

**The Most Dangerous Game (page 38)****Literary Analysis SkillBuilder****Conflict**

Most stories are built around a central **conflict**, or struggle between people, or between people and nature, an obstacle, or society. Sometimes the struggle may go on inside a character. An **external conflict** involves a character pitted against an outside force. An **internal conflict** occurs when the struggle takes place within a character's own mind. List instances of each kind of conflict in the story. Then answer the questions.

<b>Internal Conflict</b>
Zamoff
Rainsford

<b>External Conflict</b>
Person vs. Person
Person vs. Nature
Person vs. Obstacle

# The Most Dangerous Game (page 38)

## Words to Know SkillBuilder

### Words to Know

affable	deplorable	elude	scruple	tangible
amenity	disarming	imperative	solicitously	uncanny
condone	droll	quarry	stamina	zealous

A. On each blank line, write the word from the word list that the clue describes.

1. This is a word politicians always seem to use to describe the living conditions in slums. \_\_\_\_\_
2. This is a word you would hope people you want to make friends with would use to describe you. \_\_\_\_\_
3. This describes the air of confidence that calms your worries about a surgeon's skill. \_\_\_\_\_
4. This is something that isn't a necessity but is nice to have (like a salt shaker or a telephone). \_\_\_\_\_
5. This might be the word you'd choose to describe a person who seemed able to read your mind. \_\_\_\_\_
6. This describes a book but not the ideas in it, a flower but not its smell, a valentine but not the feeling it gives you. \_\_\_\_\_
7. This is how one says, "Are you sure you're all right? Can I do anything to help?" \_\_\_\_\_
8. This describes those things you really must have and those things you really must do. \_\_\_\_\_

B. For each phrase in the first column, find the phrase in the second column that is closest in meaning. Write the letter of that phrase in the blank.

- |                               |                       |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| _____ 1. regretful prey       | A. elude the rude     |
| _____ 2. zealous protection   | B. condone cologne    |
| _____ 3. a droll rabbit       | C. a sorry quarry     |
| _____ 4. permit perfume       | D. pupils' scruples   |
| _____ 5. students' morals     | E. a funny bunny      |
| _____ 6. a fish's endurance   | F. intense defense    |
| _____ 7. avoid the unmannerly | G. a salmon's stamina |

## The Most Dangerous Game (page 38)

### Selection Quiz

Recall the events and characters in the story. Then answer the questions in phrases or sentences.

1. What is Rainsford's attitude toward hunting at the beginning of the story?

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2. How does Rainsford meet General Zaroff on the island?

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3. What does General Zaroff propose to Rainsford?

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4. How do Rainsford's past experiences as a hunter help him on the island?

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5. Why is Zaroff surprised to see Rainsford at the end of the story?

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## Position of Adjectives

An adjective is a word that modifies a noun or pronoun. It answers one of the following questions: *Which one? What kind? How many? or How much?*

Adjectives usually come before the noun or pronoun they modify. For variety, writers will sometimes place adjectives after the words they modify.

"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."

—Richard Connell, from "The Most Dangerous Game"

### Exercise A: Identifying Adjectives and the Nouns or Pronouns They Modify

Underline the adjective(s) in each sentence and circle the noun or pronoun being modified.

1. Whitney chided Rainsford as he peered through the velvety blackness of the night.
2. Rainsford heard the sudden explosion of a pistol as he sat smoking on the afterdeck.
3. Rainsford, unbalanced, plunged over the side of the yacht and into the sea.
4. Rainsford hurried toward the lights that flickered brightly in the enormous building.
5. Ranged about the room were the mounted heads of tigers, bears, and similar beasts.

### Exercise B: Revising Sentences to Include Adjectives

Rewrite each sentence, adding adjectives to modify the underlined nouns.

1. During dinner, the general described himself as a hunter.

\_\_\_\_\_

2. With horror, Rainsford understood the general's quarry.

\_\_\_\_\_

3. The general looked up along the trunk of the tree and smiled.

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Frantically, Rainsford tied a sapling back.

\_\_\_\_\_

5. As the general entered his bedroom, Rainsford slipped from behind the curtains.

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