

“The Interlopers” by Saki

1. Describe the character who is introduced in the first paragraph. What is he looking for?

2. Read the following quotation:

“A famous lawsuit, in the days of his grandfather, had wrested it from the illegal possession of a neighboring family of petty landowners; the dispossessed party had never **acquiesced** in the judgment of the courts, and a long series of poaching affrays and similar scandals had embittered the relationships between the families for three generations.”

What is the meaning of *acquiesced*? Explain the conflict of the text introduced in this quotation.

3. Who from the other family does Ulrich feud with, and why?

4. What do Ulrich and Georg value in ‘The Interlopers’ that the neighbor in ‘Mending Wall’ seems to value as well?

5. What do the sensory details in paragraph 4 convey Ulrich’s and Georg’s situation and emphasize the text’s conflict?

6. What does the dialogue between Ulrich and Georg in paragraphs 6-8 demonstrate?

7. Reread this quotation:

“We fight this quarrel out to the death, you and I and our foresters, with no cursed **interlopers** to come between us.”

What do the men plan to do upon rescue?

8. Compare the attitudes of Ulrich and Georg based on their dialogue in paragraphs 16-17.

9. Reread the following quotation:

“In the pain and *languor* that Ulrich himself was feeling, the old fierce hatred seemed to be dying down.”

What is the meaning of the word “languor”? How Ulrich’s situation affecting him?

10. Georg’s speech in paragraph 21. What is the significance of his speech? What compels him to say this? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

11. Compare Ulrich’s response to Georg from paragraphs 29 to 38. What does Ulrich realize? When does he realize it? How do you know?

12. What is the impact of the single word that concludes the text? What will likely happen to Ulrich and Georg?

13. How does “The Interlopers” demonstrate a conflict between society and the individual?