

Questions for "The Most Dangerous Game"
Rising Sophomore Summer Assignment

Answer the questions thoroughly with complete sentences. Restate the question in your answers.

1. Explain the two meanings of the title.
2. How important is suspense in the story? How is it developed and sustained? What role do chance and coincidence play in the story?
3. Examine the characterization of Rainsford and General Zaroff. Which one is more fully characterized? Are both characters plausible? Explain.
4. Why does Connell include the "philosophical" discussion between Whitney and Rainsford at the beginning of the story? Does it reveal a personal limitation on Rainsford's part? Does Rainsford undergo any significant changes in the course of the story? Do we come to know him better as the story proceeds?
5. Compare the discussion between Whitney and Rainsford and the after-dinner conversation between Rainsford and Zaroff. In these discussions, is Rainsford more like Whitney or Zaroff? How does he differ from Zaroff? Does the end of the story resolve that difference? Explain.
6. As you read the story, do you develop any expectations of how it might be resolved? Are these expectations met or overturned?
7. In reading back through the story, what actions or descriptions stand out as being significant?