

Possible Essay Topics for the Final Assessment

All of the characters in the stories come from wealth. What might the stories be implying about wealth and ethics?

Choose one of the stories and explain what the author suggests about fate?

Using one of the stories as evidence, discuss whether or not killing is an appropriate form of revenge.

What makes a person evil?

Discuss how Poe uses setting to enhance the atmosphere of horror in "The Cask of Amontillado"?

How does Connell develop the *game* metaphor in "The Most Dangerous Game"?

What is the significance of Saki's title, "The Interlopers" ?

Sample Outline:

- Thesis statement including TAG
- Evidence from text (quote or paraphrase)
- Evidence
- Analysis
- Analysis
- Analysis
- Analysis
- Analysis
- Conclusion

Sample Essay Response

Q: What does "The Most Dangerous Game" imply about the nature of evil?

Richard Connell wrote the short story, "The Most Dangerous Game" to challenge our ideas of good and evil. Connell gives us two men who seem to embody many of the traits that we as a society admire.

These men are successful, wealthy, and well-bred. They are also trained killers. Zaroff, a Cossack, and Rainsford a veteran of WWI, both men know how to and have presumably killed other humans. They are also fierce hunters of animals. Zaroff, as we learn early on, is also a hunter of humans. Alarmed at Zaroff's "game," Rainsford cannot conceive of committing "cold-blooded murder." Nonetheless, when faced with an ethical dilemma, Rainsford chooses to murder Zaroff instead of leaving him be. This choice indicates a willingness and ability to commit an evil act. Could it be that Rainsford's deed was merely the uncovering of his latent evil nature? Perhaps Connell is suggesting that we are really evil underneath.