

## Lesson 6r: 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**

Read the definition of conflict read through the definition and then follow the link to the practice quiz.

internal conflict	a problem or struggle within a character
external conflict	a problem or struggle between a character and someone or something outside of the character

<http://www.dowlingcentral.com/MrsD/quizzes/literature/conflict.htm>

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 you will be asked to use the internet to research some of these allusions.

\*\*\* 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:**

Identify what type of conflict is occurring in each of the following examples:

1. The sailors vs. the island  
A. Internal  
B. External
2. The hunter vs. the hunted  
A. Internal  
B. External
3. Rainsford struggles to survive after falling overboard  
A. Internal  
B. External
4. General Zaroff against the Cape buffalo  
A. Internal  
B. External

5. General Zaroff struggles with boredom
  - A. Internal
  - B. External
6. Rainsford struggles to overcome his fear
  - A. Internal
  - B. External

**Part Two: Allusion:**

Use Google or Wikipedia, or any other internet search engine to look up the following allusions. Choose the letter that explains what the allusion was. You will then be asked to consider what the author is trying to point out by using that particular allusion.

1. What is the "Great White Czar?"
  - A. A leader of Russia who was overthrown for being weak
  - B. A strong leader of Russia who is known for cruelty to those who opposed him
  - C. A fictional character from a Cossack fairy tale
  - D. None of these
2. Why do you think the author referenced "the Great White Czar"
  - A. To show that the Cossack was used to being a part of inhuman violence
  - B. To give Rainsford hope that maybe the Cossack wasn't as strong as he looked
  - C. To confuse readers
  - D. To show that Russia has often been an enemy of the United States
3. What is the *Folies Bergere*?
  - A. A musical that was popular in the 1950s
  - B. A birdcage
  - C. A short story about a tree losing its leaves
  - D. An opera house in Paris
4. Why do you think the author had General Zaroff whistling a tune from the *Folies Bergere*?
  - A. To show that he has traveled a lot
  - B. To show how strange it is that he knows so much about civilization but is still hunting humans
  - C. To create comic relief in a very intense story
  - D. None of these
5. What happens in the fable of the cat and the fox?
  - A. The cat doesn't know how to escape and is killed by dogs
  - B. The fox knows too many tricks and can't make a decision and is killed
  - C. The cat has too much confidence and pride comes before the fall
  - D. The fox is quick and decisive and escapes with her life.
6. Why do you think the author has Rainsford remark, "I must be the cat in the fable."
  - A. It explains that he's about to go up a tree, like the cat did.
  - B. It foreshadows the ending of the story
  - C. Neither A nor B
  - D. Both A and B

**Closure:**

Check your answers: Part One:

1. B
2. B
3. B
4. B
5. A
6. A

How did you do?

Remember that anytime a character wrestles with something within him/her, it is internal conflict. If he/she is against another person or element of nature, then it is external.

Check your answers: Part Two:

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

How did you do?

Were any of the allusions on the quiz the same that you put in your chart? 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.