



The Most Dangerous Game

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Before beginning, draw what you believe this story is about.

How is the story title a pun? What are two different meanings of “game”?

Foreshadowing: use of clues to hint at what's to come. Which words in the first 4 lines foreshadow a possible conflict (or problem) in the story?

Read through “I did feel something like a sudden chill.” The author has given you important information about the setting. Describe what you have learned about Ship-Trap Island.



Reread “Rainsford, reclining...” through “gun three times” and write down three details that appeal to your senses (taste, touch, smell, sound, sight).

Rainsford is now in the water. Describe the conflict Rainsford now faces - what is happening? Is the conflict internal or external? What kind of conflict is it (person vs. _____)?

Read the paragraph that begins “Ten minutes of determined effort...” and write down the words that help you visualize (or see) the scene.



Read through Rainsford's first interaction with the giant who answers the door. Write down the details that tell you Rainsford's words and actions don't succeed at being disarming.

Read the paragraph beginning "Rainsford's first impression." You've just read a detailed description of General Zaroff. Visualize him based on this description. What does the way he looks like lead you to believe about what kind of person he is?

Read through "Whenever he looked up from his plate..." Rainsford is uncomfortable when he notices that the general is studying him. What do you think the general is trying to do here?



Define “informal language,” “formal language,” and “dialogue.”
What kind of language does Zaroff speak with? What does Zaroff’s language tell you about his character?

Read through the paragraph beginning “After the debacle in Russia...” What conflict has the general faced in the past? Write three examples *and* the types of conflict that happened (person vs. _____).

Practice in foreshadowing - complete the sentence:
I think Zaroff hunts ...
because ...



Zaroff finally reveals his “new animal” to Rainsford. 1. What is it? 2. How does Rainsford react to what Zaroff has revealed? 3. What could this reaction mean for Rainsford?

You now know what “the most dangerous game” is. Reread the paragraph beginning with “It’s a game, you see...” and describe in your own words the game Zaroff plays.

With the paragraph beginning “The bed was good...”, practice visualization again. Record: how it looks, feels, sounds, smells, etc.




The main conflict in the story is now clear. Explain the conflict by filling in the blanks:

The conflict is between _____ and _____.

The conflict is that _____ wants _____ and _____ wants _____.

Write down the passage that tells you what Rainsford must do to be able to leave the island.



On page 12, the author adds suspense by having Rainsford ask himself questions. Write down one question Rainsford asks himself. Then write down the answer that is revealed.

Reread the paragraph beginning “When the general, nursing...” and practice visualization. First write down three details, and then write down what you visualize. Example:

Detail: “The ground grew softer under his moccasins...”

Visualize: The ground becomes wet from cooler air, his moccasins sink into the ground and become muddy, he’s leaving footprints, etc.



Who won the game? How do you know?

At the end of the story, Rainsford makes an important decision. He could attack Zaroff from behind. Instead, he decides to fight Zaroff face to face. Why do you think Rainsford makes this decision?

1. How did Rainsford feel about hunting in the beginning of the story? 2. Do you think Rainsford has changed his mind about hunting? 3. Why?