

Curative Shorts Questions
The Interlopers
By Saki / H. H. Monroe (1919)

Notes About Answering The Story Questions: *These story questions are written to bring you into a curative experience with the story, spark your recall, and open you up to new possibilities in life. Open your imagination and be curious as you answer these questions. They can remain just for you or be shared. Consider reading the story more than once, perhaps even reading it aloud a second time and taking time to underline and make notes about the things that stand out FOR YOU. These questions are a part of the three-step process which includes reading, reflection and gathering in community to create new and imaginative growth forward in life.*

In what part of the world does our story take place? Do you have any experience with this place? If so, write a bit about what you know about it.

There was an “UNREST” among the creatures that were want to sleep through the dark hours.” What is this unrest all about? Why is it happening?

The wind is described throughout the story six different times. Write down three words used to describe the wind and then select one of these words and use it in a sentence of your own.

“A man who has been brought up under the code of a restraining civilization cannot easily nerve himself to shoot down his neighbor in cold blood and without word spoken, except for an offense against his hearth and honour.” In your opinion has there been an offense against hearth or honor to justify murder? How would you justify such an act?

“He looked across to with something like a throb of pity to where his enemy lay... an idea was slowly forming and growing in his brain...In the pain and languor that Ulrich himself was feeling the old fierce hatred seemed to be dying down.” This line shows us the empathy Ulrich is feeling for his enemy. Have you, or someone you know, been in a similar situation where long-standing feelings of ill will faded away when you found empathy? Or, if not, can you imagine it happening now? Write a sentence or two about a situation you can think of in your own life or someone else’s who is close to you.

“There are BETTER things in life than trying to get the better of...” Have you or someone you know ever been trying to get the better of something that deep down could end up being “rather foolish”? Write a line or two about the truly BETTER outcome that could result (or could have resulted) if the foolishness could be (or could have been) set aside.

Look up the definition of the word interloper and then define who you see the interlopers to be in this story? Are there more than just one kind?

Remove the last word of this story and use your imagination to create your own curative ending to it. What would you have happen?

“For a space both men were silent, turning over in their minds the wonderful changes that this dramatic reconciliation would bring about.” Think about all the people on both sides of this conflict and imagine one change for the better that could come about a with reconciliation. Write it down.