The Lady or The Tiger? By Frank Stockton-------Study Guide

**Vocabulary words:**

Barbaric:

Exuberant:

Genial:

Semified:

Rhapsodies:

Incorruptible:

Emanated:

Allegiance:

Subordinate:

Ardor:

Moiey:

Fervor:

**Identifying the elements of the story:**

**Setting**--The place or location of the action, the setting provides the historical and cultural context for characters. It often can symbolize the emotional state of characters.

*Where does the setting of the story take place?*

**Theme**--The idea or point of a story formulated as a generalization. Themes may have a single, instead of a dual nature as well. The theme of a story may be a mid-life crisis, or imagination, or the duality of humankind (contradictions).

*There are multiple themes that can be inferred from this story. Identify a few of them.*
**Character**--Imaginary people created by the writer. Perhaps the most important element of literature. ***Look for: Connections, links, and clues between and about characters. Ask yourself what the function and significance of each character is. Make this determination based upon the character's history, what the reader is told (and not told), and what other characters say about themselves and others.

- **Characterization**--The means by which writers reveal character.
- **Explicit Judgment**--Narrator gives facts and interpretive comment.
- **Implied Judgment**--Narrator gives description; reader makes the judgment.

Identify each character:

- **Protagonist**--Major character at the center of the story.

- **Antagonist**--A character or force that opposes the protagonist.

- **Minor character**--Often provides support and illuminates the protagonist.

- **Static character**--A character who remains the same.

- **Dynamic character**--A character who changes in some important way.

**Foreshadowing**--A suggestion of what is going to happen. The use of hints or clues to suggest what will happen later in the story.

Identify 2 passages that foreshadow the ending.
Suspense--A sense of worry established by the author.

Identify the main passage in the story where this climaxes.

Conflict--Struggle between opposing forces. The essence of fiction. It creates plot. The conflicts we encounter can usually be identified as one of four kinds.

- **Man versus Man**-Conflict that pits one person against another.
- **Man versus Nature**-A run-in with the forces of nature. On the one hand, it expresses the insignificance of a single human life in the cosmic scheme of things. On the other hand, it tests the limits of a person’s strength and will to live.
- **Man versus Society**-The values and customs by which everyone else lives are being challenged. The character may come to an untimely end as a result of his or her own convictions. The character may, on the other hand, bring others around to a sympathetic point of view, or it may be decided that society was right after all.
- **Man versus Self**-Internal conflict. Not all conflict involves other people. Sometimes people are their own worst enemies. An internal conflict is a good test of a character’s values. Does he give in to temptation or rise above it? Does he demand the most from himself or settle for something less? Does he even bother to struggle? The internal conflicts of a character and how they are resolved are good clues to the character’s inner strength.

Often, more than one kind of conflict is taking place at the same time. In every case, however, the existence of conflict enhances the reader’s understanding of a character and creates the suspense and interest that make you want to continue reading.

Identify the main conflict in the story:

Identify secondary conflicts in the story:
**Irony**-- Irony is the contrast between what is expected or what appears to be and what actually is.

- **Verbal irony**-- The contrast between what is said and what is actually meant. We understand the opposite of what the speaker says.
- **Irony of Circumstance or Situational Irony**-- When one event is expected to occur but the opposite happens. A discrepancy between what seems to be and what is.
- **Dramatic Irony**-- Discrepancy between what characters know and what readers know. This occurs when the audience or reader knows more than the characters know.
- **Ironic Vision**-- An overall tone of irony that pervades a work, suggesting how the writer views the characters.

*Identify each irony in the story:*

What passage shows the ironic nature of the king?

**Point of View**-- Again, the point of view can sometimes indirectly establish the author's intentions. Point of view pertains to who tells the story and how it is told.

- **Narrator**-- The person telling the story.
- **First-person**-- Narrator participates in action but sometimes has limited knowledge/vision.
- **Objective**-- Narrator is unnamed/unidentified (a detached observer). Does not assume character's perspective and is not a character in the story. The narrator reports on events and lets the reader supply the meaning.
- **Omniscient**-- All-knowing narrator (multiple perspectives). The narrator takes us into the character and can evaluate a character for the reader (editorial omniscience). When a narrator allows the reader to make his or her own judgments from the action of the characters themselves, it is called neutral omniscience.
- **Limited omniscient**-- All-knowing narrator about one or two characters, but not all.

*What is the point of view of this story:*
In a typical story the plot continues with these elements.

What elements below are not able to be fulfilled by this story? Why?

- **Plot**--The arrangement of ideas and/or incidents that make up a story.
- **Causality**--One event occurs because of another event.
- **Foreshadowing**--A suggestion of what is going to happen. The use of hints or clues to suggest what will happen later in the story
- **Suspense**--A sense of worry established by the author.
- **Crisis**--Turning point; moment of great tension that fixes the action. The conflict reaches a turning point. At this point the opposing forces in the story meet and the conflict becomes most intense. The crisis occurs before or at the same time as the climax.
- **Climax** -The climax is the result of the crisis. It is the high point of the story for the reader. Frequently, it is the moment of the highest interest and greatest emotion. The point at which the outcome of the conflict can be predicted.
- **Falling Action**-The events after the climax which close the story.
- **Resolution/Denouement**--The way the story turns out.

Critical Thinking:

What is the meaning of the following phrases:

a) "The apple of his eye."

b) "Poetic justice."

Use References from the text to explain:

a) Where did the king sit in the arena?
b) Did the tiger come out of the same door each 'trial'?

c) Did the princess like the lady who had been chosen for her lover's 'trial'? Give reasons.

d) How did the princess indicate to her lover the door of her choice?

e) What had the princess seen in her dreams?

f) Did the princess expect her lover to ask her to indicate which door he should choose?

g) Why did no one else in the arena notice that the princess was communicating with her lover?

In your own words:

a) Write a description of the king's arena.

b) Describe the king's method of administering justice.

c) Why did the princess have difficulty deciding which door to indicate to her lover?

1.5 Draw a picture or diagram of the king's arena. You could show the lover making his choice.
Discussion Questions:

2.1 What does the author mean by "When he and himself agreed upon anything, the thing was done"? Why has he expressed the meaning in this way?

2.2 Did the mourners come to the arena because they wanted to?

2.3 Why did the king think the princess' lover would be 'disposed of' whichever door he opened?

2.4 How had the princess found out what was behind each door?

2.5 Why had the king thrown the princess' lover into prison?

2.6 Is there a suggestion that polygamy (marriage to more than one spouse) is legal in the kingdom?

3.1 Do you think women ever committed crimes in the kingdom? If they did, how do you think they were tried?

3.2 If you were the princess, what option would you have indicated, and why?
3.3 If you were the lover, what door would you have taken, and why?

3.4 Write an ending to the story. It may or may not involve opening a door.

3.5 Do you agree with the author that the king's method of administering justice was fair?

3.6 Comment on the author's use of language.

3.7 If you were the king of a similar kingdom, how would you administer justice?

3.8 If the princess took another lover who, in due course, was put to trial in the arena, what strategies might he adopt as a result of knowing which door the first lover had opened?

3.9 Do you think the king's system is a deterrent to crime?