

## Lesson 6e: Understanding literary terms

**Goal 5.01c:** Students will interpret literary devices such as allusion, symbolism, figurative language, flashback, dramatic irony, dialogue, diction, and imagery.

**Literary Text:** "The Most Dangerous Game" by Richard Connell

[http://fiction.eserver.org/short/the\\_most\\_dangerous\\_game.html](http://fiction.eserver.org/short/the_most_dangerous_game.html)

### Lesson Focus: Conflict and Allusion

Review the definitions of conflict. Be prepared to answer questions about what the thematic purpose of conflict is in the story "The Most Dangerous Game."

Read the definition of allusion:

[http://www.tnellen.com/cybereng/lit\\_terms/allusion.html](http://www.tnellen.com/cybereng/lit_terms/allusion.html)

Often, allusions will point to other works or famous events that can help you understand the main idea of the literary work. Download the chart below and as you read "The Most Dangerous Game" record all the allusions to famous literary works, works of art, historical events or persons. After you read, use the internet to research some of these allusions and then consider what connection they have to the theme of the story.

\*\*\* Link allusion chart\*\*\*

### Independent Practice:

Follow the link to the short story, "The Most Dangerous Game." Record your observances of allusion in the graphic organizer as you read. After you read and record, answer the questions below. Also, be prepared to answer some questions about conflict after your reading.

[http://fiction.eserver.org/short/the\\_most\\_dangerous\\_game.html](http://fiction.eserver.org/short/the_most_dangerous_game.html)

#### **Part One: Conflict:**

1. What is MOST LIKELY the purpose of the conflict between Whitney and Rainsford over whether animals have feelings?
  - A. To show that Rainsford is heartless
  - B. To foreshadow Rainsford's beliefs being challenged
  - C. To imply that Whitney is a magical thinker who shouldn't be trusted
  - D. To create comic relief
2. What is MOST LIKELY the purpose for including General Zaroff's struggle with boredom?
  - A. Insinuates what can happen when human beings run out of things to dominate
  - B. Shows that one must keep oneself entertained in order to stay out of danger
  - C. Demonstrates that too much hunting can damage one's conscience
  - D. None of these

#### **Part Two: Allusion:**

Read the following summary of *Madame Butterfly*, which the Cossack hums right before General Zaroff loses the hunt. Then answer the questions. You will be asked to make some connections between the two stories, so be thinking about what ideas connect as you read.

<http://www.metoperafamily.org/metopera/history/stories/synopsis.aspx?id=8>

1. Which of the characters in "The Most Dangerous Game" is probably NOT a parallel for Pinkerton in *Madame Butterfly*?
  - A. General Zaroff
  - B. Sanger Rainsford
  - C. Ivan the Cossack
  - D. All of these
  
2. Which of the following is the most likely character parallel for Sharpless in *Madame Butterfly*?
  - A. General Zaroff
  - B. Whitney
  - C. Sanger Rainsford
  - D. Ivan the Cossack
  
3. Which of the following is the MOST LIKELY character parallel for Madame Butterfly in *Madame Butterfly*?
  - A. Sanger Rainsford
  - B. Whitney
  - C. General Zaroff
  - D. Ivan the Cossack
  
4. What lesson do both Pinkerton and Rainsford learn?
  - A. That they can't disregard the feelings of others
  - B. That they can't obligate people to unfair contracts
  - C. That hunting can be dangerous for the hunter and the hunted
  - D. That one should not venture too far from home.
  
5. What lesson to both Pinkerton and Zaroff learn?
  - A. That they can't disregard the feelings of others
  - B. That they can't obligate people to unfair contracts
  - C. That hunting can be dangerous for the hunter and the hunted
  - D. That one should not venture too far from home.
  
6. The Cossack's behavior at the end of the story leads us to parallel him with which character from *Madame Butterfly*?
  - A. Pinkerton
  - B. Sharpless
  - C. Suzuki
  - D. Madame Butterfly
  
7. This allusion can lead us to which slightly disturbing conclusion?
  - A. Hunting is morally wrong, no matter what the context
  - B. Zaroff and Rainsford are very similar in their attitudes which makes it hard to define barbarism.
  - C. People too often take things for granted
  - D. People often get dragged into contracts that they want no part of

**Closure:**

Check your answers: Part One:

1. B
2. A

How did you do?

Check your answers: Part Two:

1. C
2. B
3. D
4. A
5. B
6. D
7. B

How did you do?

Remember that allusions are not meant to confuse us, but to catch our attention. When you come across an allusion, take some time if you can and look up with the allusion is. It can give you a deeper insight into the work you are reading.

For each question that you missed, look at the correct response and think about why that response was the correct one. What element of the question did you miss when you answered incorrectly? How might you avoid making that same mistake in the future? If you did not miss any, congratulations! If you did miss a few, use the following tips when answering questions like these in the future:

1. **Read the question completely and all answers completely.** Sometimes you can answer incorrectly just because you didn't pay close attention to what the question was asking you for, or because you missed a detail in one of the responses. Take your time.
2. **Pay very close attention to questions that ask for the BEST or the MOST LIKELY answer.** In these questions, the test will often trick you because more than one answer could be correct. What you have to do in these circumstances is think which one is the best.