

NAME:

DATE:

CLASS:

<i>The Interlopers</i> LITERARY ANALYSIS: IRONY

Irony is a difference or a contradiction between appearance and reality or between what is expected and what actually happens. In **situational irony**, something happens in the story that directly contradicts the expectations of a character or the reader.

PART I. DIRECTIONS: *Identify irony in the story. In the first box note the outcome that Ulrich and Georg expect when they first confront each other in the forest. In the second box describe what actually happens.*

What Ulrich and Georg expect	What Actually Happens (quote textual evidence)

(b) What message about life does this situational irony convey? (2 lines)

PART II. DIRECTIONS: *On the lines following each item, briefly explain why the excerpt is ironic.*

1. *If only on this wild night, in this dark, lone spot, he might come across Georg Znaeym, man to man, with one to witness—that was the wish that was uppermost in his thoughts. And as he stepped round the trunk of a huge beech he came face to face with the man he sought.*

2. *And each prayed a private prayer that his men might be the first to arrive, so that he might be the first to show honorable attention to the enemy that had become a friend.*

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The Interlopers

Open-Book Quiz

DIRECTIONS: *Identify the letter of the choice that best answers the question.*

1. In “The Interlopers,” why does Ulrich go into the woods on the night of the story?

- A. He hopes to find Georg and make peace.
- B. He needs to go hunting for food.
- C. He suspects that Georg is poaching in the forest.
- D. He wants to drive the wolves away from his land.

2. In Saki’s story, both men had expected to fight each other. Instead, the two men are pinned by a huge fallen tree. Which literary term best describes this change in situation?

- A. flashback
- B. foreshadowing
- C. irony
- D. metaphor

3. When Ulrich offers Georg a drink from his wine flask, what inference can you make about Ulrich’s attitude?

- A. He has totally given up hope of their being rescued.
- B. He is trying to trick Georg.
- C. He doesn’t care if Georg accepts his offer.
- D. He is beginning to feel more friendly toward Georg.

4. Why might the following passage from “The Interlopers” be considered ironic?

“‘How many of them are there?’ asked Georg.

‘I can’t see distinctly,’ said Ulrich; ‘nine or ten.’

‘Then they are yours,’ said Georg; ‘I had only seven out with me.’

‘They are making all the speed they can, brave lads,’ said Ulrich gladly.”

- A. Ulrich has counted the figures incorrectly.
- B. Georg regrets that his men have not kept up with him.
- C. The men mistakenly assume that the figures are human.
- D. Ulrich and Georg are in such pain that they have trouble communicating.

5. What causes Ulrich to cry out in joy?

- A. the drink of wine
- B. Georg’s offer of hospitality
- C. making peace with Georg
- D. the figures coming down the hill

6. In which of the following items is situational irony best defined?

- A. a contrast between the two leading characters in a story
- B. a contrast between what is expected to happen and what actually happens
- C. a parallel between the beginning of a story and the end
- D. a humorous scene in an otherwise serious story

7. Which of the following best describes the overall message of “The Interlopers”?

- A. Bitter quarrels are foolish.
- B. The woods can be dangerous in winter.
- C. Hunting is an exciting pastime.
- D. Friendship has many benefits.

8. Which of the following best describes the tone at the end of Saki’s story?

- A. grateful
- B. grim
- C. cheerful
- D. sympathetic