

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Hour: \_\_\_\_\_

## Figurative Language and Plot Devices –“The Most Dangerous Game”

**Figurative Language:** Any expression that stretches the meaning of words beyond their literal meaning.

- **Metaphor:** a figure of speech in which a comparison is implied by analogy but is not stated; the comparison of two unlike things without the use of “like” or “as”
  1. **Example:** “the night would be my eyelids” – a comparison between night and eyelids (pg. 790)
- **Simile:** a comparison of two unlike things using “like” or “as”
  1. **Example:** “...moonless Caribbean night... It’s like moist black velvet” – comparison of two unlike things, night and moist black velvet with the use of “like” (pg. 789)
- **Personification:** a metaphorical figure of speech in which animals, ideas, things, etc. are represented as having human qualities
  1. **Example:** “...a sharp hunger was picking at him” – hunger as something that could pick (pg. 792)
- **Allusion:** an implicit reference to an historical, literary, or biblical character, event, or element
  1. **Example:** “I have played the fox, now I must play the cat of the fable.” – a reference to two of Aesop’s fables (pg. 802)
- **Irony:** a contradiction or incongruity between appearance or expectation and reality; a figure of speech in which the literal meaning of the words is the opposite of their intended meaning; an incongruity or discrepancy between an anticipated and realized outcome
  1. **Example:** “We do our best to preserve the amenities of civilization here.” Zaroff when he is hunting men for sport – is this civilized? (pg. 794)

### Literary Devices

- **Suspense:** the sustained interest in a narrative created by delaying the resolution of the conflict; the excitement or tension the reader feels as they become involved in a story and eager to know the outcome.
  1. **Example:** the author, Richard Connell, begins building suspense with mysterious references to Ship-Trap Island that has the crew very nervous (pg. 789)
  2. **Example:** through repetition – “...nearer, then still nearer, nearer, ever nearer.” (pg. 805)
- **Foreshadowing:** any clue or hint of future events in a narrative
  1. **Example:** “the place [Ship-Trap Island] has a reputation—a bad one.” This will be the place where Rainsford’s life will be threatened (pg. 789)