his most pleasant manner, "Dear me, what a righteous young man you are! I assure you I do not do the thing you suggest. That would be barbarous. I treat these visitors with every consideration. They get plenty of good food and exercise. They get into splendid physical condition. You shall see for yourself tomorrow."

[130] "What do you mean?"

"We'll visit my training school," smiled the general. "It's in the cellar. I have about a dozen pupils down there now. They're from the Spanish bark³² *San Lucar* that had the bad luck to go on the rocks out there. A very inferior lot, I regret to say. Poor specimens and more accustomed to the deck than to the jungle." He raised his hand, and Ivan, who served as waiter, brought thick Turkish coffee. Rainsford, with an effort, held his tongue in check.

"It's a game, you see," pursued the general blandly. "I suggest to one of them that we go hunting. I give him a supply of food and an excellent hunting knife. I give him three hours' start. I am to follow, armed only with a pistol of the smallest caliber and range. If my quarry eludes me for three whole days, he wins the game. If I find him" — the general smiled — "he loses."

"Suppose he refuses to be hunted?"

"Oh," said the general, "I give him his option, of course. He need not play that game if he doesn't wish to. If he does not wish to hunt, I turn him over to Ivan. Ivan once had the honor of serving as official knouter³³ to the Great White Czar, and he has his own ideas of sport. Invariably, Mr. Rainsford, invariably they choose the hunt."

[135] "And if they win?"

The smile on the general's face widened. "To date I have not lost," he said. Then he added, hastily, "I don't wish you to think me a braggart, Mr. Rainsford. Many of them afford only the most elementary sort of problem. Occasionally I strike a tartar.³⁴ One almost did win. I eventually had to use the dogs."

"The dogs?"

"This way, please. I'll show you."

The general steered Rainsford to a window. The lights from the windows sent a flickering illumination that made grotesque patterns on the courtyard below, and Rainsford could see moving about there a dozen or so huge black shapes; as they turned toward him, their eyes glittered greenly.

[140] "A rather good lot, I think," observed the general. "They are let out at seven every night. If anyone should try to get into my house — or out of it — something extremely regrettable would occur to him." He hummed a snatch of song from the *Folies Bergère*.³⁵

32. a kind of ship

33. someone hired to use a knout, a Russian whip used for punishment

34. a fearsome or formidable person

"And now," said the general, "I want to show you my new collection of heads. Will you come with me to the library?"

"I hope," said Rainsford, "that you will excuse me tonight, General Zaroff. I'm really not feeling well."

"Ah, indeed?" the general inquired solicitously. "Well, I suppose that's only natural, after your long swim. You need a good, restful night's sleep. Tomorrow you'll feel like a new man, I'll wager. Then we'll hunt, eh? I've one rather promising prospect —" Rainsford was hurrying from the room.

"Sorry you can't go with me tonight," called the general. "I expect rather fair sport — a big, strong, black. He looks resourceful — Well, good night, Mr. Rainsford; I hope you have a good night's rest."

[145] The bed was good, and the pajamas of the softest silk, and he was tired in every fiber of his being, but nevertheless Rainsford could not quiet his brain with the opiate³⁶ of sleep. He lay, eyes wide open. Once he thought he heard stealthy steps in the corridor outside his room. He sought to throw open the door; it would not open. He went to the window and looked out. His room was high up in one of the towers. The lights of the chateau were out now, and it was dark and silent, but there was a fragment of *sallow*³⁷ moon, and by its wan light he could see, dimly, the courtyard; there, weaving in and out in the pattern of shadow, were black, noiseless forms; the hounds heard him at the window and looked up, expectantly, with their green eyes. Rainsford went back to the bed and lay down. By many methods he tried to put himself to sleep. He had achieved a doze when, just as morning began to come, he heard, far off in the jungle, the faint report of a pistol.

General Zaroff did not appear until luncheon. He was dressed faultlessly in the tweeds of a country squire. He was solicitous³⁸ about the state of Rainsford's health.

"As for me," sighed the general, "I do not feel so well. I am worried, Mr. Rainsford. Last night I detected traces of my old complaint."

To Rainsford's questioning glance the general said, "Ennui.³⁹ Boredom."

Then, taking a second helping of Crêpes Suzette,⁴⁰ the general explained: "The hunting was not good last night. The fellow lost his head. He made a straight trail that offered no problems at all. That's the trouble with these sailors; they have dull brains to begin with, and they do not know how to get about in the woods. They do excessively stupid and obvious things. It's most annoying. Will you have another glass of Chablis, Mr. Rainsford?"

[150] "General," said Rainsford firmly, "I wish to leave this island at once."

35. a Parisian cabaret

36. a calming drug

37. **Sallow** (*adjective*) an unhealthy pale or yellowish color

38. **Solicitous** (*adjective*) showing anxious concern for someone or something

39. listlessness, boredom

40. a French dish

The general raised his thickets of eyebrows; he seemed hurt. "But, my dear fellow," the general protested, "you've only just come. You've had no hunting — "

"I wish to go today," said Rainsford. He saw the dead black eyes of the general on him, studying him. General Zaroff's face suddenly brightened.

He filled Rainsford's glass with venerable⁴¹ Chablis from a dusty bottle.

"Tonight," said the general, "we will hunt — you and I."

[155] Rainsford shook his head. "No, general," he said. "I will not hunt."

The general shrugged his shoulders and delicately ate a hothouse grape. "As you wish, my friend," he said. "The choice rests entirely with you. But may I not venture to suggest that you will find my idea of sport more diverting than Ivan's?"

He nodded toward the corner to where the giant stood, scowling, his thick arms crossed on his hogshead of chest.

"You don't mean — " cried Rainsford.

"My dear fellow," said the general, "have I not told you I always mean what I say about hunting? This is really an inspiration. I drink to a foeman worthy of my steel — at last." The general raised his glass, but Rainsford sat staring at him.

[160] "You'll find this game worth playing," the general said enthusiastically. "Your brain against mine. Your woodcraft against mine. Your strength and stamina against mine. Outdoor chess! And the stake is not without value, eh?"

"And if I win — " began Rainsford huskily.

"I'll cheerfully acknowledge myself defeated if I do not find you by midnight of the third day," said General Zaroff. "My sloop⁴² will place you on the mainland near a town." The general read what Rainsford was thinking.

"Oh, you can trust me," said the Cossack. "I will give you my word as a gentleman and a sportsman. Of course you, in turn, must agree to say nothing of your visit here."

"I'll agree to nothing of the kind," said Rainsford.

[165] "Oh," said the general, "in that case — But why discuss that now? Three days hence we can discuss it over a bottle of Veuve Clicquot, unless — "

The general sipped his wine.

41. **Venerable** (*adjective*) worthy of a great deal of respect, especially because of age, wisdom, or character

42. a type of small ship

Then a businesslike air animated him. "Ivan," he said to Rainsford, "will supply you with hunting clothes, food, a knife. I suggest you wear moccasins; they leave a poorer trail. I suggest, too, that you avoid the big swamp in the southeast corner of the island. We call it Death Swamp. There's quicksand there. One foolish fellow tried it. The deplorable part of it was that Lazarus followed him. You can imagine my feelings, Mr. Rainsford. I loved Lazarus; he was the finest hound in my pack. Well, I must beg you to excuse me now. I always take a siesta⁴³ after lunch. You'll hardly have time for a nap, I fear. You'll want to start, no doubt. I shall not follow till dusk. Hunting at night is so much more exciting than by day, don't you think? Au revoir,⁴⁴ Mr. Rainsford, au revoir." General Zaroff, with a deep, courtly bow, strolled from the room.

From another door came Ivan. Under one arm he carried khaki hunting clothes, a haversack of food, a leather sheath containing a long-bladed hunting knife; his right hand rested on a cocked revolver thrust in the crimson sash about his waist.

Rainsford had fought his way through the bush for two hours. "I must keep my nerve. I must keep my nerve," he said through tight teeth.

[170] He had not been entirely clearheaded when the château gates snapped shut behind him. His whole idea at first was to put distance between himself and General Zaroff, and, to this end, he had plunged along, spurred on by the sharp rowels of something very like panic. Now he had got a grip on himself, had stopped, and was taking stock of himself and the situation. He saw that straight flight was futile; inevitably it would bring him face to face with the sea. He was in a picture with a frame of water, and his operations, clearly, must take place within that frame.

"I'll give him a trail to follow," muttered Rainsford, and he struck off from the rude path he had been following into the trackless wilderness. He executed a series of intricate loops; he doubled on his trail again and again, recalling all the lore of the fox hunt, and all the dodges of the fox. Night found him leg-weary, with hands and face lashed by the branches, on a thickly wooded ridge. He knew it would be insane to blunder on through the dark, even if he had the strength. His need for rest was imperative⁴⁵ and he thought, "I have played the fox, now I must play the cat of the fable." A big tree with a thick trunk and outspread branches was nearby and, taking care to leave not the slightest mark, he climbed up into the crotch, and, stretching out on one of the broad limbs, after a fashion, rested. Rest brought him new confidence and almost a feeling of security. Even so zealous⁴⁶ a hunter as General Zaroff could not trace him there, he told himself; only the devil himself could follow that complicated trail through the jungle after dark. But perhaps the general was a devil —

An apprehensive night crawled slowly by like a wounded snake, and sleep did not visit Rainsford, although the silence of a dead world was on the jungle. Toward morning, when a dingy gray was varnishing the sky, the cry of some startled bird focused Rainsford's attention in that direction. Something was coming through the bush, coming slowly, carefully, coming by the same winding way Rainsford had come. He flattened himself down on the limb and, through a screen of leaves almost as thick as tapestry, he watched... That which was approaching was a man.

43. Spanish for "nap"

44. French for "goodbye"

45. **Imperative (adjective)** very important or essential, especially for the success of something

46. **Zealous (adjective)** extremely passionate or enthusiastic in support of a person, object, or cause

It was General Zaroff. He made his way along with his eyes fixed in utmost concentration on the ground before him. He paused, almost beneath the tree, dropped to his knees and studied the ground. Rainsford's impulse was to hurl himself down like a panther, but he saw that the general's right hand held something metallic — a small automatic pistol.

The hunter shook his head several times, as if he were puzzled. Then he straightened up and took from his case one of his black cigarettes; its pungent⁴⁷ incenselike smoke floated up to Rainsford's nostrils.

- [175] Rainsford held his breath. The general's eyes had left the ground and were traveling inch by inch up the tree. Rainsford froze there, every muscle tensed for a spring. But the sharp eyes of the hunter stopped before they reached the limb where Rainsford lay; a smile spread over his brown face. Very deliberately he blew a smoke ring into the air; then he turned his back on the tree and walked carelessly away, back along the trail he had come. The swish of the underbrush against his hunting boots grew fainter and fainter.

The pent-up air burst hotly from Rainsford's lungs. His first thought made him feel sick and numb. The general could follow a trail through the woods at night; he could follow an extremely difficult trail; he must have uncanny⁴⁸ powers; only by the merest chance had the Cossack failed to see his quarry.

Rainsford's second thought was even more terrible. It sent a shudder of cold horror through his whole being. Why had the general smiled? Why had he turned back?

Rainsford did not want to believe what his reason told him was true, but the truth was as evident as the sun that had by now pushed through the morning mists. The general was playing with him! The general was saving him for another day's sport! The Cossack was the cat; he was the mouse. Then it was that Rainsford knew the full meaning of terror.

"I will not lose my nerve. I will not."

- [180] He slid down from the tree and struck off again into the woods. His face was set and he forced the machinery of his mind to function. Three hundred yards from his hiding place he stopped where a huge dead tree leaned precariously⁴⁹ on a smaller, living one. Throwing off his sack of food, Rainsford took his knife from its sheath and began to work with all his energy.

The job was finished at last, and he threw himself down behind a fallen log a hundred feet away. He did not have to wait long. The cat was coming again to play with the mouse.

Following the trail with the sureness of a bloodhound came General Zaroff. Nothing escaped those searching black eyes, no crushed blade of grass, no bent twig, no mark, no matter how faint, in the moss. So intent was the Cossack on his stalking that he was upon the thing Rainsford had made before he saw it. His foot touched the protruding bough that was the trigger. Even as he touched it, the general sensed his danger and leaped back with the agility of an ape. But he was not quite quick enough; the dead tree, delicately adjusted to rest on

47. **Pungent** (*adjective*) having a strong, usually bad, smell

48. **Uncanny** (*adjective*) unnatural, eerie

49. **Precariously** (*adverb*) in an insecure or unstable way

the cut living one, crashed down and struck the general a glancing blow on the shoulder as it fell; but for his alertness, he must have been smashed beneath it. He staggered, but he did not fall; nor did he drop his revolver. He stood there, rubbing his injured shoulder, and Rainsford, with fear again gripping his heart, heard the general's mocking laugh ring through the jungle.

"Rainsford," called the general, "if you are within the sound of my voice, as I suppose you are, let me congratulate you. Not many men know how to make a Malay mancatcher. Luckily for me, I too have hunted in Malacca. You are proving interesting, Mr. Rainsford. I am going now to have my wound dressed; it's only a slight one. But I shall be back. I shall be back."

When the general, nursing his bruised shoulder, had gone, Rainsford took up his flight again. It was flight now, a desperate, hopeless flight, that carried him on for some hours. Dusk came, then darkness, and still he pressed on. The ground grew softer under his moccasins; the vegetation grew ranker,⁵⁰ denser; insects bit him savagely.

[185] Then, as he stepped forward, his foot sank into the ooze. He tried to wrench it back, but the muck sucked viciously at his foot as if it were a giant leech. With a violent effort, he tore his foot loose. He knew where he was now. Death Swamp and its quicksand.

His hands were tight closed as if his nerve were something tangible that someone in the darkness was trying to tear from his grip. The softness of the earth had given him an idea. He stepped back from the quicksand a dozen feet or so and, like some huge prehistoric beaver, he began to dig.

Rainsford had dug himself in in France when a second's delay meant death. That had been a placid pastime compared to his digging now. The pit grew deeper; when it was above his shoulders, he climbed out and from some hard saplings cut stakes and sharpened them to a fine point. These stakes he planted in the bottom of the pit with the points sticking up. With flying fingers he wove a rough carpet of weeds and branches and with it he covered the mouth of the pit. Then, wet with sweat and aching with tiredness, he crouched behind the stump of a lightning-charred tree.

He knew his pursuer was coming; he heard the padding sound of feet on the soft earth, and the night breeze brought him the perfume of the general's cigarette. It seemed to Rainsford that the general was coming with unusual swiftness; he was not feeling his way along, foot by foot. Rainsford, crouching there, could not see the general, nor could he see the pit. He lived a year in a minute. Then he felt an impulse to cry aloud with joy, for he heard the sharp crackle of the breaking branches as the cover of the pit gave way; he heard the sharp scream of pain as the pointed stakes found their mark. He leaped up from his place of concealment. Then he cowered back. Three feet from the pit a man was standing, with an electric torch⁵¹ in his hand.

"You've done well, Rainsford," the voice of the general called. "Your Burmese tiger pit has claimed one of my best dogs. Again you score. I think, Mr. Rainsford, I'll see what you can do against my whole pack. I'm going home for a rest now. Thank you for a most amusing evening."

50. more overgrown

51. Torch is a British word for "flashlight."

[190] At daybreak Rainsford, lying near the swamp, was awakened by a sound that made him know that he had new things to learn about fear. It was a distant sound, faint and wavering, but he knew it. It was the baying⁵² of a pack of hounds.

Rainsford knew he could do one of two things. He could stay where he was and wait. That was suicide. He could flee. That was postponing the inevitable. For a moment he stood there, thinking. An idea that held a wild chance came to him, and, tightening his belt, he headed away from the swamp.

The baying of the hounds drew nearer, then still nearer, nearer, ever nearer. On a ridge Rainsford climbed a tree. Down a watercourse, not a quarter of a mile away, he could see the bush moving. Straining his eyes, he saw the lean figure of General Zaroff; just ahead of him Rainsford made out another figure whose wide shoulders surged through the tall jungle weeds; it was the giant Ivan, and he seemed pulled forward by some unseen force. Rainsford knew that Ivan must be holding the pack in leash.

They would be on him any minute now. His mind worked frantically. He thought of a native trick he had learned in Uganda. He slid down the tree. He caught hold of a springy young sapling and to it he fastened his hunting knife, with the blade pointing down the trail; with a bit of wild grapevine he tied back the sapling. Then he ran for his life. The hounds raised their voices as they hit the fresh scent. Rainsford knew now how an animal at bay⁵³ feels.

He had to stop to get his breath. The baying of the hounds stopped abruptly, and Rainsford's heart stopped too. They must have reached the knife.

[195] He shinnied excitedly up a tree and looked back. His pursuers had stopped. But the hope that was in Rainsford's brain when he climbed died, for he saw in the shallow valley that General Zaroff was still on his feet. But Ivan was not. The knife, driven by the recoil⁵⁴ of the springing tree, had not wholly failed.

Rainsford had hardly tumbled to the ground when the pack took up the cry again.

"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. Across a cove he could see the gloomy gray stone of the *château*. Twenty feet below him the sea rumbled and hissed. Rainsford hesitated. He heard the hounds. Then he leaped far out into the sea...

When the general and his pack reached the place by the sea, the Cossack stopped. For some minutes he stood regarding the blue-green expanse of water. He shrugged his shoulders. Then he sat down, took a drink of brandy from a silver flask, lit a cigarette, and hummed a bit from *Madame Butterfly*.⁵⁵

General Zaroff had an exceedingly good dinner in his great paneled dining hall that evening. With it he had a bottle of Pol Roger and half a bottle of Chambertin. Two slight annoyances kept him from perfect enjoyment.

52. "Baying" refers to loud, long cries of an animal.

53. An animal at bay is one that is forced to turn and face its attackers.

54. Recoil is the backward kick of a propulsion machine, like a gun, when fired.

55. an opera

One was the thought that it would be difficult to replace Ivan; the other was that his quarry had escaped him; of course, the American hadn't played the game — so thought the general as he tasted his after-dinner liqueur. In his library he read, to soothe himself, from the works of Marcus Aurelius.⁵⁶ At 10 he went up to his bedroom. He was deliciously tired, he said to himself as he locked himself in. There was a little moonlight, so, before turning on his light, he went to the window and looked down at the courtyard. He could see the great hounds, and he called, "Better luck another time," to them. Then he switched on the light.

[200] A man, who had been hiding in the curtains of the bed, was standing there.

"Rainsford!" screamed the general. "How in God's name did you get here?"

"Swam," said Rainsford. "I found it quicker than walking through the jungle."

The general sucked in his breath and smiled. "I congratulate you," he said. "You have won the game."

Rainsford did not smile. "I am still a beast at bay," he said, in a low, hoarse voice. "Get ready, General Zaroff."

[205] The general made one of his deepest bows. "I see," he said. "Splendid! One of us is to furnish a repast⁵⁷ for the hounds. The other will sleep in this very excellent bed. On guard, Rainsford."

...

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

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Related media



56. a Roman Emperor and philosopher

57. a meal

Text-Dependent Questions

Directions: For the following questions, choose the best answer or respond in complete sentences.

1. PART A: Which TWO of the following best identify the central themes of this story?
 - A. When violence becomes too common, some people no longer take it seriously.
 - B. Pride in one's country makes people feel superior to others based on race.
 - C. The power of love will save people from hurting and harming others.
 - D. Nature provides everything humanity needs and therefore anything else is wasteful.
 - E. Humankind's place in nature is to act with reason, not to become like violent animals.
 - F. The cost of technology is the cost of human life in war.

2. PART B: Which TWO phrases from the text best support the answers to Part A?
 - A. "You're a big-game hunter, not a philosopher." (Paragraph 10)
 - B. "Where there are pistol shots, there are men." (Paragraph 39)
 - C. "hunting had ceased to be what you call 'a sporting proposition.' It had become too easy. I always got my quarry." (Paragraph 94)
 - D. "One does not expect nowadays to find a young man of the educated class, even in America, with such a naïve, and, if I may say so, mid-Victorian point of view." (Paragraph 116)
 - E. "Civilized? And you shoot down men?" (Paragraph 128)
 - F. "General Zaroff had an exceedingly good dinner in his great paneled dining hall that evening." (Paragraph 199)

3. Explain how beginning the story with the dialogue between Rainsford and Whitney contributes to both the author's characterization of Rainsford and the story's mood. Cite evidence from the story in your response.

4. PART A: What does the phrase "sporting proposition" most closely mean as it is used in paragraph 94?
 - A. game-like challenge
 - B. hunting license
 - C. available targets
 - D. a simple, easy task

5. PART B: Which phrase from the text best supports the answer to Part A?
- A. "businessmen often go to pieces when they give up the business that has been their life." (Paragraph 88)
 - B. "It had become too easy. I always got my quarry." (Paragraph 94)
 - C. "When I thought of this, it was a tragic moment for me" (Paragraph 96)
 - D. "I had to invent a new animal to hunt" (Paragraph 100)
6. Why does Zaroff think Rainsford is "droll" and "naïve"? (Paragraph 116)
- A. Zaroff thinks it's foolish and old-fashioned that Rainsford values human life even after fighting in the war.
 - B. Zaroff thinks it is childish and immature that Rainsford has never tried to kill another human.
 - C. Zaroff judges Rainsford's American culture because Rainsford feels a religious sense of responsibility.
 - D. Insane Zaroff has been isolated on the island for too long and laughs madly at seeing Rainsford, another civilized man.
7. What does Rainsford's repetition of the word "nerve" in paragraph 169, paragraph 179, and paragraph 197 reveal about his character?
- A. Rainsford's repetition characterizes him as forgetful and blundering, which is why he must repeat the word to remember his mission.
 - B. Rainsford's repetition shows that it is his courage and ability to reason that enables him to survive.
 - C. Rainsford's repetition was probably taught to him in a private school growing up and is a symbol of his class status.
 - D. Rainsford's repetition shows just how scared and cowardly he is, suggesting that he will not survive this hunt.
8. How does Rainsford's opinion on animals change throughout the story?
- A. At first, Rainsford believes only humans can feel, but by the end, he agrees with Whitney that animals can also feel "fear of pain" (Paragraph 13).
 - B. At first, Rainsford thinks that there is only one rational animal, humans, but then he discovers the new animal that Zaroff has "invented" (Paragraph 100).
 - C. At first, Rainsford believes humans are smarter than animals, but then he sees that some humans are actually "a very inferior lot" (Paragraph 131).
 - D. At first, Rainsford sees animals only as prizes for human hunters, but later Rainsford sympathizes with the animal "at bay" when he too becomes the hunted (Paragraph 204).

9. "He had never slept in a better bed, Rainsford decided." (Paragraph 207) What is the overall effect of the last line of the story?
- A. The last line leaves the reader to infer that Rainsford has killed Zaroff, contrasting Zaroff's chilling death with Rainsford's rewarding night's sleep.
 - B. The last line leaves the reader to conclude that the events of this story have all been a dream Rainsford had while asleep on the yacht.
 - C. The last line leaves the reader to infer that Rainsford has killed Zaroff, making the ending a triumphant victory for civilization and American values.
 - D. The last line leaves the reader to suppose that Rainsford actually likes the comforts of civilization better than nature and that civilization is man's place above nature.
10. Compare Zaroff's and Rainsford's points of view on the hunt. How does this tension contribute to the moral stakes of the story? Cite evidence from the story in your response.

Discussion Questions

Directions: *Brainstorm your answers to the following questions in the space provided. Be prepared to share your original ideas in a class discussion.*

1. How might the author's use of the word "game" in the title of this story have a double meaning?
2. Zaroff says he started hunting the most dangerous game because he was bored. In your opinion, is this a common reason why people do bad things?
3. Zaroff compares the war to hunting human beings on his island. How are people changed by war? Is war like hunting? How does it differ?
4. In "The Most Dangerous Game," humans are described as the one animal that can reason, but humans fall for obvious tricks and are hunted like animals. Humans use the environment to their advantage, but sometimes the environment becomes a trap. What is the relationship between humans and animals, or between humans and nature? Do humans control nature, or does nature eventually triumph?

ANSWER KEY > Assassination of the President

1. PART A: How does the collection of multiple accounts of the night of President Lincoln's assassination contribute to the central idea of the article? **RI.8.2** ✓
- A. They demonstrate the confusion and conflicting information surrounding the night of Lincoln's assassination.
 - B. They argue, collectively, for increased diligence on the part of security and police surrounding the victims.
 - C. They demonstrate the critical need for national unity during a time of unthinkable loss.
 - D. **They illustrate the unanimous national feeling that the loss of Lincoln will be tragic for the country.**
2. PART B: Which TWO quotations from the text best supports the answer to Part A? **RI.8.1** ✓
- A. "My apprehension is that they will prove fatal." (Paragraph 2)
 - B. **"It is not probable that the President will live through the night." (Paragraph 3)**
 - C. "He evidently did not see the person who shot him, but was looking on the stage, as he was approached behind." (Paragraph 6)
 - D. "The theater was densely crowded, and everybody seemed delighted with the scene before them." (Paragraph 14)
 - E. "when all present rose to their feet, rushing toward the stage, exclaiming, 'Hang him!' Hang him!" (Paragraph 16)
 - F. **"The shock to the community was terrible." (Paragraph 24)**
3. PART A: What does the word "accomplice" mean as it is used in paragraph 12? **RI.8.4** ✓
- A. the victim of a crime
 - B. **a person who helps another commit a crime**
 - C. a person who accuses someone else of committing a crime
 - D. a person who is slow to act
4. PART B: Which clue from the text best supports the answer for Part A? **RI.8.1** ✓
- A. "Every exertion has been made to present [sic] the escape of the murderer." (Paragraph 9)
 - B. "the murder was planned before the fourth of March" (Paragraph 12)
 - C. **"It would seem that they had for several days been seeking their chance" (Paragraph 13)**
 - D. "but for some unknown reason, it was not carried into effect until last night." (Paragraph 13)
5. Using evidence from the text, how do you expect the newspaper's readers to have responded to the news of Lincoln's assassination? Why? **RI.8.2** ✓

Answers will vary; students should mention that the overall tone of the collection of reports indicates that the country will soon suffer a great loss. None of the reports speak to next steps or successors, and that would likely have left readers not only heartbroken, but also uncertain of their futures. Students may also mention that newspapers served as the authorities of the day, and the fact that even the newspaper seems to be lacking for information, it would be logical to think the readers were unsure where to turn for comfort and guidance.

ANSWER KEY > General Eisenhower's Order of the Day

RI.8.2

1. PART A: Which of the following best identifies the central idea of this text?

Determine a central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text, including its relationship to supporting ideas; provide an objective summary of the text. ^

- A. Americans' independence and freedom relies on the troops' performance.
- B. Victory is uncertain, given the Nazi's strength in Europe.
- C. The Allies are positioned to succeed so long as men fight bravely.**
- D. Only God can ensure an Allied victory over the Germans.

2. PART B: Which phrase from the text best supports the answer to Part A? RI.8.1 ^

Cite the textual evidence that most strongly supports an analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.

- A. "The hopes and prayers of liberty-loving people everywhere march with you." (Paragraph 2)
- B. "Much has happened since the Nazi triumphs of 1940-41." (Paragraph 4)
- C. "We will accept nothing less than full victory." (Paragraph 5)**
- D. "And let us all beseech the blessing of Almighty God upon this great and noble undertaking." (Paragraph 6)

3. How does paragraph 3 affect the development of Eisenhower's central ideas? RI.8.5 ^

Analyze in detail the structure of a specific paragraph in a text, including the role of particular sentences in developing and refining a key concept.

- A. It admits that the fight ahead will be difficult.**
- B. It convinces the troops that the enemy will be easily defeated.
- C. It claims that bravery is stronger in the face of savagery.
- D. It laments that many of those reading will die in battle.

4. Which statement best describes the relationship between the war during 1941 and 1944? RI.8.3 ^

Analyze how a text makes connections among and distinctions between individuals, ideas, or events (e.g., through comparisons, analogies, or categories).

- A. In both years, the Germans are winning the war, making 1944 an urgent moment to surprise them.
- B. In 1941 the Germans were winning but in 1944 the Allies had dealt them many losses.**
- C. In 1941 and 1944, the Allies were winning but not quite able to destroy the German army.
- D. In 1941, the Germans were better trained than the Allies are in 1944.

5. How does Eisenhower use specific word choice to characterize the Allies and their enemies in this call to arms? RI.8.4 ^

Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative, connotative, and technical meanings; analyze the impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone, including analogies or allusions to other texts.

Answers will vary; students should discuss the opposing diction used to describe Allied forces in a courageous light and German forces in a tyrannical light. Examples of word choice used to paint the Allies as heroes include "Great Crusade," "liberty-loving," "brave," "security," "superiority," "free men of the world," "courage," "devotion to duty," "skill in battle," and "noble undertaking." Words used to describe the Germans bolster American troops certainty of their superiority over them: "war machine," "tyranny," "oppressed people," and "savagely." As such, Eisenhower is knowingly engaging

opaganda in an effort to rally his troops, assure them of the enmity of the enemy, and heir confidence that they are fighting the good fight.

ANSWER KEY > Last Diary Entry of John Wilkes Booth

1. PART A: Which TWO of the following best identify the central ideas of this text? RI.9-10.2 ✓
 - A. Booth believes he will be remembered as a hero against tyranny like Brutus.
 - B. Booth sees Lincoln as a tyrant who must be eliminated for the good of all.**
 - C. Booth assassinates Lincoln because he feels rejected by the Union, the South, and his family.
 - D. Booth does not want to assassinate Lincoln but must for the good of the Union.
 - E. Booth is willing to sacrifice his future because he does not want to live to see his country destroyed.**
 - F. Booth is willing to sacrifice his life to avenge the deaths of his fellow Confederate soldiers.

2. PART B: Which TWO phrases from the text best support the answers to Part A? RI.9-10.1 ✓
 - A. "I care not what becomes of me. I have no desire to outlive my country." (Paragraph 1)
 - B. "I am here in despair. And why? For doing what Brutus was honored for." (Paragraph 2)
 - C. "And yet I, for striking down a greater tyrant than they ever knew, am looked upon as a common cutthroat." (Paragraph 2)**
 - D. "For my country I have given up all that makes life sweet and holy, brought misery upon my family," (Paragraph 2)
 - E. "Though I have a greater desire and almost a mind to return to Washington, and in a measure clear my name - which I feel I can do." (Paragraph 2)
 - F. "I do not wish to shed a drop of blood, but 'I must fight the course.'" (Paragraph 3)

3. PART A: How does the relationship between Booth and God develop throughout the text? RI.9-10.3 ✓
 - A. First Booth has forsaken God, and then decides to act in spite of him.
 - B. First, Booth believes he has acted out of God's will, but begins to doubt whether he'll be forgiven for murder.**
 - C. Booth knows that God will not forgive him for his sins and only becomes more convinced of this throughout the text.
 - D. Booth has found God after killing Lincoln and then wishes to reconcile with the Lord.

4. PART B: Which TWO phrases from the text best support the answer to Part A? RI.9-10.1 ✓
 - A. "Our country owed all her troubles to him, and God simply made me the instrument of his punishment." (Paragraph 1)**
 - B. "God cannot pardon me if I have done wrong." (Paragraph 1)
 - C. "[I] am sure there is no pardon in the Heaven for me, since man condemns me so." (Paragraph 2)
 - D. "Tonight I try to escape these bloodhounds once more. Who, who can read his fate? God's will be done." (Paragraph 2)
 - E. "Oh, may He, may He spare me that, and let me die bravely." (Paragraph 2)
 - F. "This last was not a wrong, unless God deems it so, and it's with Him to damn or bless me." (Paragraph 2)**

Washington. He firmly believes that he is in the right and that, although most think he should repent for his crime, he truly believes that he made the best choice for the country. He recognizes throughout the diary entry that killing is wrong, but he refuses to repent or atone for his sin because killing was not a sin in this instance. Booth repeatedly refuses to "repent," implying that he is both past forgiveness and that he does not need to be forgiven in the eyes of God.

ANSWER KEY > Letters from Wilbur Wright

1. Which of the following statements best summarizes a conclusion about Wilbur Wright based on his 1899 letter to the Smithsonian? **RI.9-10.6** ^

Determine an author's point of view or purpose in a text and analyze how an author uses rhetoric to advance that point of view or purpose.

- A. Wilbur Wright was obsessed with birds as a young boy and this preoccupation hindered his work building an airplane.
- B. Wilbur Wright looked to nature for inspiration in his flight engineering and had done so since he was a child.**
- C. Wilbur Wright clearly did not believe he would be the one to achieve flight but believed someone more educated would.
- D. Wilbur Wright was desperate for help and to convince others his and his brother's venture was worthy.

2. PART A: According to Wilbur Wright, how will mankind succeed in learning how to fly? **RI.9-10.3** ^

Analyze how the author unfolds an analysis or series of ideas or events, including the order in which the points are made, how they are introduced and developed, and the connections that are drawn between them.

- A. Through the genius of one man
- B. Through a great deal of risk for even more reward
- C. Through luck and a lot of engine power
- D. Through careful observation, investigations, and manpower**

3. PART B: Which of the following quotes best supports the answer to Part A? **RI.9-10.1** ^

Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.

- A. "My observations since have only convinced me more firmly that human flight is possible and practicable." (Paragraph 2)
- B. "...the experiments and investigations of a large number of independent workers will result in the accumulation of information and knowledge and skill which will finally lead to accomplished flight." (Paragraph 2)**
- C. "The man who wishes to keep at the problem long enough to really learn anything positively cannot take dangerous risks." (Paragraph 4)
- D. "We have increased our time and length of flight [with glider] to 43 seconds.... This is something former experimenters were entirely unable to accomplish." (Paragraph 5)

4. Which of the following statements best describes how the Wright Brothers dealt with setbacks? **RI.9-10.3** ^

Analyze how the author unfolds an analysis or series of ideas or events, including the order in which the points are made, how they are introduced and developed, and the connections that are drawn between them.

- A. They accepted their setbacks, made appropriate changes, and continued on.**
- B. They radically changed their design plans and began again.
- C. They refused to accept defeat and took perhaps more risk than necessary.
- D. They reached out to their family and to fellow engineers for support

Identify the main idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text, including how it emerges and is shaped by specific details; provide an objective summary of the text.

Answers will vary; students should analyze the quote and explain how it contributes to the central passage. In the quote, taken from paragraph 4 in Wilbur Wright's letter to his father (March 3, 1900), Wilbur is discussing the risks he will be taking in testing out his machine. "I do not take dangerous chances, both because I have no wish to get hurt and because a fall in my experimenting..." (Paragraph 4) He acknowledges some risk will be taken, but if the risk is unnecessary or too dangerous, he believes, he will not reap any more reward than the cost it entails. The quote in the question supports this, and to that end it contributes to the central ideas regarding success. Many points of success in history have happened due to luck and many people might believe these two arbitrary methods are the only way to succeed. Wilbur Wright, on the other hand, advocates careful planning, observation and calculation, and the avoidance of great danger if one wishes to succeed.

ANSWER KEY > Manifest Destiny, I Do Believe

1. PART A: Which of the following statements best identifies the central theme of the text? **RL.6.2** ^

Determine a theme or central idea of a text and how it is conveyed through particular details; provide a summary of the text distinct from personal opinions or judgments.

- A. God first created the land for Indians but then decided to give Americans control because he preferred their civilization.
- B. God has given Americans the will to spread Christian American civilization from coast to coast.**
- C. It is guaranteed that missionaries will bring Christianity to American Indians, and Cordelia does not want to miss the opportunity to help.
- D. Pioneers are more likely to succeed if they are also missionaries because then God has blessed them.

2. PART B: Which TWO phrases from the text best support the answer to Part A? **RL.6.1** ^

Cite textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.

- A. "I know it is the will of President Polk and of God for us to spread as far as we can." (Paragraph 2)**
- B. "Yes, those Indians were here first, but we do not think of them as Christians." (Paragraph 3)
- C. "I know in my heart that these Indians deserve God's forgiveness, like the rest of us." (Paragraph 4)
- D. "Manifest Destiny says that God has chosen us to take over this country, all the way to the coast." (Paragraph 5)**
- E. "The wild land will become fields of crops. The Indians will become Christian. The darkness will become light ..." (Paragraph 6)
- F. "I would have no confidence in myself were it not for God's guiding hand." (Paragraph 7)

3. What statement best explains how Cordelia responds to the west? **RL.6.3** ^

Describe how a particular story's or drama's plot unfolds in a series of episodes as well as how the characters respond or change as the plot moves toward a resolution.

- A. She is unafraid of the west and ready to explore.
- B. She is frightened of the west but certain it contains her destiny.**
- C. She is unconvinced that she will succeed in the west.
- D. She is disgusted by the darkness of the west as it is.

4. How does the speaker's point of view most influence how the events are described in the letter? **RL.6.6** ^

Explain how an author develops the point of view of the narrator or speaker in a text.

- A. Cordelia's plans seem easy and exaggerated.
- B. Cordelia's plans seem frightening and ill-fated.
- C. Cordelia's plans seem brave and necessary.**
- D. Cordelia's plans seem silly and unnecessary.

5. How does the author suggest that Manifest Destiny is not as noble as Cordelia makes it out to be? Provide evidence from the text.

Determine a theme or central idea of a text and how it is conveyed through particular details; provide a summary of the text distinct from personal opinions or judgments.

will be a pioneer who "explores a county for the very first time" despite the fact that the Indians already live there. The author also injects funny moments to highlight how unaware Cordelia is about the silliness of her undertaking, as she tries to turn the light into dark (paragraph 5). While she is speaking metaphorically, the impossibility of that action speaks to how useless it is to try to force American Indian people to change their ways for America's benefit. Students can also discuss how Cordelia knows that God will protect and guide her, even though she has no proof or indication from him that this is his will; she has no way of knowing "this is his goal to bring the pioneers to the far sea" (Paragraph 5).

ANSWER KEY

Earthquake of 1906

> Reports from the Ruins of the San Francisco

1. Which statement best describes how The Washington Times introduces the earthquake in the first article? **RI.9-10.3** ^

Analyze how the author unfolds an analysis or series of ideas or events, including the order in which the points are made, how they are introduced and developed, and the connections that are drawn between them.

- A. The author focuses on the noise of the calamity and how it gripped the people.
- B. The author compares the entire city to small, easily movable objects to describe how the earthquake physically destroyed buildings.**
- C. The author explains how the earthquake destroyed a peaceful and idyllic city scene through vivid imagery that is very relatable to the reader.
- D. The author focuses on the appearance of the city following the earthquake to help readers understand how the earth moved during the quake.

2. PART A: Which of the following best identifies the central idea of the first article? **RI.9-10.2** ^

Determine a central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text, including how it emerges and is shaped and refined by specific details; provide an objective summary of the text.

- A. San Francisco faces unimaginable destruction that is still ongoing as people flee spreading fires.**
- B. The city's destruction is magnified by the peaceful scene the night before the earthquake struck.
- C. Thousands of people have been reported dead due to collapsing buildings.
- D. Fires broke out throughout the city because the earthquake caused gas leaks.

3. PART B: Which phrase from the text best support the answers to Part A? **RI.9-10.1** ^

Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.

- A. "The catastrophe came like a thunderbolt out of the clear sky. Tuesday was an ideal Western day, made up of bracing breezes and a soothing sunset." (Paragraph 5)
- B. "At the morgue twenty-five bodies have been received, and the authorities have pressed the Mechanics pavilion and the basement of the Hall of Justice into service as an emergency hospital." (Paragraph 12)
- C. "The sight of the thousands of poor who have been rendered homeless by the combined efforts of the tossing earth and flames is pathetic in the extreme." (Paragraph 14)**
- D. "The Grand Opera House, where Metropolitan Opera company was playing, is now in flames, and the adjoining buildings, which are occupied by manufacturing, are rapidly giving way to the flames." (Paragraph 17)

4. PART A: Which of the following best identifies the central idea of the second article? **RI.9-10.2** ^

Determine a central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text, including how it emerges and is shaped and refined by specific details; provide an objective summary of the text.

- C. The city's top priority is rebuilding telegraph, railway and trolley lines to reconnect San Francisco with the rest of the world.
- D. **There is hope because plans are already underway to clear debris, rebuild the city, and take care of its citizens.**

5. PART B: Which phrase from the text best supports the answer to Part A?

RI.9-10.1 ^

Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.

- A. "After raging for a period of three days, fought desperately, in face of its tremendous advantage, it subsided when it had reduced hundreds of blocks of valuable property to ashes and rendered over 250,000 people homeless." (Paragraph 19)
- B. **"The Government will undertake the task of removing the bulk of the wreckage. This will occupy a great deal of time and will give employment to a large number of men." (Paragraph 24)**
- C. "As soon as the telephone service is restored in the city it will be utilized for the sending in of alarms until the Board of Electricity can secure a new Central station." (Paragraph 26)
- D. "With the assistance of many brave policemen and citizens, who have remained with him since Wednesday afternoon, Taylor has established a model place of refuge, buried the dead, while fire raged around, and fed thousands who were victims of the disaster." (Paragraph 30)

6. What is the effect of the reporters' tones, as highlighted in the sub-headlines in both articles? Cite evidence from the text in your answer.

RI.9-10.5 v

RI.9-10.9 ^

Analyze seminal U.S. documents of historical and literary significance (e.g., Washington's Farewell Address, the Gettysburg Address, Roosevelt's Four Freedoms speech, King's "Letter from Birmingham Jail"), including how they address related themes and concepts.

Answers will vary; students should contrast the tones of the sub-headlines in the two articles; the first article sensationalizes the tragedy and uses imagery to make bold, attention-grabbing statements that convey a depressing tone; the second article is calmer and reassuring, using more matter-of-fact or even cheerful language to convey hope. The sub-headlines of the first article get people's attention through manipulating fear over the extraordinary event through phrases like "City Was Tossed Like a Feather as Shock Came", while the sub-headlines of the second article get people's attention by providing less descriptive and more concrete facts about the aftermath of the event such as "The fire has been stopped. Relief work is progressing favorably" (Paragraph 18). The reporter adds paragraph 18 in the middle of the sub-headlines for article two to provide a cursory overview of all of the reasons for hope after the sensational fires. It entices nervous or scared readers to continue to read the article to find reasons for hope, relief, and optimism. Students should use examples of the contrasting diction of the two articles in their answer (Ex. "Tossed like a feather" and "frail things in a storm" versus "outlook is bright," "courageous and cheerful," "at last at an end," and "accomplished") to highlight the difference between the depressed tone in the first article and the hopeful tone in the second article.

ANSWER KEY > The Battle of Gettysburg

Which of the following best describes a central idea of the text?

RI.9-10.2 ^

Identify the central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text, including how it emerges and is shaped by specific details; provide an objective summary of the text.

- A. If the Battle of Gettysburg had not occurred by accident, the Confederate Army would have successfully invaded the North.
- B. The Battle of Gettysburg was a pivotal battle lost by the Confederacy that discouraged any other attempt to invade the North.**
- C. The Battle of Gettysburg did not benefit either the Union or the Confederacy, because of the high number of lives lost.
- D. It was not possible to invade the North because the Union had the superior number of troops.

2. PART B: Which phrase from the text best supports the answer to Part A?

RI.9-10.1 ^

Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.

- A. "This was the Battle of Gettysburg, where more than 170,000 troops fought and over 40,000 were killed or injured." (Paragraph 5)
- B. "While there, Hill's division was surprised to see Union troops under the command of Brigadier General John Buford arriving south of town." (Paragraph 7)
- C. "The Confederates drove the outnumbered Union troops towards Cemetery Hill, just south of town, where Union artillery located on the hill halted the retreat." (Paragraph 8)
- D. "the Union had halted the invasion of the North and come out as the victors of the battle." (Paragraph 12)**

3. Which statement best describes the connection between the Battle of Gettysburg and the governments of France and England?

RI.9-10.3 ^

Analyze how the author unfolds an analysis or series of ideas or events, including the order in which the points are made, how they are introduced and developed, and the connections that are drawn between them.

- A. The Battle of Gettysburg convinced France and England to send soldiers to support the Union.
- B. Both France and England decided not to recognize the Union after its loss during the battle.
- C. After the battle, there was no more talk about how the foreign governments of France and England might officially acknowledge the Confederacy.**
- D. The Battle of Gettysburg revealed that French and English support would be necessary for the Confederacy to defeat the Union.

4. How do paragraphs 11-12 contribute to the development of ideas in the article?

RI.9-10.5 ^

Analyze in detail how an author's ideas or claims are developed and refined by particular sentences, paragraphs, or larger portions of a text (e.g., a section or chapter).

- A. They describe the motivation behind a key mistake that made the battle such a decisive loss for the Confederacy.**
- B. They demonstrate the reasons why the Confederacy had no chance to defeat the Union.
- C. They reveal why Jefferson Davis refused to replace General Lee with someone else.
- D. They discuss why the strategies used by the Confederacy were not as effective as those used by the Union.

5. How does the author develop the central idea over the course of the article?

RI.9-10.2

Determine a central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text, including how it emerges and is shaped and refined by specific details; provide an objective summary of the text.

Answers will vary; students should explain that the article begins by explaining why General Lee wanted to move his army to Gettysburg. The author explains that Lee's hope was "to bring the Civil War out of the South and West and into the North" (Paragraph 1). The article then proceeds to explain what impact a Confederate victory at Gettysburg could have: "a victory in Pennsylvania would relieve Virginia of the burden of war, strengthen the hand of 'Peace Democrats' in the North who wanted an immediate end to the war, and undermine President Abraham Lincoln's chances for reelection. It would reopen the possibility for European support that was closed at Antietam. And perhaps, it would even lead to peace" (Paragraph 4). Next, the article describes various details about how the battle transpired. Finally, the article concludes by explaining the impact of the Union victory: "The hope for Southern recognition by any foreign government was dashed. The war continued for two more years, but Gettysburg marked the end of Lee's major offensives. The Confederacy would stumble from there on out towards its defeat" (Paragraph 13).

ANSWER KEY > The Legend of Sleepy Hollow

1. How is the description of setting in paragraph 7 important to the development of the passage's central theme of America's changing history? **RL.11-12.3** ✓

Answers will vary; students should include something suggesting how the dreamlike, stagnant description of the town contrasts with the fast-paced progress of the rest of New York. Their answer should prove an understanding that the town is like a look back in history during a time when America is rapidly progressing and developing.

2. PART A: In paragraph 8, the narrator uses the phrase "worthy wight" to describe Crane. What tone does this suggest? **RL.11-12.4** ✓

- A. facetious
- B. impressed
- C. critical
- D. skeptical

3. PART B: What detail from the story best supports the answer to Part A? **RL.11-12.1**

- A. Crane's standing in society as schoolteacher and choirmaster.
- B. The setting – an idyllic, mysterious rural town in early America.
- C. **The cartoon-ish quality of Crane's appearance.**
- D. Crane's propensity to socialize with women rather than men.

4. As used in paragraph 10, what does the word "smarting" mean? **RL.11-12.4**

- A. yelling
- B. thinking
- C. laughing
- D. **hurting**

5. PART A: How does Ichabod Crane's "capacious" appetite make him an easy target for Brom Bones' tricks? **RL.11-12.3** ✓

- A. He is always hungry so he cannot think logically.
- B. He will do anything for a meal.
- C. **He is eager to believe the stories he is fed.**
- D. He is too imaginative.

6. PART B: Which paragraph offers the best evidence for the answer in PART A? **RL.11-12.1**

- A. Paragraph 11
- B. **Paragraph 16**
- C. Paragraph 22
- D. Paragraph 25

7. Which of the following best states what happens to Ichabod in the end? **RL.11-12.1**

- A. He is "spirited away by supernatural means."
- B. He moved away out of fear and embarrassment.

C. The Headless Horseman captured him.

D. He becomes the subject of legend.

8. "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow" is considered an example of American mythology. **RL.11-12.2** ✓
Which statement best summarizes how the passage's central theme of gluttony allows for this creation of mythology?

- A. **Mythology cannot exist without eager consumers who are willing to believe.**
B. An American mythology can only arise in an affluent community where the people are naturally gluttonous.
C. The perpetuation of an American mythology relies on those who love to tell gossip.
D. A mythology must include stories that are attractive to consume.

9. How do Ichabod Crane's and Brom Bones' individual treatments of the legend of the Headless Horseman reveal their differing perspectives in the passage? **RL.11-12.6** ✓

Answers will vary; students should include something suggesting that Ichabod is a gullible consumer of legend while Brom Bones views legend as something to be manipulated for entertainment.

10. What does the author's choice to tell the story through the voice of such a familiar and chatty narrator contribute to the overall meaning of the text? **RL.11-12.5** ✓

Answers will vary; students should include something regarding the theme of creating legend and spreading gossip.

ANSWER KEY > The Ten Commandments

1. How does the speaker describe God and the relationship with His followers? **RI.8.3** ✓
- A. The speaker describes God as jealous and unpredictable, and that the best chance one has is to follow His commandments, despite it not being a guarantee of salvation.
 - B. The speaker describes God all-knowing and all-powerful, lurking in the darkness; yet the people are not frightened of Him and choose to follow God.
 - C. **The speaker (God) describes Himself as a jealous god who will either punish or reward generations depending on if they follow His commandments.**
 - D. The speaker (God) describes Himself as merciful and forgiving of his people, even when they break or forget his commandments.
2. Which of the following statements best summarizes the first three commandments? **RI.8.2** ✓
- A. The first three commandments all discuss the power and jealousy of God. **RI.8.5** ✓
 - B. **The first three commandments all pertain to how to worship and honor God properly.**
 - C. The first three commandments differ from the rest because they include punishments if not followed.
 - D. The first three commandments differ from the rest because they discuss the image of God and how he must be portrayed in speech and art.
3. Why were the Israelites commanded not to work on a certain day? **RI.8.2** ✓
- A. The Israelites were instructed not to work on the Sabbath because to do so would be to claim to be better than God, who rested on the seventh day. **RI.8.3** ✓
 - B. **The Israelites were instructed not to work on the Sabbath, the seventh day, reflecting God's rest after six days of creation.**
 - C. The Israelites were instructed not to work on the Sabbath because God had a strong preference for worship over work.
 - D. The Israelites were instructed not to work on the Sabbath, the day dedicated to only worship.
4. At the end of the passage, what do the Israelites' reactions to the commandments reveal about how they view God? **RI.8.6** ✓
- A. **They are willing to follow His commandments; however, they clearly fear Him for they keep their distance.**
 - B. They are only willing to speak to God through Moses, indicating that they actually worship the prophet more than God.
 - C. They keep their distance from Moses and God (in the mountain), revealing that they are not likely to keep the commandments.
 - D. They happily promise to keep his Commandments, though they keep their distance so as to avoid having the fear of God put in them.
5. Do the Ten Commandments generally require people to take action or refrain from certain actions? ✓

RI.8.2**RI.8.3**

Answers will vary; students should review the commandments and explain whether they required people to take action or refrain from it. Overall, the commandments advocated NOT committing certain actions over asking people to do things. This is clearly written in the repetitive use of the words "no" and "not" throughout the commandments. Only two commandments really require the followers to take action, and those are: commandment #3, keeping the Sabbath holy; and #4, honoring one's mother and father. The rest of the commandments require that the follower refrain

actions, some of which deal with mental or emotional restraint (i.e. not coveting a gods or spiritually worshipping other gods).

ANSWER KEY > The Ten Commandments

1. How does the speaker describe God and the relationship with His followers? **RI.8.3** ✓
- A. The speaker describes God as jealous and unpredictable, and that the best chance one has is to follow His commandments, despite it not being a guarantee of salvation.
 - B. The speaker describes God all-knowing and all-powerful, lurking in the darkness; yet the people are not frightened of Him and choose to follow God.
 - C. **The speaker (God) describes Himself as a jealous god who will either punish or reward generations depending on if they follow His commandments.**
 - D. The speaker (God) describes Himself as merciful and forgiving of his people, even when they break or forget his commandments.
2. Which of the following statements best summarizes the first three commandments? **RI.8.2**
RI.8.5 ✓
- A. The first three commandments all discuss the power and jealousy of God.
 - B. **The first three commandments all pertain to how to worship and honor God properly.**
 - C. The first three commandments differ from the rest because they include punishments if not followed.
 - D. The first three commandments differ from the rest because they discuss the image of God and how he must be portrayed in speech and art.
3. Why were the Israelites commanded not to work on a certain day? **RI.8.2**
RI.8.3 ✓
- A. The Israelites were instructed not to work on the Sabbath because to do so would be to claim to be better than God, who rested on the seventh day.
 - B. **The Israelites were instructed not to work on the Sabbath, the seventh day, reflecting God's rest after six days of creation.**
 - C. The Israelites were instructed not to work on the Sabbath because God had a strong preference for worship over work.
 - D. The Israelites were instructed not to work on the Sabbath, the day dedicated to only worship.
4. At the end of the passage, what do the Israelites' reactions to the commandments reveal about how they view God? **RI.8.6** ✓
- A. **They are willing to follow His commandments; however, they clearly fear Him for they keep their distance.**
 - B. They are only willing to speak to God through Moses, indicating that they actually worship the prophet more than God.
 - C. They keep their distance from Moses and God (in the mountain), revealing that they are not likely to keep the commandments.
 - D. They happily promise to keep his Commandments, though they keep their distance so as to avoid having the fear of God put in them.
5. Do the Ten Commandments generally require people to take action or refrain from certain actions? **RI.8.2** ✓
RI.8.3 ✓

Answers will vary; students should review the commandments and explain whether they required people to take action or refrain from it. Overall, the commandments advocated NOT committing certain actions over asking people to do things. This is clearly written in the repetitive use of the words "no" and "not" throughout the commandments. Only two commandments really require the followers to take action, and those are: commandment #3, keeping the Sabbath holy; and #4, honoring one's mother and father. The rest of the commandments require that the follower refrain

tain actions, some of which deal with mental or emotional restraint (i.e. not coveting a
's goods or spiritually worshipping other gods).

ANSWER KEY > Winged Blackmail

1. How does the theme of fear play into the story? Explain using evidence from the text.

Determine two or more themes or central ideas of a text and analyze their development over the course of the text, including how they interact and build on one another to produce a complex account; provide an objective summary of the text. **RL.11-12.2** ^

Answers will vary; students should acknowledge the fact that the blackmailing "pigeon fancier" was attempting to use fear in order to manipulate Peter Winn, Senior, into sending him his money. However, Winn refuses to give in to this fear, instead placing his immediate family in great danger by repeatedly ignoring the blackmailer's warnings and instead attempting to foil his plot. As a result, he is successful, though at the cost of allowing his own son to risk his life in a reckless flying scheme. Students should also recognize the irony toward the end of the story, in which the blackmailer – who had tried to use fear to his advantage – was now the most frightened of all as a prisoner in the airplane.

2. What does Winn's initial reaction to the pigeon and letter reveal about his character?

Analyze the impact of the author's choices regarding how to develop and relate elements of a story or drama (e.g., where a story is set, how the action is ordered, how the characters are introduced and developed). **RL.11-12.3** ^

- A. Peter Winn is more impressed with the pigeon than he is intimidated by the threatening letter, revealing his haughty and superficial personality.
- B. Peter Winn is more impressed with the pigeon than he is intimidated by the threatening letter, revealing his limited intelligence.
- C. Peter Winn is too distracted by the ransom letter to acknowledge the pigeon, revealing his distracted and short-sighted personality.
- D. Peter Winn cares more about the value of the pigeon than the price of ransom, indicating his preoccupation with wealth.

3. What does the word "succinct" most likely mean as used in paragraph 25?

RL.11-12.4 ^

Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in the text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone, including words with multiple meanings or language that is particularly fresh, engaging, or beautiful. (Include Shakespeare as well as other authors.)

- A. Apologetic
- B. Sarcastic
- C. Brief**
- D. Wordy

4. How does the resolution of the story (i.e. comedic, tragic, etc.) affect the story's overall meaning?

RL.11-12.2 ^

RL.11-12.5 v

Determine two or more themes or central ideas of a text and analyze their development over the course of the text, including how they interact and build on one another to produce a complex account; provide an objective summary of the text.

Answers will vary; in the end, Peter Winn does not have to pay his blackmailer, rather his son risks his safety on a prototype plane to track and "arrest" the blackmailer. This resolution, while triumphant for the protagonist, does not prove to be a moral one. In the end, Peter Winn is justified risking in his family's lives, especially his son's, by either ignoring the blackmailer's threats or in attempting to capture the blackmailer on his own. This is supported by the final line of the story, in which Peter Winn classifies the pigeon, which he valued so highly before, as mere evidence.

Answer key

> Excerpt from *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*

Which of the following best identifies a theme of the excerpt?

RL.11-12.2 ✓

Teen often do not understand the consequences of their actions and can act cruelly towards one another as a result.

Childful naivety prompts children to want to imitate influential ideas in ways they don't always understand.

Because young people have beautifully active imaginations, it is better to be old and wise than young and foolish.

Strong family units help prevent crime and cruelty among younger family members.

Which of the following quotes best supports the answer to Part A?

RL.11-12.1 ✓

"I'll make every boy to stick to the band, and never tell any of the secrets; and if anybody done anything to any boy in the band, whichever boy was ordered to kill that person and his family must (Paragraph 4)

Everybody said it was a real beautiful oath, and asked Tom if he got it out of his own head. He said, 'Some of it, but the rest was out of pirate-books and robber-books' (Paragraph 5)

"He's got a father, but you can't never find him these days. He used to lay drunk with the hogs in the yard, but he hain't been seen in these parts for a year or more." (Paragraph 9)

"Rogers said he couldn't get out much, only Sundays, and so he wanted to begin next Sunday; but the boys said it would be wicked to do it on Sunday, and that settled the thing." (Paragraph 34)

Which of the following statements best describes the boys' friendship?

RL.11-12.3 ✓

The boys dislike one another and are eager to "betray" one another.

The boys have a strong bond that leads them to form a gang and take a blood oath.

The boys jointly follow Tom but do not hesitate to squabble or poke fun at one another.

The boys form a friendship more out of boredom than actual affection.

Which of the following quotes best supports the answer to Part A?

RL.11-12.1 ✓

"I, we'll start this band of robbers and call it Tom Sawyer's Gang." (Paragraph 3)

"If anybody that belonged to the band told the secrets, he must have his throat cut, and then his carcass burnt up and the ashes scattered all around, and his name blotted off of the list with a knife and never mentioned again by the gang" (Paragraph 4)

"I talked it over, and they was going to rule me out, because they said every boy must have a name or somebody to kill, or else it wouldn't be fair and square for the others." (Paragraph 10)

"I they all stuck a pin in their fingers to get blood to sign with, and I made my mark on the paper."

Answers will vary; students should review the oath in paragraph 4 and discuss how the very serious guidelines and consequences of the oath humorously juxtapose the boy's youth and ignorance of what they later talk about doing as a gang. Overall, the oath shows that the boys are not really serious, but that they are children playing a game based on real-world events they don't truly understand. The oath requires that the boys "never tell any of the secrets" or else he "must have his throat cut, and then have his carcass burnt up and the ashes scattered all around" (Paragraph 4). The boys later add to the oath that the boy's family should be killed as well (Paragraph 6). The boys call the oath "beautiful" and Tom Sawyer admits to taking some of it from books, in order to be on the level of other "high-toned" gangs — further evidence of the boys' imitation rather than understanding of a band (Paragraph 5). That Tom Sawyer wrote this oath suggests he is perhaps the most committed to this fantasy.

Answer key

The Most Dangerous Game

Which TWO of the following best identify the central themes of this story? **RL.9-10.2** ✓

- ✓ **Violence becomes too common, some people no longer take it seriously.**
- ✓ **Power in one's country makes people feel superior to others based on race.**
- ✓ **Power of love will save people from hurting and harming others.**
- ✓ **Technology provides everything humanity needs and therefore anything else is wasteful.**
- ✓ **Man's place in nature is to act with reason, not to become like violent animals.**
- ✓ **Cost of technology is the cost of human life in war.**

Which TWO phrases from the text best support the answers to Part A? **RL.9-10.1** ✓

- ✓ **"I'm not a big-game hunter, not a philosopher." (Paragraph 10)**
- ✓ **"There are pistol shots, there are men." (Paragraph 39)**
- ✓ **"Hunting had ceased to be what you call 'a sporting proposition.' It had become too easy. I always go to the quarry." (Paragraph 94)**
- ✓ **"I do not expect nowadays to find a young man of the educated class, even in America, with a naïve, and, if I may say so, mid-Victorian point of view." (Paragraph 116)**
- ✓ **"Civilized? And you shoot down men?" (Paragraph 128)**
- ✓ **"General Zaroff had an exceedingly good dinner in his great paneled dining hall that evening." (Paragraph 199)**

Which TWO phrases from the beginning of the story with the dialogue between Rainsford and Whitney best support both the author's characterization of Rainsford and the story's mood? **RL.9-10.5** ✓

Choose two phrases from the story in your response.

Answers will vary; students may describe how the beginning is essential for characterizing Rainsford and establishing his views on hunting and on man's place in nature. First, we learn that Rainsford is a hunter as Whitney remarks, "'You've good eyes... and I've seen you pick off a moose moving in an open fall bush at four hundred yards'" (Paragraph 5). We also learn that Rainsford has a worldview heavily influenced by hunting: that "'[t]he world is made up of two classes — the hunters and the hunted. Luckily, you and I are hunters'" (Paragraph 14). When Zaroff chooses Rainsford as his opponent for the "game," this turning point challenges Rainsford's confidence in his outlook. Students may also discuss the rumors about Ship-Trap Island, the "superstition," (Paragraph 3), the "mystery" (Paragraph 1), and the sailors' "curious dread" (Paragraph 3). Although Rainsford laughs off these rumors, they still create an expectation on the part of the reader that something ominous and terrible is about to take place. This feeling is elevated by the description of the setting, with its atmosphere of "warm blackness" (Paragraph 4) and eerie, opaque unknowns. The foreboding darkness of the setting draws us with suspicion and dread about what will happen on this island. There is the chill of foreboding from the startling "abrupt sound" (Paragraph 30) of a mysterious gunshot and the

- A. game-like challenge
- B. hunting license
- C. available targets
- D. a simple, easy task

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5. PART B: Which phrase from the text best supports the answer to Part A?

RL.9-10.1

- A. "businessmen often go to pieces when they give up the business that has been their life." (Paragraph 88)
- B. "It had become too easy. I always got my quarry." (Paragraph 94)
- C. "When I thought of this, it was a tragic moment for me" (Paragraph 96)
- D. "I had to invent a new animal to hunt" (Paragraph 100)

6. Why does Zaroff think Rainsford is "droll" and "naïve"? (Paragraph 116)

RL.9-10.3

- A. Zaroff thinks it's foolish and old-fashioned that Rainsford values human life even after fighting in the war.
- B. Zaroff thinks it is childish and immature that Rainsford has never tried to kill another human.
- C. Zaroff judges Rainsford's American culture because Rainsford feels a religious sense of responsibility.
- D. Insane Zaroff has been isolated on the island for too long and laughs madly at seeing Rainsford, another civilized man.

Rainsford's repetition of the word "nerve" in paragraph 169, paragraph 197 reveal about his character?

RL.9-10.3

Rainsford's repetition characterizes him as forgetful and blundering, which is why he must repeat the word to remember his mission.

Rainsford's repetition shows that it is his courage and ability to reason that enables him to survive.

Rainsford's repetition was probably taught to him in a private school growing up and is a symbol of his status.

Rainsford's repetition shows just how scared and cowardly he is, suggesting that he will not survive the hunt.

Rainsford's opinion on animals change throughout the story?

RL.9-10.3

At first, Rainsford believes only humans can feel, but by the end, he agrees with Whitney that animals can also feel "fear of pain" (Paragraph 13).

At first, Rainsford thinks that there is only one rational animal, humans, but then he discovers the animal that Zaroff has "invented" (Paragraph 100).

At first, Rainsford believes humans are smarter than animals, but then he sees that some humans are actually "a very inferior lot" (Paragraph 131).

At first, Rainsford sees animals only as prizes for human hunters, but later Rainsford sympathizes with the animal "at bay" when he too becomes the hunted (Paragraph 204).

- C. The last line leaves the reader to infer that Rainsford has killed Zaroff, making the ending a triumphant victory for civilization and American values.
- D. The last line leaves the reader to suppose that Rainsford actually likes the comforts of civilization better than nature and that civilization is man's place above nature. ✓

RL.9-10.6

10. Compare Zaroff's and Rainsford's points of view on the hunt. How does this tension contribute to the moral stakes of the story? Cite evidence from the story in your response.

Answers will vary; students should recall Rainsford's initial position on hunters and huntees from the opening dialogue with Whitney, that is, that the world is divided into those two classes, and, as a hunter, "hunting is the best sport in the world" (Paragraph 8). Yet when Rainsford discovers the extreme to which Zaroff takes this reductive division of hunter and hunted, he is disturbed. The proposition of murder appalls and chills Rainsford. Zaroff suggests, "Surely your experiences in the war – " (Paragraph 114) would make Rainsford abandon the notion that human life is valuable, but Rainsford replies that his military background "Did not make me condone cold-blooded murder" (Paragraph 115). For Zaroff, the war has erased such moral scruples. He says, "Life is for the strong, to be lived by the strong, and, if needs be, taken by the strong. The weak of the world were put here to give the strong pleasure" (Paragraph 120). In other words, he believes that might makes right, as exemplified in the sport of hunting. As part of his "game" of murder, Zaroff trivializes the value of human life: "Your brain against mine. Your woodcraft against mine. Your strength and stamina against mine. Outdoor chess!" (Paragraph 160). The ideological opposition between Zaroff and Rainsford is dramatized in their kill-or-be-killed standoff. In the end, when Rainsford manages to kill Zaroff, he wins the contest. However, in taking another life, Rainsford compromises his beliefs about murder somewhat, and it seems that Zaroff's game lives on in some way.

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READING-RECHARGING
Asosiy o‘rganilayotgan chet tili
(O‘qish va yozish)

III kurs

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Musahhih:

M.Raximov

Sahifalovchi:

M.Arslonov



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