Name _____ Date _____

"The Most Dangerous Game" by Richard Connell

Selection Test

Critical Reading In the blank, write the letter of the one best answer.

____ 1. "The Most Dangerous Game" is best described as
a. a classic confrontation between good and evil.
b. a bitter attack on the morality of hunting.
c. a deadly contest between two hunters.
d. an amusing tale told by superstitious sailors.

____ 2. Which of the following events comes first in "The Most Dangerous Game"?
a. Rainsford spears Ivan.
b. Rainsford falls overboard.
c. Rainsford sleeps in Zaroff's bed.
d. Rainsford leaps into the sea.

____ 3. Which context clues in the following sentence help you figure out the meaning of the italicized word?

> . . . He saw that all the lights were in one enormous building—a *lofty* structure with pointed towers plunging upward into the gloom.

a. towers plunging upward
b. enormous building
c. into the gloom
d. structure

____ 4. Zaroff doesn't consider his sport immoral because he
a. doesn't directly kill his victims.
b. gives his visitors plenty of good food and exercise.
c. respects his victims.
d. believes that the weak were put on earth to give the strong pleasure.

____ 5. In which of the following ways does the author make the plot more suspenseful?
a. He has Whitney and Rainsford discuss the merits of jaguar hunting.
b. He has Rainsford injure Zaroff during the hunt.
c. He makes Zaroff a tall, handsome man.
d. He explains that Zaroff has hunted throughout the world.

____ 6. Which of the following sentences best describes Zaroff's problem?
a. He loves hunting but hates the suffering of his victims.
b. He despises human beings but needs them for his game.
c. He cares only for hunting but hunting has begun to bore him.
d. He hates Rainsford but must show him hospitality.

____ 7. Which of the following statements by General Zaroff adds to the suspense of the story?
a. "After the debacle in Russia I left the country, for it was imprudent for an officer of the Czar to stay there."
b. "I was about to have my dinner when you came. I'll wait for you."
c. "I've read your book about hunting snow leopards in Tibet, you see."
d. "To date I have not lost."

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____ 8. How does the author create suspense at the very beginning of the story?
a. The story begins with dialogue, not description.
b. Whitney refers to Captain Nielsen, but Nielsen does not appear as a character.
c. Whitney describes to Rainsford the mysterious reputation of the island that the boat is passing.
d. Whitney and Rainsford discuss the prospects of hunting up the Amazon.

____ 9. Why does the General seem to be studying Rainsford during their first dinner together?
a. He is sizing up Rainsford's appetite, to determine his strength.
b. He is trying to determine what kind of foe Rainsford would make.
c. He is wondering if Rainsford suspects that anything is awry.
d. He wants to make Rainsford uncomfortable.

____ 10. In addition to being defeated by Rainsford's hunting skills, Zaroff is also defeated by his own
a. overconfidence.
b. loss of Ivan.
c. inattention to detail.
d. lack of hunting skills.

____ 11. What occurs at the resolution of the story?
a. Rainsford appears in Zaroff's bedroom.
b. Zaroff finds Rainsford's circular trail.
c. Rainsford dives into the sea.
d. One of Zaroff's dogs falls into Rainsford's trap.

____ 12. Which context clues help you figure out the meaning of the italicized word in the following sentence?

The hunter moved slowly and *deliberately* as he attempted to creep up silently on the resting lion.

a. creep up silently
b. hunter moved slowly
c. he attempted
d. resting lion

____ 13. Rainsford succeeds largely because
a. he is resourceful and refuses to play by Zaroff's rules.
b. he considers Zaroff's "sport" to be cold-blooded murder.
c. he has no sympathy for the animals he hunts.
d. he believes life is for the strong, to be lived by the strong.

Vocabulary and Grammar In the blank, write the letter of the one best answer.

____ 14. Which word is most nearly opposite in meaning to *bizarre*?
a. Ordinary
b. Unclear
c. Humorous
d. Strange

____ 15. When Rainsford argues against Zaroff's idea of hunting, we know that Rainsford is _____ .
a. Scrupulous
b. Grotesque
c. Indolent
d. Bizarre

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____ 16. Which word is most nearly the same in meaning as *futile*?
a. Hopeless
b. Frequent
c. Quick
d. Nervous

____ 17. Which word best describes Zaroff's practices on the island?
a. Futile
b. Palpable
c. Naive
d. Grotesque

____ 18. Choose the sentence in which all the pronouns and antecedents agree.
a. Neither Rainsford nor the general would mind a challenge on their hunting expeditions.
b. The general and Ivan tracked Rainsford until he found him.
c. Each of the hunters was proud of his skills.
d. Almost nobody who came to the island left with their life.

____ 19. Choose the item that correctly identifies pronouns and their antecedents in the following sentences.

The general smiled. "No," he said. "Hunting tigers ceased to interest me some years ago. I exhausted their possibilities, you see."

a. he/the general; their/tigers
b. he/Rainsford; I/the general
c. I/the general; their/Rainsford and the general
d. I/the general; me/possibilities

____ 20. The following consists of a related pair of words in CAPITAL LETTERS followed by four lettered pairs of words. Choose the pair that best expresses a relationship similar to that expressed in the pair in capital letters.
DIFFICULT : FUTILE ::
a. proud : successful
b. concern : worry
c. calm : happy
d. sad : grief-stricken

Essay Questions

21. In "The Most Dangerous Game," two characters are pitted against each other in a truly dangerous game. While Sanger Rainsford would probably hesitate to admit it, he and General Zaroff have much in common. Write an essay exploring the ways in which Rainsford and Zaroff are alike and the ways in which they differ.
22. Suspense is the quality of a story that makes you want to keep reading until you find out what happens. Writers create suspense by communicating a sense of uncertainty and danger. Identify three suspenseful episodes in "The Most Dangerous Game," and analyze the way in which the writer makes you want to keep reading. Be as specific as possible in your analysis.
23. At the beginning of the selection, Rainsford states that there are only two classes of people in the world—the hunters and the huntees. Do you agree? Write an essay in which you explain your answer. How has your understanding of "The Most Dangerous Game" clarified your opinion?

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