***Guide****for* ***Responding*** *(continued)*

+ **Critical Thinking**

INTERPRET

I. Is Zaroff"civilized"?Why or why not? [Analyze]

2. Why does Rainsford call himself"a beast at bay"? [Infer]

3. How does Rainsford's attitude toward hunting compare with Zaroff's? [Compare and Contrast]

4. How does this experience change Rainsford?

Explain. [Analyze]

APPLY

5. Do you think that Rainsford will continue to hunt? Why or why not? [Hypothesize]

EXTEND

6. What kind of careers, other than hunter, would be good for someone with Rainsford's skills and attitudes? [Career Link]

+ **Reading ·strategy**

CONTEXT CLUES

For each passage from the story, give the mean­ ing of the italicized word and explain what context clues helped you determine its meaning.

I. He heard [the sound] again; then it was cut short by another noise, crisp, *staccato.*

"Pistol shot," muttered Rainsford, swimming on.

2. To Rainsford's questioning glance the general said:*"Ennui.* Boredom."

+ **Literary Focus**

SUSPENSE

Richard Connell builds suspense-uncertainty and excitement about the outcome of events-by placing Rainsford in a dangerous, unpredictable situ­ ation and by hinting at events to come.

I . Find three details from the beginning of the story that provide clues about Zaroff's hobby. Explain how these clues help create suspense.

2. How does the description of Rainsford's first night in the chateau create a sense of dread?

3. What are the three most suspenseful events that occur? Explain how these incidents build on one another to create mounting tension.

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+ **Build Vocabulary**

RELATED WORDS: FORMS OF *SCRUPLES*

Considering forms of the word *scruples,*answer these questions.

I. What word would describe a person who does *not* feel misgivings about doing things others *con­* sider wrong?

2. Which character in this story would you de­

scribe with this word?

USING THE WoRD BANK: Sentence Completions

In your notebook, complete each sentence with a word from the Word Bank.

I. The farmer was about big-city ways.

2. "Surrender now," commanded the conquering general."Resistance is ? "

3. The silence was so she thought she could cut it with a knife.

4. He sprawled on the couch , munching popcorn and watching television.

5. They met under rather ? circumstances at an auction of used camels.

6.With its fangs and twisted features, the mask was amazingly ?

7. The customer service agent learned to phrase his sentences ? , to avoid making angry people even more upset.

8. She had her ? and would not give in to peer pressure.

+ **Build Grammar Skills**

PAST AND PAST PERFECT TENSES

The past tense of a verb, usually formed by adding

*-d* or *-ed* to the present form, shows an action com­

pleted in the past.The past perfect tense,formed

with *had* before the past participle, shows an action completed in the past before another action in the past.

Practice In your notebook, write the following sentences, underlining the verbs. Label each verb as past or past perfect.

I. When he opened his eyes ...sleep had given him new vigor.

2. He had achieved a doze when . . . he heard ... the faint report of a pistol.

3. The softness of the earth had given him an idea.

He stepped back from the quicksand . ..

When the general and his pack reached the place by the sea, the Cossack stopped. For some minutes he stood regarding the blue­ green expanse of water. He shrugged his shoulders. Then he sat down, took a drink

of brandy from a silver flask, lit a perfumed

cigarette, and hummed a bit from *Madame*

*Butterfly.*19

General Zaroff had an exceedingly good dinner in his great paneled dining hall that evening. With it he had a bottle of Pol Roger and half a bottle of Chamberlin. Two slight annoyances kept him from perfect enjoyment. One was the thought that it would be difficult to replace Ivan; the other was that his quarry

had escaped him; of

as he locked himself in.There was a little moonlight, so, before turning on his light, he went to the window and looked down at the courtyard. He could see the great hounds, and he called: "Better luck another time," to them. Then he switched on the light.

A man, who had been hiding in the curtain

of the bed, was standing there.

"Rainsford!" screamed the general. "How in

God's name did you get here?"

"Swam,said Rainsford. "I found it quicker than walking through the jungle."

The general sucked in his breath and

smiled. "I congratulate you," he said. "You have won the game."

Rainsford did not smile. "I am still a beast

+Literary Focus

This paragraph describes a peacef ul scene. However, it . contributes to sus­ pense. Explain why.



course the American hadn't played the game-so thought the

general as he tasted his

after-dinner liqueur. ln

his library he read, to

at bay,he said, in a low, hoarse voice. "Get ready. General Zaroff."

The general made one of his deepest bows.

"I see," he said. "Splendid! One of us is to fur­ nish a repast for the hounds. The other will sleep in this very excellent bed. On guard,

soothe himself. from the works of Marcus Au­

relius.20 At ten he went up to his bedroom. He was deliciously tired, he said to himself,



19. *Madame Butterfly:* An opera by Giacomo Puccini.

20. Marcus Aurelius (6 re·le as): Roman emperor and philosopher (A.D. 121-180).

Rainsford. .. ."

He had never slept in a better bed, Rains­

ford decided.

***Guide*** *for* ***Responding***



•*Lirera&w-e-a.nd:!jow- Lifr*

Reader's Response What d o you ad mire about

Rainsford? What don't you admire? Why?

Thematic Focus Someti mes, as in this story, com­ petition is too intense.What are some of the po­ tential consequen ces (aside from th e ones in this story) of a competiti on that gets too fierce?

Group Discussion Discuss with a group what you can learn from this story about competition.

[2] Check Your Comprehension

I. How does Rainsford come to Sh ip-Trap Island?

2. What, accord ing to Zaroff, is the most dangerous game? Why?

3. Explain how Zaroff's treatment of Rainsford

changes during the course of the story.

4. Describe three of the tricks Rainsford uses to elude Zaroff.What is the outcome of each trick?

5. Why does Zaroff think that Rainsford "hasn't played the game"?

*The Most Dangerous Game* + *31*