

The Guest (page 1244) **Active Reading SkillBuilder****Making Inferences**

Inferences are logical guesses based on clues in the text and on common sense. As you read, you often “read between the lines,” or supply information that the author did not directly state. In order to make inferences while you are reading, pay attention to details, especially those that reveal the values and actions of characters, setting, and plot. What do the details add up to? Use the chart below to identify clues about a character in “The Guest.” Then make an inference about the character based on the clue.

Character:**Actions****Inferences**

Actions	Inferences

The Guest (page 1244)**Literary Analysis SkillBuilder****Theme**

The **theme** of a literary work is the central idea or main message of the work. The writer may directly state the theme, but in fiction, the theme is most often inferred through the events, setting, or characters' actions. One way to discover the theme is to consider what happens to the main characters. To uncover the theme of "The Guest," look back through the story to find phrases, sentences, and events that provide clues to the author's perception about human nature or life. List each clue in one of the spaces of the diagram shown below. Use the clues to infer the theme of the story. Then write a sentence stating the theme.

Clue 	+	Clue 	+	Clue
Clue 	+	Clue 	+	Clue
Theme: _____				

The Guest (page 1244)**Words to Know SkillBuilder****Words to Know**

adversary

chaotic

obstinate

avidly

disconcerted

A. On each blank line, write the word from the word list that the clue describes.

1. This is a word that could be used to describe a stubborn person. _____
2. This could be another word for enemy. _____
3. This describes the way that a person conducts a task when they are enthusiastic about it. _____
4. This word could describe a mob of people which has gotten out of control. _____
5. You could use this word to describe how you felt in a confusing situation. _____

B. Fill in each blank with the correct word from the word list.

1. In war, you need to strategically plan your actions in order to outwit your _____.
2. The commander was _____ when his first officer suggested his plan wouldn't work.
3. The soldiers _____ drank from the stream after going without water for two days.
4. After the planes dropped bombs on the city throughout the night, the crowds in the streets were _____ as residents fled to the country.
5. Even as buildings collapsed into the streets around them, the _____ little dog wouldn't budge.

C. Imagine what happens to the Arab after he leaves the schoolmaster. Write a letter from the Arab to the schoolmaster describing the events. Use at least **three** of the Words to Know.

The Guest (page 1244)**Selection Quiz**

Recall the events, people, and images in "The Guest." Then answer each question below in one or two sentences.

1. Why does Balducci leave the Arab with Daru?

2. What does Daru tell Balducci he will do with the Arab if he is left in charge of him?

3. What crime has the Arab committed?

4. What choice does Daru offer the Arab when he leaves him near the end of the story?

5. When Daru returns to his school after leaving the Arab, what does he find written on the blackboard?

The Guest (page 1244)**Selection Test**

A. Read the passage below and think about what it reveals about the character of Daru the schoolmaster and how it reflects the story's theme. Then make notes in the boxes to answer the questions. (10 points each)

"Now look," the schoolmaster said as he pointed in the direction of the east, "there's the way to Tinguit. You have a two-hour walk. At Tinguit you'll find the administration and the police. They are expecting you." The Arab looked toward the east, still holding the package and the money against his chest. Daru took his elbow and turned him rather roughly toward the south. At the foot of the height on which they stood could be seen a faint path. "That's the trail across the plateau. In a day's walk from here you'll find pasturelands and the first nomads. They'll take you in and shelter you according to their law." The Arab had now turned toward Daru and a sort of panic was visible in his expression. "Listen," he said. Daru shook his head: "No, be quiet. Now I'm leaving you."

1. How does Daru treat the Arab prisoner?

2. What do Daru's actions suggest about the story's theme?

B. Write the letter of the best answer. This exercise is continued on the next page. (5 points each)

- _____ 1. Which phrase best describes the climate of the setting in "The Guest"?
- harsh and barren
 - warm and dry
 - tropical
 - stormy and lush
- _____ 2. What is Balducci's reaction when Daru refuses to deliver the prisoner to the police?
- Balducci says he can do whatever he needs to do.
 - Balducci becomes upset and says it is an order.
 - Balducci tells him his fate is in his own hands.
 - Balducci threatens him with a jail sentence if he doesn't do as he is told.

- _____ 3. Which of the following is **not** an internal conflict experienced by Daru?
- He is a Frenchman living in French-occupied Algeria.
 - He is concerned over being responsible for the Arab.
 - He is unhappy about the climate where he lives.
 - He is disturbed about the crime committed by the Arab.
- _____ 4. Which of the following best characterizes the message written on the blackboard at the end of the story?
- The message threatens Daru's life because he is a Frenchman.
 - The message vows revenge for Daru's teaching about the French to Algerians.
 - The message vows revenge for delivering the Arab to the police.
 - The message threatens Daru's life because he refused to obey Balducci's orders.

C. Words to Know. Write the letter of the best answer. (4 points each)

- _____ 1. If you talk avidly about the local football team, you are most likely
- an enthusiastic fan.
 - a bored spectator.
 - a tired athlete.
- _____ 2. Which of these events would **most** likely feel chaotic?
- an orderly parade
 - a tornado
 - a quiet meal
- _____ 3. You are **most** likely to face an adversary in a
- friendly discussion.
 - competitive battle.
 - formal meeting.
- _____ 4. An obstinate person is someone who is
- agreeable.
 - quiet.
 - stubborn.
- _____ 5. A person is **most** likely to feel disconcerted when he or she is
- curious.
 - cranky.
 - humiliated.

D. Answer **one** of the following questions based on your understanding of "The Guest."

Write your answer on a separate sheet of paper. (20 points)

- Why, in your opinion, might Camus have written this story? Give at least two reasons.
- Why would the Arab turn himself in to the police? Explain your answer, using details from the text to support your ideas.

E. Linking Literature to Life. Answer the following question based on your own experience and knowledge. Write your answer on a separate sheet of paper. (20 points)

If you were suddenly given the responsibility to look after a prisoner, how do you think you would treat the prisoner? Explain your answer.