

The Most Dangerous Game
by Richard Connell

Part I: Understanding Plot Development

- 1.

2. Who is the protagonist of the story?
3. Who is the antagonist of the story?
4. What do you learn about the characters, setting, and situation in the exposition of the story?
 - Characters:
 - Setting:
 - Conflict
5. What events are included in the rising action of the story?

6. What is the climax of the story?
7. What events are included in the falling action of the story?

8. How is the conflict resolved?
9. How does the writer use suspense in developing the plot of this story?

10. Which character in the story has the most internal conflicts? Give examples of the conflicts they experience.

Part II: Short Story vs. Movie

Directions: Be able to identify if the following scenes occurred in the short story, the movie, or both.

- _____ Rainsford is on a yacht at the beginning.
- _____ The weather is very bad and the yacht sinks (goes under water).
- _____ Rainsford falls off the yacht.
- _____ Rainsford, a woman named Eve, and her brother Martin are in Zarroff's house.
- _____ Rainsford is the only survivor in Zarroff's house.
- _____ Rainsford & Eve go into the jungle.
- _____ Rainsford goes into the jungle by himself.
- _____ Rainsford has to stay away from Zarroff for one night.
- _____ Rainsford has to stay away from Zarroff for two nights.
- _____ Rainsford kills Zarroff.

This section will be extra credit. You can watch the movie at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DXLTw22HOQ>

Part III: Vocabulary

Directions: Be able to identify the correct definitions for the following words.

1. zealous:
 2. condone
 3. imprudent:
 4. **vivid:**
 5. tangible:
 6. disarming:
 7. amenity:
 8. cease:
 9. imperative:
 10. uncanny:
-

Part IV: Verbs

Directions: Be able to identify the correct definitions for the following words.

1. verb:
2. action verb:
3. linking verb:
4. auxiliary verb:

5. irregular verb:

Identify what kind of verb each underlined word is (action, linking, or auxiliary).

1. In the evening, Shane and his friends can play basketball after they finish their homework.
2. In the evening, Shane and his friends can play basketball after they finish their homework.
3. After playing in the championship game, the team looked exhausted.
4. After playing in the championship game, the team looked exhausted.
5. The students are excited about the fieldtrip.

Write the correct tense of the irregular verb in the space provided.

1. (be) She the captain of the water polo team last year.
2. (be) Sometimes they think that their parents are unreasonable with the chore list.
3. (sing) The choir is a song at the assembly on Friday.
4. (sing) The choir three songs at a competition last weekend.
5. (write) On the day that Mr. Campbell was out sick, the students in their journals.

“The Most Dangerous Game” Study Guide

Part 1: Questions about the Story

1. At the beginning of the story, Rainsford is on a yacht. Where is he going AND what will he do there?	
2. What does Rainsford hear before he <i>falls off the yacht</i> ? What does he hear when he is <i>in the water</i> ?	
3. What is the name of the island he swims to?	
4. Who answers the door of the very big house on the island?	
5. General Zaroff already knows who Rainsford is before they meet. How ?	
6. Why does General Zaroff like to hunt men ?	
7. How many nights does Rainsford need to stay alive to “win” the game?	
8. How does Rainsford feel when General Zaroff is hunting him?	
9. Where does Rainsford find General Zaroff at the end ?	
10. How do you know that Rainsford kills Zaroff in the end?	
11. What is the conflict of this story?	

Part 2: Vocabulary

DEFINITIONS:

1. _____ if you can touch something, it is this
2. _____ to stop, to end
3. _____ very important and necessary
4. _____ to let someone do something or let something happen

SENTENCES:

1. Ms. Graham does not _____ using your phone when she is teaching.
2. Your desk, your phone, rain, snow, and French fries are all _____, because you can touch them.
3. It is _____ that you do your homework every night and study for your tests.
4. You never _____ to surprise me!

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Part I: Understanding Plot Development

1. What is the main conflict in this story?

Rainsford's Internal Conflict: Rainsford struggles with the morality of hunting.

Rainsford's External Conflicts:

1) Rainsford is put in danger when he falls off the yacht.

2) Rainsford is put in danger when he is hunted by General Zaroff.

2. Who is the protagonist of the story? Sanger Rainsford

3. Who is the antagonist of the story? General Zaroff

4. What do you learn about the characters, setting, and situation in the exposition of the story?

• Characters: Whitney and Rainsford

• Setting: yacht in the Caribbean Sea

• Conflict: Rainsford falls off the yacht after hearing gunshots in the distance

5. What events are included in the rising action of the story?

1) Rainsford falls off the yacht after hearing gunshots in the distance.

2) Rainsford swims to the island, following the sound of gunshots, and lands on the rocky shore.

3) General Zaroff gives Rainsford dry clothes and feeds him dinner.

4) General Zaroff explains why he hunts humans and why he doesn't consider it murder.

5) Ivan gives Rainsford basic supplies and then Rainsford heads to the jungle to be hunted.

6) Rainsford's pit kills one of Zaroff's dogs.

7) Rainsford's knife trap kills Ivan.

8) Rainsford jumps off a cliff into the ocean below.

6. What is the climax of the story? Rainsford reveals he has been hiding in Zaroff's room.

7. What events are included in the falling action of the story?

1) General Zaroff congratulates Rainsford for winning the game.

2) Rainsford challenges General Zaroff to a duel and kills him.

3) Rainsford sleeps in General Zaroff's bed.

8. How is the conflict resolved? Rainsford challenges General Zaroff to a duel and kills him.

9. How does the writer use suspense in developing the plot of this story?

Dialogue:

• As Rainsford approaches the island, the reader learns that it is named "Ship-Trap Island."

• Rainsford's conversation with Whitney reveals the mystery and superstition attached to the island.

Setting:

• The setting in the first few paragraphs establishes suspense and impending danger with a description of the dark night, sound of gunshots, and a high-pitched scream.

Foreshadowing:

• Rainsford's initial encounters with Zaroff, particularly the dinner where General Zaroff stares at Rainsford, foreshadow the game played on the island as Zaroff shares that he hunts animals more dangerous than buffaloes.

10. Which character in the story has the most internal conflicts? Give examples of the conflicts they experience.

1) In the beginning of the story, Rainsford disagrees with Whitney about the morality of hunting animals.

2) After dinner, Rainsford is faced with making the decision of either being whipped by Ivan, or hunted by General Zaroff.

3) The night of the dinner, Rainsford is kept awake by the prospect of being hunted by General Zaroff.

4) During the first night in the jungle, Rainsford is terrified of what will happen to him the next day.

5) After the first night in the jungle and General Zaroff blowing smoke rings into the tree, Rainsford is terrified of what will happen to him during the second day of the "hunt."

6) Before leaping into the sea, Rainsford is faced with either being killed by Zaroff and his dogs, or potentially dying by jumping into the sea.

Part II: Short Story vs. Movie

Directions: Be able to identify if the following scenes occurred in the short story, the movie, or both.

- _____ Rainsford is on a yacht at the beginning.
_____ The weather is very bad and the yacht sinks (goes under water).
_____ Rainsford falls off the yacht.
_____ Rainsford, a woman named Eve, and her brother Martin are in Zaroff's house.
_____ Rainsford is the only survivor in Zaroff's house.
_____ Rainsford & Eve go into the jungle.
_____ Rainsford goes into the jungle by himself.
_____ Rainsford has to stay away from Zaroff for one night.
_____ Rainsford has to stay away from Zaroff for two nights.
_____ Rainsford kills Zaroff.

This section will be extra credit. You can watch the movie at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DXLTw22HOQ>

Part III: Vocabulary

Directions: Be able to identify the correct definitions for the following words.

1. zealous: **intensely enthusiastic**
2. condone: **to forgive or overlook**
3. imprudent: **not showing care for the consequences of one's actions; unwise**
4. vivid: **clear; detailed; lifelike**
5. tangible: **capable of being touched or felt; having actual form and substance**
6. disarming: **removing suspicion; inspiring confidence**
7. amenity: **something that adds to one's comfort or convenience**
8. cease: **to stop; to bring to an end**
9. imperative: **absolutely necessary**
10. uncanny: **so remarkable it seems unreal**

Part IV: Verbs

Directions: Be able to identify the correct definitions for the following words.

1. verb: **a word that represents an action, occurrence, or state of being**
2. action verb: **a verb that expresses an action that the subject of a sentence does**
3. linking verb: **a verb that connects a subject of the verb to additional information about the subject**
4. auxiliary verb: **a verb that accompanies another verb to help express its tense, mood, or voice; also known as a helping verb**
5. irregular verb: **a verb that does not follow the usual rules for verb forms**

Identify what kind of verb each underlined word is (action, linking, or auxiliary).

1. In the evening, Shane and his friends can play basketball after they finish their homework.
2. In the evening, Shane and his friends can play basketball after they finish their homework.
3. After playing in the championship game, the team looked exhausted.
4. After playing in the championship game, the team looked exhausted.
5. The students are excited about the fieldtrip.

auxiliary verb

action verb

linking verb

action verb

linking verb

Write the correct tense of the irregular verb in the space provided.

1. (be) She was the captain of the water polo team last year.
2. (be) Sometimes they think that their parents are being unreasonable with the chore list.
3. (sing) The choir is singing a song at the assembly on Friday.
4. (sing) The choir sang three songs at a competition last weekend.
5. (write) On the day that Mr. Campbell was out sick, the students wrote in their journals.

ANSWER KEY

“The Most Dangerous Game” Study Guide

Part 1: Questions about the Story

1. At the beginning of the story, Rainsford is on a yacht. Where is he going AND what will he do there?	Rainsford is going to Rio (Brazil) to hunt.
2. What does Rainsford hear before he <i>falls off the yacht</i> ? What does he hear when he is <i>in the water</i> ?	1) Rainsford hears three gunshots before he falls off the yacht. 2) Rainsford hears an “animal” scream when he is in the water.
3. What is the name of the island he swims to?	Rainsford swims to Ship-Trap Island.
4. Who answers the door of the very big house on the island?	Ivan answers the door of the very big house on the island.
5. General Zaroff already knows who Rainsford is before they meet. How ?	General Zaroff already knows about Rainsford before they meet because he has read Rainsford’s book about hunting.
6. Why does General Zaroff like to hunt men ?	General Zaroff likes to hunt men because it is more exciting than hunting animals.
7. How many nights does Rainsford need to stay alive to “win” the game?	Rainsford needs to stay alive for two nights in order to “win” the game.
8. How does Rainsford feel when General Zaroff is hunting him?	Rainsford feels like an animal while General Zaroff is hunting him.
9. Where does Rainsford find General Zaroff at the end ?	Rainsford finds General Zaroff in bed at the end of the story.
10. How do you know that Rainsford kills Zaroff in the end?	You know that Rainsford kills Zaroff in the end because the last sentence of the story says that Rainsford slept well in Zaroff’s bed that night.
11. What is the conflict of this story?	Rainsford vs. Zaroff

Part 2: Vocabulary

DEFINITIONS:

1. TANGIBLE if you can touch something, it is this
2. CEASE to stop, to end
3. IMPERATIVE very important and necessary
4. CONDONE to let someone do something or let something happen

SENTENCES:

1. Ms. Graham does not CONDONE using your phone when she is teaching.
2. Your desk, your phone, rain, snow, and French fries are all TANGIBLE, because you can touch them.
3. It is IMPERATIVE that you do your homework every night and study for your tests.
4. You never CEASE to surprise me!