

The Monster, the Mosquito, and Motivation

1. Remember the horrible symptoms of a patient with yellow fever.

The young man didn't feel well. First, there was the chill: an icy, bone-freezing chill in the middle of a warm summer evening. Then there was the terrible crushing headache. His back hurt. His stomach twisted with pain. And then he was hot, boiling hot, with a fever that hovered around 104 degrees. His skin turned yellow. The whites of his eyes looked like lemons. Nauseated, he gagged and threw up again and again, spewing streams of vomit black with digested clots of blood across the pillow. Sometimes he cried out or babbled in delirium. Violent spasms jolted his body. It took two grown men to hold him in his bed as a nurse wiped away the drops of blood that trickled from his nose and mouth. Nights and mornings passed. Then, five days after that first freezing chill, the young man died: another victim of a terrible disease called yellow fever.

Why were the doctors "ready to take what Dr. Carroll later called 'a soldier's chances'" to go to Cuba and risk getting this illness?

2. Would you volunteer to let one of Dr. Lazear's infected mosquitoes bite you?

Not a chance!

Probably not

Maybe

Absolutely!

WHAT IS MOTIVATION?

A character's "motivation" is the reason behind their specific actions or decisions. A character does certain things based on their emotions, personality traits, and goals.

Example: What motivates Dr. Reed go to Cuba to lead the Yellow Fever team?

- "Reed had dreamed of being able to do something big." (2, 3)
- "...something that he hoped would 'alleviate human suffering.'" (2, 3)
- "Reed had hoped to make a major contribution while he did research..." (2, 3)

Questions for Discussion:

- What motivates someone to take a risk?
- What is important to Dr. Reed?
- What are Dr. Reed's goals?

Read Chapter 7: "I have no such thing" (pgs 127-129)

DR. LAZEAR'S MOTIVATION

What does Dr. Lazear do?	Why does Dr. Lazear do this?	What does this say about him as a person?

DR. CARROLL'S MOTIVATION

What does Dr. Carroll do?	Why does Dr. Carroll do this?	What does this say about him as a person?

3. Based on the evidence you collected, who has each motivation?

- a. He wants to support the mission of the team.

Dr. Lazear

Dr. Carroll
- b. He wants the experiment to be successful.

Dr. Lazear

Dr. Carroll
- c. He does not expect the bite will lead to infection.

Dr. Lazear

Dr. Carroll

4. What is similar or different about Dr. Carroll's and Dr. Lazear's motivations?
