

# “The Most Dangerous Game”: Sample Short Answer Responses

## Scoring Guide

Short answer questions will be scored on a four-point scale, with 0 (Insufficient) being the lowest score and 3 (Exemplary) being the highest. The score students receive on each question is based on their ability to provide a **reasonable** answer and **support** it with **relevant and accurate evidence from the text**.

### SCORE POINT 0 — INSUFFICIENT

**Insufficient** responses may:

- offer an **incorrect** literary technique.
- offer an **incorrect** analysis of a literary technique.
- be **too general** or **vague** to determine whether it is reasonable.
- present only **a plot summary**.
- **fail to address the question** in any way or may **answer a different question** than the one asked.
- offer only **incomplete** or **irrelevant textual evidence**.
- may **lack clarity**.

### SCORE POINT 1 — PARTIALLY SUFFICIENT

**Partially sufficient** responses may:

- offer a **reasonable** literary technique but provide only **general, incomplete, or partially accurate/relevant** textual evidence or provide no textual evidence at all.
- offer a **reasonable** analysis of a literary technique but provide only **general, incomplete, or partially accurate/relevant** textual evidence or provide no textual evidence at all.
- offer a **reasonable** idea or analysis and may provide textual evidence, but this **evidence is only weakly connected** to the idea or analysis.
- offer **accurate/relevant** textual evidence **without providing an idea or analysis**.
- be **somewhat** unclear or vague.

### SCORE POINT 2 — SUFFICIENT

**Sufficient** responses **MUST**:

- offer a **reasonable** literary technique and support it with **accurate/relevant** textual evidence.
- offer a **reasonable** analysis of a literary technique and support it with **accurate/relevant** textual evidence.
- be **clear** and **specific**.

### SCORE POINT 3 — EXEMPLARY

**Exemplary** responses **MUST**:

- offer a **particularly thoughtful** or **insightful** literary technique and **strongly support** it with **accurate/relevant** textual evidence.
- offer a **particularly thoughtful** or **insightful** analysis of a literary technique and **strongly support** it with accurate/relevant textual evidence.
- **demonstrate** the student’s **depth of understanding** and **ability to effectively connect** textual evidence to the idea or analysis.

## **"The Most Dangerous Game": Sample Short Answer Responses**

**Question: In "The Most Dangerous Game," who do you think is more successful, Zaroff or Rainsford? Support your answer with evidence from the text.**

### **SCORE POINT 0—INSUFFICIENT**

I think both Rainsford and Zaroff are successful. Rainsford cuz he wins and Zaroff cuz he's rich. "The world is made up of two classes—the hunters and the huntees. Luckily, you and I are the hunters." Some people think success means winning, but others think success means being rich. It just depends on what you think success means.

### **SCORE POINT 1—PARTIALLY SUFFICIENT**

I think Rainsford is more successful because he wins. He outsmarts him and kills him. "splendid! One of us will furnish a repast for the hounds. The other will sleep in this most excellent bed. He had never slept in a better bed Rainsford decided." That is why I chose Rainsford, but this is just my opinion. Other people might feel differently.

### **SCORE POINT 2—SUFFICIENT**

In "The Most Dangerous Game," Rainsford is more successful because he wins the game. Rainsford outwits Zaroff, meets him in his room and kills him. Just before the final battle Zaroff says "splendid! One of us will furnish a repast for the hounds. The other will sleep in this most excellent bed. He had never slept in a better bed, Rainsford decided." That quote explains Rainsford's victory because he is sleeping in the most excellent bed. That is why Rainsford is more successful.

### **SCORE POINT 3—EXEMPLARY**

In "The Most Dangerous Game," Rainsford is more successful than General Zaroff because he wins the game. Rainsford outwits Zaroff, surprises him in his room, and slaughters him. At the final showdown, Zaroff boldly proclaims that one of them will "furnish a repast for the hounds" while the other will "sleep in this most excellent bed"; in the end, Rainsford gloats to himself that "he had never slept in a better bed." Rainsford more than merely survives the game; he beats Zaroff at his own game. In conclusion, Rainsford manages to turn the tables on Zaroff, changing the ultimate hunter, who had become bored with less challenging prey, into the huntee.