

## **Rainsford's Personality**

In the short story, "The Most Dangerous Game" by Richard Connell, there are many times when the author describes Rainsford's personality. To begin, the reader gets the impression that Rainsford is opinionated. This can be seen in the quote,

"The best sport in the world," agreed Rainsford.

"For the hunter," amended Whitney. "Not for the jaguar."

"Don't talk rot, Whitney," said Rainsford. "You're a big game hunter, not a philosopher. Who cares how a jaguar feels?" (95).

This quote shows Rainsford is opinionated because Rainsford is not afraid to speak his mind; he has a strong opinion and he will say it, even if he will hurt someone else's feelings. Later, the reader learns that Rainsford is a realist. For example, in the quote, "Nonsense," laughed Rainsford. "This hot weather is making you soft, Whitney. Be a realist. The world is made up of two classes—the hunters and the hunted" (95). It seems as though Rainsford is a realist because he does not sugar coat anything; he says it how he sees it, which causes him to be very blunt. Finally, the reader learns that Rainsford is calm in bad situations. "Rainsford remembered the shots. They had come from the right, and doggedly he swam in that direction, swimming with slow, deliberate strokes, conserving his strength. For a seemingly endless time he fought the sea. He began to count his strokes; he could do possibly a hundred more ..." (97). This shows how Rainsford was put in a dangerous situation and how calmly he handled it; he was not freaking out – he took time to relax and figure out what he needed to do. Overall, Rainsford is an interesting character whose traits show he is an opinionated, calm realist.

## Characteristics of Rainsford

“The Most Dangerous Game” by Richard Connell has a series of impeccable characters, the focus of which is Sanger Rainsford. In the beginning of the short story, Rainsford can be seen as very narrow-minded.

“Bah! They’ve no understanding.”

“Even so, I rather think they understand one thing - fear. The fear of pain and the fear of death.”

“Nonsense,” laughed Rainsford. “This hot weather is making you soft, Whitney. Be a realist. The world is made up of two classes—the hunters and the huntees. Luckily, you and I are the hunters” (95).

Here Rainsford is talking about jaguars and how they have no feelings; Rainsford believes only humans can fear and be hurt. This shows that Rainsford is narrow-minded because he only sees things through his point of view, a human point of view. Another trait of Rainsford is intelligence. When he arrived on the island, Rainsford thinks to himself: “I suppose the first three shots I heard was when the hunter flushed his quarry and wounded it. The last shot was when he trailed it here and finished it” (98). This demonstrates that Rainsford is intelligent because he is obviously a trained hunter who can gather all of the information about a hunt from looking at the ground where a struggle occurred. The final characteristic of Rainsford the reader learns is that he is calm in bad situations. After falling off the boat, “Rainsford remembered the shots. They had come from the right, and doggedly he swam in that direction” (97). This proves that Rainsford is calm in bad situations because most people would panic if they fell off a boat in the middle of the night. Rainsford understood his situation and tried to find a solution by swimming to the shore. In conclusion, Rainsford can be explained as a complicated character – he can be narrow-minded, intelligent, and calm in dangerous situations all at the same time.