

Comprehension Check

- Before arriving at the island, what is Rainsford's position on hunting?
Hunting is the best sport there is; animals have no feelings.
- Why has Zaroff begun hunting human "game"?
Zaroff has become bored with hunting. Humans are more challenging prey.
- What tricks does Rainsford use to avoid capture?
Rainsford climbs a tree; he makes a Malay man-catcher, a Burmese tiger pit, and a device containing a knife launched by a bendable tree.

1. What Do You Think? Explain what you think happens to Rainsford and Zaroff at the end of the story.

Describe events leading to Rainsford's victory. Good responses should address the following: Rainsford did not have a weapon when he jumped into the water. The general was in evening clothes when the men first met. Is he wearing evening clothes again? Does he have a weapon?

2. How accurate were the predictions you made in your as you read the story? Discuss with a classmate the details in the story that either helped or misled you.

Note whether they used all information available to you when you made your predictions.

3. What is your reaction to Zaroff's statement: "We try to be civilized here"? Explain your answer.

Zaroff has just informed Rainsford that he hunts humans, so his comment about being civilized seems outrageous.

4. Look over the chart of qualities that you created for the Connect to Your Life activity on page 38. In your opinion, which of these character traits most help Rainsford win the game? Support your choices with details from the story.

Responses will vary. Rainsford's physical condition, his experience, and his intelligence help him survive.

5. Why do you think Rainsford chooses to confront Zaroff in the end, rather than simply ambush him?

Some may suggest that Rainsford wants Zaroff to suffer. Rainsford wants Zaroff to acknowledge that Rainsford has won the game.

6. Do you think that Rainsford's views on hunting have been permanently changed by his experience of being hunted? Why or why not?

Most will reply that Rainsford has changed his views on hunting. Evidence might include the following: Near the end of the story, the narrator says that Rainsford knows the full meaning of terror after being hunted.

7. What If? Imagine that Rainsford's friend, Whitney, has formed a search party that lands on the island. Find a point in the **plot** of the story where Whitney's arrival might take place and describe the possible consequences of this event.

Good responses include Whitney's arrival at a point in the plot where his arrival adds to the conflict. Perhaps Rainsford is about to be killed by Ivan or one of the dogs when Whitney's group arrives, distracting the dogs or injuring Ivan.

8. Connect to Life Early in the story, Rainsford declares that "the world is made up of two classes--the hunters and the huntees." Do you agree? Explain your opinion.

Some may respond that the story illustrates how hunters can sometimes become huntees. Many think that Rainsford's statement is too simplistic and that Rainsford himself would not agree with the statement at the end of the story.