

Name: _____ Date: _____

“Most Dangerous Game” (by Richard Connell) Exam

Directions: Read the following passages from the story. Then, mark THE BEST answer in response to the questions that follow. When marking the answers, make sure to both circle them and write the letter on the line. Also note that the page numbers that the selections are taken from are marked before each reading.

[Page 215]

"OFF THERE to the right—somewhere—Is a large island," said Whitney. "It's rather a mystery—"

"What island is it?" Rainsford asked.

"The old charts call it 'Ship-Trap Island,'" Whitney replied. "A suggestive name, isn't it? Sailors have a curious dread of the place. I don't know why. Some superstition—"

"Can't see it," remarked Rainsford, trying to peer through the dank tropical night that was palpable as it pressed its thick warm blackness in upon the yacht.

"You've good eyes," said Whitney, with a laugh, "and I've seen you pick off a moose moving in the brown fall bush at four hundred yards, but even you can't see four miles or so through a moonless Caribbean night."

"Nor four yards," admitted Rainsford. "Ugh! It's like moist black velvet."

[...]

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There was no sound in the night as Rainsford sat there but the muffled throb of the engine that drove the yacht swiftly through the darkness, and the swish and ripple of the wash of the propeller.

Rainsford, reclining in a steamer chair, indolently puffed on his favorite brier. The sensuous drowsiness of the night was on him. "It's so dark," he thought, "that I could sleep without closing my eyes; the night would be my eyelids--"

An abrupt sound startled him. Off to the right he heard it, and his ears, expert in such matters, could not be mistaken. Again he heard the sound, and again. Somewhere, off in the blackness, someone had fired a gun three times.

1. Based on the above selection, the mood can be most accurately described as:
 - a. Vague, Foggy, and Warm
 - b. Peaceful
 - c. Ominous and Eerie
 - d. Jovial and Inviting
2. Which of the following set of lines, from the above selection, accurately cites the evidence that you should use if you are writing a paragraph discussing how the setting affects the mood?
 - a. "It's rather a mystery—" (Connell 215). / "Sailors have a curious dread of the place" (Connell 215). / "Off in the blackness, someone had fired a gun three times" (Connell 217).
 - b. It's rather a mystery— (Connell 215) / Sailors have a curious dread of the place (Connell 215)/ "Off in the blackness, someone had fired a gun three times" (Connell 217)
 - c. "It's rather a mystery—" (215 Connell). / "Sailors have a curious dread of the place" (215 Connell). / "Off in the blackness, someone had fired a gun three times" (217 Connell).
 - d. "It's rather a mystery—" (Connell 215) / "Sailors have a curious dread of the place." (Connell 215)/ "Off in the blackness, someone had fired a gun three times." (Connell 217)

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He struggled up to the surface and tried to cry out, but the wash from the speeding yacht slapped him in the face and the salt water in his open mouth made him gag and strangle. Desperately he struck out with strong strokes after the receding lights of the yacht, but he stopped before he had swum fifty feet. A certain coolheadedness had come to him; it was not the first time he had been in a tight place. There was a chance that his cries could be heard by someone aboard the yacht, but that chance was slender and grew more slender as the yacht raced on. He wrestled himself out of his clothes and shouted with all his power. The lights of the yacht became faint and ever-vanishing fireflies; then they were blotted out entirely by the night. Rainsford remembered the shots. They had come from the right, and doggedly he swam in that direction, swimming with slow, deliberate strokes, conserving his strength. For a seemingly endless time he fought the sea. He began to count his strokes; he could do possibly a hundred more and then—

3. The above selection most accurately depicts which type of conflict?
 - a. Man vs. Man
 - b. Man vs. Self
 - c. Man vs. Machine
 - d. Man vs. Nature

4. Read the following prompt, then circle the topic sentence that would most accurately begin a well-developed paragraph in response to it.

Analyze conflict as presented in the above text.

- a. In the above selection taken from the short story “Most Dangerous Game” Connell presents Rainsford’s struggle to against the waves for the sake of reuniting with his hunting party.
- b. In the above selection taken from the short story “Most Dangerous Game,” by Richard Connell, Rainsford is struggling against the waves, trying to the sake of reunite himself with his hunting party.
- c. In the above selection taken from the short story Most Dangerous Game Connell presents Rainsford’s struggle to against the waves for the sake of reuniting with his hunting party.
- d. In the above selection taken from the short story Most Dangerous Game, by Richard Connell, Rainsford is struggling against the waves, trying to the sake of reunite himself with his hunting party.

[Pages 221-222]

It was to a huge, beam-ceilinged bedroom with a canopied bed big enough for six men that Rainsford followed the silent giant. Ivan laid out an evening suit, and Rainsford, as he put it on, noticed that it came from a London tailor who ordinarily cut and sewed for none below the rank of duke.

The dining room to which Ivan conducted him was in many ways remarkable. There was a medieval magnificence about it; it suggested a baronial hall of feudal times with its oaken panels, its high ceiling, its vast refectory tables where two score men could sit down to eat. About the hall were mounted heads of many animals—lions, tigers, elephants, moose, bears; larger or more perfect specimens Rainsford had never seen. At the great table the general was sitting, alone.

"You'll have a cocktail, Mr. Rainsford," he suggested. The cocktail was surpassingly good; and, Rainsford noted, the table appointments were of the finest—the linen, the crystal, the silver, the china.

They were eating borsch, the rich, red soup with whipped cream so dear to Russian palates. Half apologetically General Zaroff said, "We do our best to preserve the amenities of civilization here. Please forgive any lapses. We are well off the beaten track, you know. Do you think the champagne has suffered from its long ocean trip?"

"Not in the least," declared Rainsford. He was finding the general a most thoughtful and affable host, a true cosmopolite. But there was one small trait of the general's that made Rainsford uncomfortable. Whenever he looked up from his plate he found the general studying him, appraising him narrowly.

"Perhaps," said General Zaroff, "you were surprised that I recognized your name. You see, I read all books on hunting published in English, French, and Russian. I have but one passion in my life, Mr. Rainsford, and it is the hunt."

5. Based on the above selection, the mood can be most accurately described as:
 - a. Ominous and Foreboding
 - b. Sinister and Abrupt yet Jovial and Flamboyant
 - c. Bright, Cheerful, and Comforting
 - d. Welcoming, Elegant, yet a bit Unsettling

6. What text would most accurately be used to support your answer to number five (5)?
 - a. "It was to a huge, beam-ceilinged bedroom with a canopied bed big enough for six men" (Connell, 221). / "About the hall were mounted heads of many animals" (Connell, 221). / "Do you think the champagne has suffered from its long ocean trip" (Connell, 222).
 - b. "The dining room [...] was remarkable" (Connell 221). / "There was a medieval magnificence about it" (Connell 221). / "We do our best to preserve the amenities of civilization here" (Connell 222). / "There was one small trait of the general's that made Rainsford uncomfortable" (Connell 222).
 - c. "You'll have a cocktail, Mr. Rainsford" (Connell 221) / "Perhaps," said General Zaroff, "you were surprised that I recognized your name" (Connell 222). / "I read all books on hunting published in English, French, and Russian" (Connell 222).
 - d. "Larger or more perfect specimens Rainsford had never seen" (221 Connell). / "The general was sitting, alone" (221 Connell).

7. Based on the above selection, Zaroff can be most accurately characterized as:
 - a. A welcoming host
 - b. A wealthy man
 - c. Potentially peculiar
 - d. All of the above

[Page 234]

He knew his pursuer was coming; he heard the padding sound of feet on the soft earth, and the night breeze brought him the perfume of the general's cigarette. It seemed to Rainsford that the general was coming with unusual swiftness; he was not feeling his way along, foot by foot. Rainsford, crouching there, could not see the general, nor could he see the pit. He lived a year in a minute. Then he felt an impulse to cry aloud with joy, for he heard the sharp crackle of the breaking branches as the cover of the pit gave way; he heard the sharp scream of pain as the pointed stakes found their mark. He leaped up from his place of concealment. Then he cowered back. Three feet from the pit a man was standing, with an electric torch in his hand.

8. Based on the above selection, the mood can be most accurately described as:
 - a. Ostentatious
 - b. Encouraging
 - c. Suspenseful
 - d. Calm

9. Based on the following topic sentence, which answer would be the best 2nd sentence in the paragraph?

In the passage from the short story "Most Dangerous Game," Connell depicts Rainsford's inner turmoil as he anticipates death of General Zaroff.

- a. Take, for example, how "It seemed to Rainsford that the general was coming with unusual swiftness" (Connell 234).
 - b. Take, for example, how after setting a trap Rainsford sits crouching, unable to "see the general [...or...] the pit," all the while desiring to "cry aloud for joy" when he "hear[s] the sharp scream of pain as the pointed stakes find their mark" (Connell 234).
 - c. Take, for example, how "It seemed to Rainsford that the general was coming with unusual swiftness." (Connell, 234)
 - d. Take, for example, how after setting a trap Rainsford sat crouching, unable to "see the general [...or...] the pit," all the while desiring to "cry aloud for joy" when he "heard the sharp scream of pain as the pointed stakes found their mark." (Connell 234)
10. Based on the above reading selection, Rainsford can be most accurately characterized as:

- a. A an excited man with nothing to lose
- b. An inauspicious man whose indelibility is unable to match his antiquated nature, leaving the reader to consider him innately malicious and callous
- c. An anxious man who desires to overcome his foe
- d. A man with a mission

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Rainsford knew he could do one of two things. He could stay where he was and wait. That was suicide. He could flee. That was postponing the inevitable. For a moment he stood there, thinking. An idea that held a wild chance came to him, and, tightening his belt, he headed away from the swamp.

[...]

His mind worked frantically. He thought of a native trick he had learned in Uganda. He slid down the tree. He caught hold of a springy young sapling and to it he fastened his hunting knife, with the blade pointing down the trail; with a bit of wild grapevine he tied back the sapling. Then he ran for his life. The hounds raised their voices as they hit the fresh scent. Rainsford knew now how an animal at bay feels.

[...]

"Nerve, nerve, nerve!" he panted, as he dashed along. A blue gap showed between the trees dead ahead. Ever nearer drew the hounds. Rainsford forced himself on toward that gap. He reached it. It was the shore of the sea. Across a cove he could see the gloomy gray stone of the chateau. Twenty feet below him the sea rumbled and hissed. Rainsford hesitated. He heard the hounds. Then he leaped far out into the sea. . . .

[Page 236]

[...Zaroff eats dinner by himself and enters his bedroom...]

A man, who had been hiding in the curtains 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 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 furnish a repast for the hounds. The other will sleep in this very excellent bed. On guard, Rainsford." . . .

He had never slept in a better bed, Rainsford decided.

11. Based on the above selection, identify the answer that most accurately depicts Rainsford's transformation as a character:
 - a. He changes from a man of great wealth to one of poverty
 - b. He changes from a callous man to one who is willing to empathize
 - c. He changes from a wanted man to a criminal
 - d. He changes from a great hunter to a great tracker

12. Which conflict(s) is/are present in the above scene from page 235?
 - a. Man vs. Man
 - b. Man vs. Nature
 - c. Man vs. Self
 - d. All of the above

13. What is implied by the ellipsis found at the end of the line "On guard Rainsford'..." (Connell 236)?
 - a. Rainsford and Zaroff discuss their differences and Rainsford is given an opportunity to rest in Zaroff's house.
 - b. Zaroff and Rainsford agree that the hunt was fun and share an inside joke.
 - c. Zaroff and Rainsford recognize that the game has ended.
 - d. Rainsford and Zaroff embrace in a physical struggle.

14. Based on the above selection, and your knowledge of "Most Dangerous Game," which scene most accurately depicts the climax of the story?
 - a. Right before Rainsford jumps over the cliff.
 - b. Right when Rainsford realizes what prey feels like.
 - c. Right when Rainsford steps out from behind the curtain in Zaroff's room.
 - d. In between the last two lines of the text.

15. Based on the above selection, and your knowledge of "Most Dangerous Game," which text most accurately depicts the climax of the story.
 - a. "He heard the hounds. Then he leaped far out into the sea. . . ." (Connell 235).
 - b. "Rainsford knew now how an animal at bay feels" (Connell 235).
 - c. "A man, who had been hiding in the curtains of the bed, was standing there" (Connell 236).
 - d. "' On guard, Rainsford.' . . . He had never slept in a better bed" (Connell 236).