

“The Interlopers” Questions

1. What is the cause of the feud between the families of Ulrich von Gradwitz and Georg Znaeym? Why do you think the feud has gone on for such a long time?

2. How does nature intervene in the conflict between the two men? In your opinion, what causes the relationship between the two men to improve after this event? Support your answer with evidence from the story.

3. What is the significance of the title? Who are the true interlopers in this story? Explain your answer.

4. Describe the mood of this story. How does the mood change as the story progresses?

5. Why might the author have chosen to end the story the way he did? What is ironic about the way it ends? What message might the author be trying to convey about hatred, friendship, and forgiveness?

6. What does Ulrich’s statement that “there are better things in life than getting the better of a boundary dispute” suggest about how the two men have spent their lives? In your opinion, can the foolishness of this feud also apply to modern conflicts?