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Introduction to The Enemy

"The Enemy" is a poignant story that explores the conflict between personal ethics and national loyalty during wartime. It narrates how Dr. Sadao Hoki, a skilled Japanese surgeon, saves the life of an American prisoner of war despite the prevailing prejudices and dangers. The story highlights the triumph of humanism and compassion over hatred and narrow-mindedness.

Theme

The central theme of the story is that humanism transcends all man-made prejudices and barriers. Dr. Sadao upholds the ethics of the medical profession by treating an enemy with care and compassion. The story conveys a powerful message of peace, love, sympathy, and fellow feeling, emphasizing that humanity should rise above enmity and bias.

Title Significance

The title "The Enemy" draws attention to the wounded American soldier who is found on the Japanese coast during the war. It reflects the initial hostility and prejudice of the Japanese characters towards the white enemy. However, the story unfolds to reveal the internal conflict of Dr. Sadao, who, despite considering the man an enemy, cannot bring

himself to harm him. The title encapsulates the tension between national loyalty and human compassion.

Message

The story teaches that love and compassion can make us better human beings, overcoming prejudices and biases against others. It advocates for empathy and kindness even towards those considered enemies, highlighting the universal bond of humanity.

Practice Set

- **Level 1 – Easy:** What is the main conflict faced by Dr. Sadao in the story?
- **Level 2 – Moderate:** How does the story "The Enemy" portray the theme of humanism?
- **Level 3 – Challenging:** Discuss the significance of the title "The Enemy" in relation to the story's message.

Answer Key

- Dr. Sadao struggles between his duty as a Japanese citizen during wartime and his ethical obligation as a doctor to save a wounded enemy soldier.
- The story portrays humanism by showing Dr. Sadao's compassion and care for the American prisoner despite national prejudices, emphasizing that humanity should transcend enmity.
- The title "The Enemy" highlights the tension between national loyalty and personal ethics, focusing on the wounded American soldier who is both an enemy and a human being deserving compassion.

Quick Reference

- **Humanism:** Compassion and empathy beyond prejudice.
- **Prejudice:** Unreasonable dislike based on race or nationality.
- **Conflict:** Personal ethics vs. national loyalty.

Glossary

- **Prejudice:** A strong unreasonable feeling of dislike or distrust based on race, religion, or sex.
- **Humanism:** The belief in the value and dignity of human beings.
- **Compassion:** Sympathy and concern for the sufferings of others.

Summary of The Enemy

Dr. Sadao Hoki, a renowned Japanese surgeon, lives on the Japanese coast with his wife Hana and their children. Educated in America, Sadao is a skilled doctor who values his profession highly. One day, he and Hana discover a wounded American soldier, a prisoner of war, washed ashore near their home. Despite the risk of being accused of treason, Sadao decides to save the man's life.

The couple faces opposition from their servants, who refuse to help care for the enemy. Hana, however, assists Sadao in nursing the soldier, named Tom, back to health. Sadao performs a delicate operation to remove a bullet from Tom's back, demonstrating his medical expertise and commitment to saving lives regardless of nationality.

As Tom recovers, the servants leave, fearing the consequences of harboring an enemy. The old General, who depends on Sadao's medical skills, plans to have Tom killed by assassins to avoid scandal. Sadao, unwilling to kill the man himself, devises a plan to help Tom escape to a nearby island where he can be safe.

Tom escapes successfully, and Sadao reflects on his inability to kill the man despite considering him an enemy. The story ends with Sadao pondering the power of compassion over hatred.

Key Terms

- **Crawling:** Moving slowly on hands and knees.

- **Compassion:** Feeling sympathy and concern for others.
- **Consoled:** Comforted someone who is sad or disappointed.

Practice Set

- **Level 1 – Easy:** Who is Dr. Sadao Hoki and what is his profession?
- **Level 2 – Moderate:** Describe the role of Hana in the story.
- **Level 3 – Challenging:** Explain how Dr. Sadao manages to save Tom without betraying his country.

Answer Key

- Dr. Sadao Hoki is a famous Japanese surgeon who lives on the Japanese coast.
- Hana helps Dr. Sadao by nursing the wounded American soldier and supporting her husband despite the risks.
- Dr. Sadao operates on Tom to save his life and later helps him escape to a nearby island, thus protecting him without directly betraying his country.

Quick Reference

- **Dr. Sadao:** Skilled surgeon, compassionate individual.
- **Hana:** Supportive wife, compassionate nurse.
- **Tom:** Wounded American soldier, prisoner of war.

Glossary

- **Operation:** A medical procedure to treat injury or illness.
- **Assassin:** A person who kills someone secretly.
- **Prejudice:** Unfair dislike or distrust of others.

Themes in The Enemy

The story "The Enemy" explores several important themes that are relevant to human values and social ethics.

Humanism and Compassion

The foremost theme is humanism, which emphasizes compassion and empathy beyond national and racial boundaries. Dr. Sadao's decision to save an enemy soldier highlights the importance of valuing human life above political conflicts.

Conflict Between Duty and Morality

The story presents the conflict between a person's duty to their country and their moral responsibility as a human being. Dr. Sadao struggles to balance his loyalty to Japan with his ethical obligation as a doctor.

Prejudice and Its Overcoming

The story addresses the theme of prejudice, showing how preconceived notions about enemies can be challenged by personal experiences and empathy.

Practice Set

- **Level 1 – Easy:** What is the main theme of "The Enemy"?
- **Level 2 – Moderate:** How does Dr. Sadao's character reflect the conflict between duty and morality?
- **Level 3 – Challenging:** Discuss how the story challenges the idea of prejudice.

Answer Key

- The main theme is humanism and compassion transcending prejudice.

- Dr. Sadao is torn between his national loyalty and his ethical duty to save a life, showing the conflict between duty and morality.
- The story challenges prejudice by showing that personal compassion can overcome hatred towards enemies.

Quick Reference

- Humanism: Compassion beyond boundaries.
- Duty vs. Morality: Ethical dilemmas in wartime.
- Prejudice: Overcoming bias through empathy.

Glossary

- **Ethics:** Moral principles that govern behavior.
- **Prejudice:** Unfair opinion not based on reason.
- **Compassion:** Sympathy for others' suffering.

Character Sketches in The Enemy

The story features several key characters whose traits and actions drive the narrative.

Dr. Sadao Hoki

Dr. Sadao is a talented and compassionate Japanese surgeon educated in America. He is torn between his national loyalty and his professional ethics. His courage and humanity are evident as he risks his reputation and safety to save an enemy soldier.

Hana

Hana is Dr. Sadao's wife, supportive and caring. She assists in nursing the wounded soldier despite the risks and her initial fear. Her compassion complements her husband's ethical

stance.

Tom

Tom is the wounded American soldier and prisoner of war. Young and vulnerable, he represents the human face of the enemy. His gratitude and trust in Dr. Sadao highlight the story's message of shared humanity.

The Servants

The servants represent the common people's patriotic prejudice. They refuse to help the enemy and eventually leave, showing the social pressures and fears during wartime.

The Old General

The General depends on Dr. Sadao's medical skills and is pragmatic. He plans to have the prisoner killed to avoid scandal, reflecting the harsh realities of war.

Practice Set

- **Level 1 – Easy:** Describe Dr. Sadao's character in brief.
- **Level 2 – Moderate:** What role does Hana play in the story?
- **Level 3 – Challenging:** Analyze the significance of the servants' behavior in the story.

Answer Key

- Dr. Sadao is a skilled, compassionate surgeon who values human life above national enmity.
- Hana supports her husband and helps care for the wounded soldier, showing kindness and courage.

- The servants' refusal to help the enemy reflects societal prejudice and fear, highlighting the challenges of upholding humanity during war.

Quick Reference

- Dr. Sadao: Compassionate surgeon.
- Hana: Supportive wife.
- Tom: Vulnerable enemy soldier.
- Servants: Represent prejudice.
- General: Pragmatic leader.

Glossary

- **Pragmatic:** Dealing with things realistically.
- **Patriotic:** Showing love for one's country.
- **Prejudice:** Unfair dislike or distrust.

Literary Devices in The Enemy

The story employs various literary devices to enhance its themes and emotional impact.

Symbolism

The wounded American soldier symbolizes the enemy who is also a human being deserving compassion. The sea moss used to pack the wound symbolizes nature's role in healing.

Conflict

The central conflict is both external (between nations at war) and internal (Dr. Sadao's moral dilemma).

Irony

It is ironic that Dr. Sadao, a Japanese, was educated in America, the enemy country, and that he cannot kill the enemy soldier despite the war.

Imagery

Vivid descriptions of the wounded soldier, the operation, and the Japanese household create strong mental images that engage the reader.

Practice Set

- **Level 1 – Easy:** Identify one example of symbolism in the story.
- **Level 2 – Moderate:** Explain the internal conflict faced by Dr. Sadao.
- **Level 3 – Challenging:** Discuss the use of irony in "The Enemy."

Answer Key

- The wounded American soldier symbolizes the enemy who is also a human being.
- Dr. Sadao struggles between his duty as a Japanese citizen and his ethical obligation as a doctor to save a life.
- It is ironic that Dr. Sadao was educated in America and cannot kill the enemy soldier despite the war.

Quick Reference

- **Symbolism:** Using symbols to represent ideas.
- **Conflict:** Struggle between opposing forces.
- **Irony:** Opposite of what is expected.
- **Imagery:** Descriptive language creating mental pictures.

Glossary

- **Symbolism:** Use of symbols to signify ideas.
- **Irony:** A contrast between expectation and reality.
- **Imagery:** Descriptive language that appeals to the senses.

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