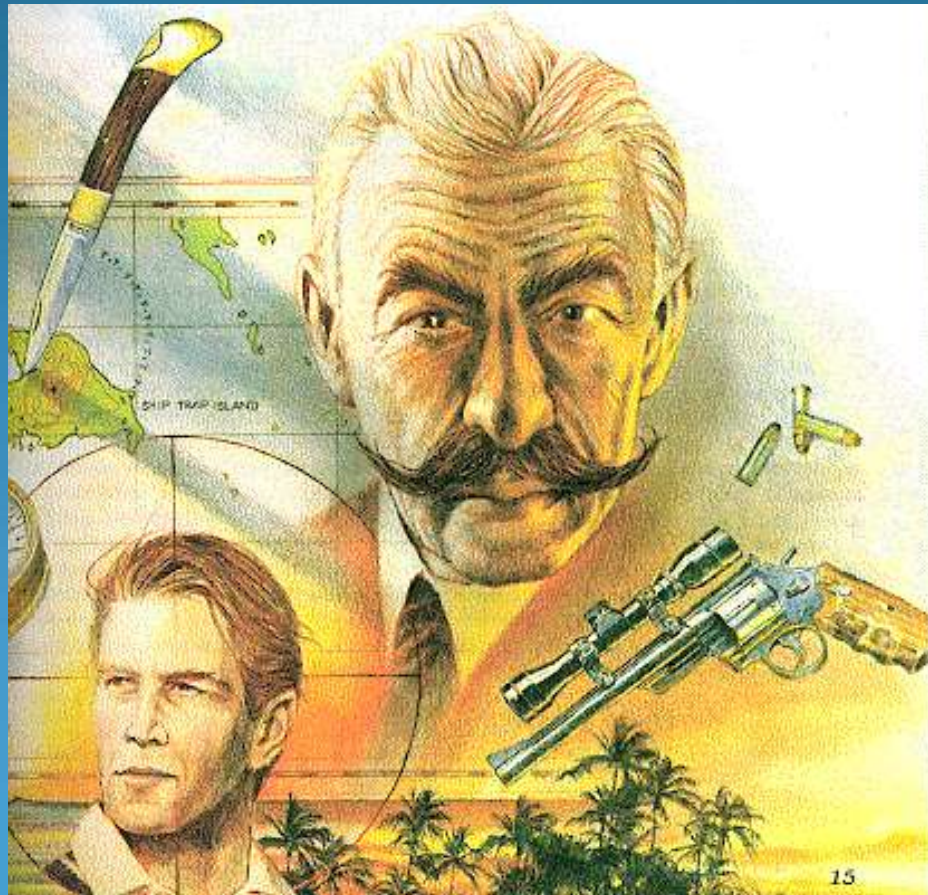


“The Most Dangerous Game” by Richard Connell



Miss Janson

Copy and write a synonym for each vocabulary word on pg. 4

(5 min)

LEFT SIDE

■ Receding

■ Disarming

■ Prolonged

■ Imprudent

■ surmounted

■ Unruffled

■ Invariably

■ Diverting

■ Impulse

■ Protruding

Study for Vocabulary Test !!

As a class, Review/Study Vocabulary

- Does a man with a **receding** hairline have much hair?
- Would a **disarming** leader be able to calm an angry crowd?
- Would you be displeased if a vacation was **prolonged**?
- Is it **imprudent** for bicyclists to wear helmets?
- Would you admire a person who **surmounted** a difficulty?

Review/Study

Vocabulary Continued

- Is an easygoing person likely to remain **unruffled** during a crisis?
- Would you be surprised if someone who was **invariably** late arrived halfway through a party?
- If a critic calls a play **diverting**, did he enjoy it?
- Would a timid animal often have the **impulse** to run?
- Would a careful construction worker leave a nail **protruding** from a floorboard?

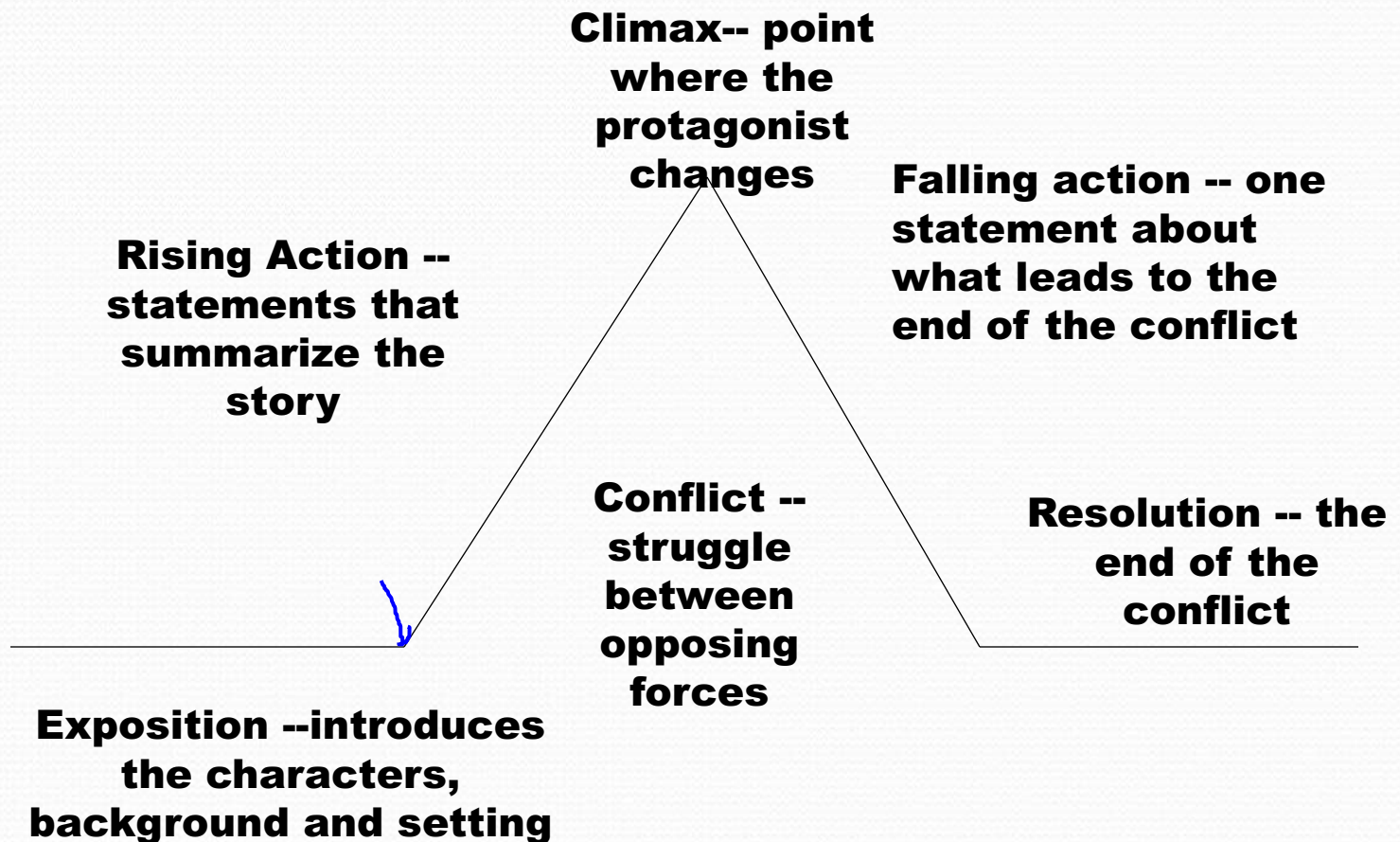
Literary Term Word Splash

- Exposition
- External/internal Conflict
- Characterization
- Resolution
- Setting
- Foreshadowing
- Suspense
- Rising action
- Falling action
- Narrative hook

Suspense

The quality of literature that makes the reader uncertain or tense about the outcome

Format for the Plot Diagram



Plot Diagram

Rainsford jumps over the cliff to escape Zaroff and hides in Zaroff's room

- **Rainsford swims to Ship-Trap Island after falling off the yacht**
- **Rainsford is hunted by Zaroff**

Rainsford and Zaroff fight

Rainsford sleeps in Zaroff's bed after killing him

Conflicts

- **Man Vs. Man**
- **Man Vs. Nature**
- **Man Vs. Self**

Setting: Caribbean Sea and Ship-Trap Island

Protagonist -- Rainsford

Antagonist -- Zaroff

Conflict



A tension in a literary work (struggle between 2 forces)

1. Human vs. nature
2. Human vs. human
3. Human vs. himself/herself

Conflict

❖ **Man v. man (Rainsford v. Zaroff)**

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.

❖ **Man v. Nature (Rainsford v. ocean)**

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.

❖ **Man v. himself (Rainsford v. himself)**

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

Lens #2: Techniques author used

- Using a **RED** colored pencil, underline examples of foreshadowing? – 5 minutes
 - Write in the margin what it foreshadows?
- Use a **GREEN** colored pencil to underline examples of suspense? – 5 minute.
 - What do you think Connell is trying to get his readers to understand through the use of foreshadowing and suspense?



Lens #3: Develop a new understanding

- What techniques did Connell use to make his story interesting?

- Complete the following- Richard Connell uses

✂ _____ to reveal that _____ ✂ (

What do you think Connell is trying to say about humans?)

THEMES

- ❖ In order to fully understand others, we must first walk in their shoes.
- ❖ No human is superior to another.

End of what will be covered on
test for 8/29/14

Character Analysis

Indirect Characterization of Rainsford



- ❖ Rainsford is an excellent hunter
- ❖ Rainsford has written a book about hunting.
- ❖ Rainsford recognizes the cartridge that he picks up as that of a twenty-two caliber gun.
- ❖ Rainsford sets traps for Zaroff.
- ❖ Rainsford is the only person to survive the game with Zaroff.



Rainsford doesn't view hunting animals as murder.

- ❖ He says animals don't understand fear.
- ❖ However, he says that Zaroff is a murderer because he hunts people.



Indirect Characterization of Zaroff

- ❖ **Zaroff is an excellent hunter**
 - ❖ No one has survived his game so far.
 - ❖ He is no longer challenged by hunting animals.
 - ❖ He has read lots of books about hunting.



Zaroff is sophisticated and refined.

- ❖ He has read books about hunting that were written in English, French and Russian.
- ❖ He hums a tune from an opera (Madam Butterfly).
- ❖ He lives in a well decorated Chateau (oaken panels, high ceiling, vast refectory table).
- ❖ He serves a sophisticated, refined meal to Rainsford.
- ❖ Reads Marcus Aurelius

Connell's Direct Characterization of Zaroff

- ❖ Zaroff is either evil or animalistic
- ❖ Thick black eyebrows and pointed black moustache
- ❖ Black, bright eyes
- ❖ Dead black eyes
- ❖ Curious, red-lipped smile

Rainsford is a Dynamic Character

- ❖ At the beginning, he believes that animals don't feel any fear.
- ❖ Once he is hunted and feels fear, he says he knows how animals feel.
- ❖ When he confronts Zaroff at the end, Rainsford tells Zaroff that he is still a beast at bay – What does that mean?

With a partner, draw a T-chart and compare and contrast Rainsford and Zaroff

Rainsford	Zaroff

The Mood is Suspenseful

- ❖ Name of the island -- Ship-Trap
- ❖ All the references to darkness
- ❖ The Hunt

Connell's Tone: Straightforward & Unbiased

- ❖ Connell doesn't show bias toward Rainsford or Zaroff.
- ❖ He doesn't judge Zaroff's game or Rainsford's opinion of hunted animals.
- ❖ He doesn't comment on the events of the story.
- ❖ He chooses a third person limited point of view and remains within that context.



WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Open Response/Summarizer:

In Richard Connell's short story, "The Most Dangerous Game," the hero of the story makes a drastic change by the end. Instead of reporting the psychotic killer, Zaroff, to the authorities, he takes his place as master of the island, as a hunter of men.

Or

In Richard Connell's short story, "The Most Dangerous Game," the hero of the story makes a drastic change by the end. He gives up his lifelong love of hunting and never hunts again after experiencing the terror that animals feel while being hunted.

Never Hunts Again

- He realizes that animals have feelings
- “Rainsford knew now how an animal at bay feels” (27)
- Thinks hunting humans is murder
- Had to kill Zaroff because he wanted revenge, because someone had to stop this insane killer and Z might escape if R left the island to get help
- After being hunted, he begins to feel and act like an animal. He has too much empathy now to kill them
- Realizes that the fear animals experience while being hunted is terrible
- No longer feels that the world is divided into hunters (men) and the hunted (animals) because of becoming the hunted

Becomes like Zaroff

- He sleeps in Zaroff’s bed: symbolism: master of the island, master of the castle = one who hunts men, following in Zaroff’s manner
- He continues the game even after he won.
- He follows Zaroff’s rules of sleeping in the bed, even after Zaroff is dead. If it was necessity to kill him, he would have left or slept in another bed after killing Zaroff
- Enjoyed the thrill of the ultimate hunt. Loves to hunt just as much as Zaroff
- Even though he is afraid while being hunted, he enjoys thinking of ways to stop Zaroff and is so excited when his plans work

“Life is for the strong, to be lived by the strong, and if need 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?”

Do you agree with Zaroff?

“The Most Dangerous Game”

Questions for Understanding

1. In the exposition, the two men discuss hunting and an island. What do we learn about each subject? How do you evaluate these men?
2. Describe the story’s initial mood and quote the specific language and situations that Connell uses to establish the mood. What further details on the island serve to reinforce the mood?
3. Using your plot structure notes, how would you describe the story’s conflict? Does it change as the story progresses? (Hint: Note both the location and type(s) of conflict)
4. What appears out of the jungle almost like a mirage? What else about the setting is exaggerated or surreal?
5. How do Ivan and General Zaroff contrast each other? What common features do they share?
6. Write a description of the significant details of Zaroff’s dress, cuisine, furnishings, and lifestyle. How does Rainsford perform in this setting? Explain what both men have in common.



**What's the line between murder
and justifiable killing?**