

# The Most Dangerous Game Comprehension Worksheet Answers

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## "The Most Dangerous Game"

Close Reading Exercise

### Directions

Respond to each question in complete sentences. Each question is designed to make you think more deeply about the story. Therefore, you will engage in something called higher-order thinking. This is a critical skill one must develop to become a more proficient reader of complex literary pieces appropriate for high school and college.

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1. In the exposition, it is implied that Rainsford has a limited world view that demonstrates a lack of critical thinking. Locate textual evidence in support of this claim, and write it below.

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2. In the exposition, it becomes clear that Rainsford shows disregard for potential threats. Locate textual evidence in support of this claim, and write it below.

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3. At one point before Rainsford realizes Zaroff's intentions, he hears anguished screams he cannot identify. What assumption does Rainsford make upon hearing these sounds? Does this assumption make him feel better or worse?

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The most dangerous game comprehension worksheet answers are essential for understanding the intricate themes, characters, and plot developments in Richard Connell's classic short story. This engaging narrative explores the darker sides of human nature, survival instincts, and the moral dilemmas faced by individuals when pushed to their limits. In this article, we will delve into the various aspects of "The Most Dangerous Game," providing detailed answers to comprehension questions that can guide readers in their understanding of the text.

# Understanding the Characters

## 1. Sanger Rainsford

- Background: Rainsford is a skilled big-game hunter and the story's protagonist. His expertise in hunting shapes his worldview and influences his actions throughout the narrative.
- Transformation: Initially, Rainsford views hunting as a sport, showing little regard for the feelings of the hunted. However, his experience as the hunted leads him to reevaluate his perspective on life and death.

## 2. General Zaroff

- Background: Zaroff is a Russian aristocrat and the antagonist of the story. He is a cultured man with a passion for hunting, but his obsession leads him to seek more thrilling prey.
- Philosophy: Zaroff believes that he is superior to others and justifies his hunting of humans as a way to indulge in his greatest passion. His character challenges readers to consider the ethics of hunting and the value of human life.

## 3. Ivan

- Role: Ivan is Zaroff's servant and enforcer, representing a brute force that complements Zaroff's cunning intellect. His loyalty to Zaroff is unwavering, making him a significant threat to Rainsford.
- Symbolism: Ivan's character symbolizes the dangers of blind loyalty and the extent to which individuals will go to serve those in power.

# Key Themes in the Story

## 1. The Nature of Hunting

- Sport vs. Survival: The story contrasts the thrill of hunting for sport with the primal instinct for survival. Rainsford's transition from hunter to hunted illustrates this theme.
- Moral Implications: The narrative raises questions about the morality of hunting humans, inviting readers to consider the ethical boundaries of sport and survival.

## 2. The Concept of Civilization vs. Savagery

- Civilization: Rainsford represents the civilized world, with its rules and

moral codes. His initial confidence in his hunting skills stems from this background.

- Savagery: Zaroff embodies the savagery that lies beneath the surface of civilization. His actions challenge Rainsford's beliefs and force him to confront the darker aspects of human nature.

### **3. The Survival Instinct**

- Human Nature: The story highlights the inherent survival instinct present in all humans. As Rainsford is hunted, he must rely on his intelligence and instincts to survive against Zaroff's calculated pursuits.

- Desperation: Rainsford's journey emphasizes how desperation can lead individuals to make morally questionable decisions in the name of survival.

## **Plot Summary and Important Events**

1. Introduction: The story opens with Rainsford and his friend Whitney traveling to the Amazon for a hunting expedition. Their discussion introduces the theme of hunting and foreshadows the events to come.

2. Stranded on the Island: After falling overboard, Rainsford swims to a mysterious island, setting the stage for his encounter with Zaroff.

3. Meeting Zaroff: Rainsford discovers that Zaroff is a refined yet dangerous man who has grown bored with traditional hunting and now hunts humans for sport.

4. The Hunt Begins: Zaroff offers Rainsford a choice: to join him in the hunt or become his prey. Rainsford chooses to be hunted, initiating a lethal game of cat and mouse.

5. Rainsford's Strategies: As Rainsford eludes Zaroff, he employs various survival tactics, showcasing his ingenuity and determination.

6. Climax: The tension peaks as Rainsford confronts Zaroff in a final showdown, leading to an unexpected conclusion.

## **Comprehension Questions and Answers**

### **1. What motivates Rainsford's initial attitude towards hunting?**

- Answer: Rainsford's attitude is driven by his passion for the sport of hunting and his belief in the superiority of humans over their prey. He views hunting as a challenge and a demonstration of skill.

## **2. How does Rainsford's perspective on hunting change throughout the story?**

- Answer: Rainsford's perspective shifts dramatically after he becomes the hunted. He begins to empathize with the prey and realizes the fear and desperation that come with being pursued. This transformation forces him to reconsider the ethics of hunting.

## **3. What is the significance of the setting in "The Most Dangerous Game"?**

- Answer: The isolated island serves as a microcosm for the themes of civilization versus savagery. It creates a unique environment where societal rules are suspended, allowing for the exploration of primal instincts and moral dilemmas.

## **4. How does Connell use foreshadowing in the story?**

- Answer: Foreshadowing is evident in the early conversations between Rainsford and Whitney, as well as in Rainsford's initial thoughts about hunting. These elements hint at the twists and turns that will occur when Rainsford himself becomes prey.

## **5. What role does irony play in the story?**

- Answer: The story is rich with irony, particularly in Rainsford's transformation from a hunter to the hunted. His confidence and expertise become his greatest vulnerabilities, illustrating the unpredictable nature of fate and survival.

# **Literary Devices and Techniques**

## **1. Symbolism**

- The Island: Represents isolation and the primal instincts that emerge when societal constraints are removed.  
- Zaroff's Mansion: Symbolizes the facade of civilization, hiding the brutality of Zaroff's true nature.

## **2. Imagery**

- Connell uses vivid imagery to create suspense and tension, particularly during the hunt scenes. Descriptive language immerses readers in the experience, heightening the emotional stakes.

### **3. Dialogue**

- The conversations between Rainsford and Zaroff reveal their contrasting philosophies and moral compasses, driving the narrative and deepening character development.

## **Conclusion**

In summary, the most dangerous game comprehension worksheet answers provide valuable insights into the characters, themes, and literary techniques present in Richard Connell's gripping story. By examining the complex relationships between the characters and the moral dilemmas they face, readers can appreciate the deeper messages woven throughout the narrative. The story serves as a timeless exploration of the human condition, survival, and the ethical boundaries of hunting, prompting readers to reflect on their own beliefs and the nature of humanity. As Rainsford ultimately confronts Zaroff, the climax of the story leaves us questioning the fine line between civilization and savagery, a theme that resonates profoundly in today's world.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What is the primary theme of 'The Most Dangerous Game'?**

The primary theme of 'The Most Dangerous Game' is the exploration of the nature of civilization versus savagery, highlighting the thin veneer of society that separates humans from their primal instincts.

### **How does Rainsford's perspective on hunting change throughout the story?**

Rainsford's perspective shifts from viewing hunting as a sport to understanding the fear and desperation of being hunted himself, ultimately leading him to empathize with his prey.

### **What literary devices are prominently used in 'The Most Dangerous Game'?**

The story employs various literary devices, including foreshadowing, symbolism, and irony, particularly in the ironic twist where the hunter becomes the hunted.

**How is the character of General Zaroff portrayed in the story?**

General Zaroff is portrayed as a cultured yet sadistic antagonist who revels in the thrill of hunting humans, representing the extremes of moral depravity and the corrupting influence of power.

## What role does the setting play in the narrative of 'The Most Dangerous Game'?

The setting on a remote island creates a tense and isolated atmosphere that amplifies the sense of danger and suspense, serving as the perfect backdrop for the deadly game that unfolds.

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