

Questions for “The Interlopers,” by Saki

Read the short story and answer the following questions in complete sentences. Write at least three sentences for each answer. This assignment will be graded on effort and completeness.

1. What is your initial reaction after reading “The Interlopers”?

2. What were the men quarrelling about?

3. In literature, there are two basic types of conflict: “internal” and “external.” Internal conflict occurs within an individual character, while external conflict occurs between a character and outside forces. These “outside forces” can be another person, a group of people, a force of nature, the laws and customs of a society, etc. Here are some examples:

- Internal– an inside conflict
 - Man vs. self
 - For example: a hungry girl is debating whether or not to steal a candy bar from the store.
- External– an outside conflict
 - Man vs. man
 - For example: two students get into a fight over a basketball in gym class.
 - Man vs. group
 - For example: Jerome’s family doesn’t like Charmaine because she’s not from a rich family, so they belittle her every chance they get.
 - Man vs. nature
 - For example: a man fights against heavy winds but is swept away in a tornado.

What different instances of conflict do you see in this story? Give specific examples from the text. Are these conflicts internal or external?

What makes the men not want to fight anymore? How does their unfortunate situation affect their feelings toward each other?

In the disputed region of the forest, who or what holds the power at the end of the story? What do you think the author intended to say by having the story end in the way that it did?