

The Inn of Lost Time

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p. 226 (blue book)

Background Information:

Read *Literature and Geography* section on page 226. Read through *Samurai and Ronin background information* sheet (handout).

Key Word:

Frame Story-story WITHIN a story

(Read *Elements of Literature* section on page 226)



Literary Elements:

Protagonist:

Antagonist:

Conflict:

Point of View:

Setting:

Theme:

Framework Chart:

	Frame Story (Farmer's Story)	1st inner story (Story of Taro)	2nd inner story (Zenta's)
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			Story)
CHARACTERS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Farmer/farmer's wife/3 sons -Matsuzo (guest, younger ronin) -Zenta (guest, older ronin) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Taro (fisherman) -Turtle (saved by Taro) -Princess of the Undersea 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Tokubei (wealthy merchant) -Zenta (Tokubei's bodyguard, 17 yrs old) -Innkeepers: girl w/6 fingers, old man
EVENTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Ronin are guests -Farmer tells folktale to sons -Zenta recounts similar tale to Taro 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Taro rescues the turtle from the abusive boys -Brings Taro to the bottom of the sea; lives happily with Princess -Becomes homesick and wants to return...Princess gives him a box=DO NOT OPEN! -Returns home & everything has changed...he had been gone for 72 years! -Lonely & miserable ...opens the box and instantly he ages to over 90 years old 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Grueling 2-day journey. Hungry & tired and needed place to stay -Smell drew them away from the hwy to the inn (in woods) -Welcomed by the innkeepers: girl (6 fingers) and old man. Only guests, offered wine and snacks -3rd drink: already tired, blurred vision, passed out, memory loss -Wake up outside: time had passed, but don't know how much -Making way back to the inn, notice that everything has changed (house, walls, people

EVENTS			
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True/False: [Discuss]

- ____ 1. Zenta and Matsuzo, the two ronin, are also noblemen.
- ____ 2. When Zenta and his employer, Tokubei, reach the thatched house, they find a bodyguard waiting at the door.
- ____ 3. Zenta notices that there is something strange about the girl, for she now has blonde hair.
- ____ 4. Zenta discovers the trickery of the innkeepers by going back and looking at two books in the farmhouse.

____5. At the end of the story, Zenta discovers that the old woman with six fingers is the grandmother of the farmer's wife.

Discussion Questions: [Answer in your notebook]

1. At what point did you realize what was actually going on? Who figured it out first, you or Zenta?
2. What clues convince Zenta that he and Tokubei are the victims of a clever hoax?
3. Were you surprised to discover the identity of the farmer's wife in the frame story? Why did her family changer their ways, in your opinion?
4. At the end of the story, what might Zenta be thinking when he holds out his cup for more tea? Why doesn't Matsuzo want any more?