The Enemy - Analysis and Interpretation

1. What do you think the heavy fog symbolize at the beginning of the story? *It symbolizes the dilemma and the uncertainty that Sadao and Hana feel about what to do with the white man. (at the end when Tom escapes and is safe, the fog clears and it starts raining)*
2. Why do you think it would be best to throw the sailor back to the sea? *Because this way they won't have a dilemma to deal with and they will be considered loyal Japanese. If they were caught protecting the POW they would be punished for treason.*
3. Why do you think they decide to take him home? *Their humanitarian values overcome any other considerations they might have.* *That is, they realize that the man needs their help and they can't abandon him. As a doctor Sadao made an oath to treat anyone who needs his help.*
4. Why is Sadao worried about the servants? Is his concern justified? Explain. *He is worried that the servants might tell on them to the authorities and he might be executed for treason. His concern is justified because at some point all the servants leave the house and they are afraid they might turn them in.*
5. Why is Sadao afraid the POW might die? *Because he is a doctor and it's his duty to treat all human beings unconditionally.*
6. Why is Hana afraid the POW might live? *She is afraid of the police that might come and arrest them for sheltering the enemy. Moreover, they servants are clearly against sheltering the enemy, so they might inform the authorities.*
7. How does Sadao's attitude change after the operation? *After the successful operation, he realizes that he must turn him over to the authorities because he is a POW. After doing his duty as a doctor, he understands that he must act as a loyal Japanese.*
8. Why doesn't Sadao want to know the man's name? *He doesn't want to be attached to the man and treat him as a human being. This was it's easier to refer to him as the enemy and turn him in.*
9. Why do you think Sadao didn't send the report about the prisoner? *We can infer that he felt sorry for the prisoner. Perhaps he was afraid of what might happen to the prisoner after the police take him.*
10. Why is Sadao determined to get rid of the man? *He is afraid that something might happen to him and his family when the servants leave the house. Sadao and Hana may be accused of treason.*
11. Why can't the General allow Sadao to be arrested? *Sadao is the only doctor* *who can treat him. Also, the general is a selfish man and he knows that Sadao is the best doctor. That's why he can't allow anything to happen to him.*
12. Why do you think Sadao doesn't tell Hana about the assassins the General intends to send? *Maybe he doesn't want her to be worried and afraid.*
13. What is Tom's opinion about most Japanese? *He says that if all the Japanese were like Sadao, there wouldn't be a war. From this we can infer that most Japanese are not like Sadao. That is, Sadao is a good man who cares about other people.*
14. Why does Sadao decide to help the prisoner escape? *Sadao has been waiting for the assassins for 3 nights and he can't wait anymore because he can't sleep and he is afraid. He realizes that he must act because he can't live this uncertainty. He also decided to act as a humanitarian and not as a patriot.*
15. Why do you think Sadao slept well that night? *He realizes that he helped Tom escape and he is safe.*
16. Why do the servants return to the house? *The enemy is no longer there. So their dilemma is solved.*
17. Why doesn't Sadao need to fear that the General will tell on him anymore? *Because the General knew about the POW and he did nothing about it. Although he promised to send assassins, he forgot it. If someone might find out about it, the General himself could be accused of treason. That is, the two of them depend on each other so they can't talk about Tom.*
18. Why does Sadao think it was strange he couldn't kill the white man? *Clearly, he is different from his servants. For them there is no dilemma – the enemy must die. In a way, he wishes he were like the servants. However, Sadao's values are different from the servants, that's why he couldn't just let the white man die. His American education makes him more open-minded towards other cultures. Still he feels repulsive towards the white men in general.*
19. The moral dilemma in the story is humanitarian values Vs. patriotism. Explain this dilemma. Who represents each side?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Loyalty to the country** conflicts | with **The desire to save life** |
| PATRIOTISM vs. |  HUMANISM |
| * Japan is at war.
* Harboring an enemy is treason.
* Hatred for all other races is instilled so deeply in the mind of the people that it’s part of their culture.
* Dr. Sadao’s background: his upbringing in a chauvinistic society, nationalism, the tremendous influence of his father and his duty as a citizen (patriotism & tradition).
* His words are not in harmony with his actions (he calls the prisoner “my friend”.)
 | * His desire to save life as a doctor.
* What drives him? Compassion, vanity, challenge, humanity.
* Exposure to another country and culture (America),
* Modern education.
* Ability to question – broadening of perception.
* The Hippocratic Oath – duty to help people regardless of their race, color or religion.
 |

**Literary Terms**

A ***Setting*** is where and when the story takes place.
Describe the setting of the story The Enemy and its importance.

*• The setting of the story is important because Dr. Sadao's house is isolated. There were no close neighbors to see Sadao and Hana taking the wounded American into the house and to report them to the police. There was only the lonely coast and pine trees around them.*

*• The story takes place in Japan during WWII. This fact is important to the story because it explains why it was so dangerous for Sadao to hide the white man instead of reporting his presence to the police.*

*• The beginning of the story takes place on a misty night on a deserted beach, which means that nobody could see Sadao and Hana carrying the wounded man into their house.*

1. A ***Conflict*** is a struggle between two opposing forces, one of them is the character himself. In the story, there are different types of conflicts. Describe the following:
\* ***a struggle against another person/character –*** Sadao and Hana struggle against the servants – they saved the enemy while the servants think he should die. ***\* a struggle against society conventions/rules –*** when Sadao saves the American POW he goes against the law and he can be executed if he is caught. However, he chooses to follow his conscience and not society conventions because he feels that humanitarian values are more important.  ***\* a struggle within the character himself*** – Sadao keeps wondering even while operating on the white man why he should save Tom when it's clear that the enemy should die.

**HOTS – Problem Solving**
When we use ***problem solving*** we need to identify the dilemma the character is facing, the options he must take into consideration and the solution he reaches after considering the pros and cons.
**Describe the dilemmas Sadao and Hana face, what they take into consideration and what solution they choose.**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Dilemma**  | **Pros**  | **Cons**  | **solution** |
| *To leave the white man on the beach to die or to take him home and give him medical care.* | *Sadao is a doctor and when he sees that the man is wounded he feels that it's his duty as a doctor to give him medical care.* | *The white man is an American POW and so he is the enemy. As such he should die.* | *Sadao and his wife take the white man home and Sadao operates on him.* |
| *To turn the white man over to the authorities or to help him escape.* | *Sadao knows that the moment he turns Tom in, Tom will die. The fact that he was educated in America makes him more emphatic towards the prisoner. Sadao and Hana are more open-minded toward people from other cultures.*  | *The white man is an American POW and so he is the enemy. As such he should die* | *Although he tries to do his duty as a Japanese and report the incident to the General, he feels relieved when the assassins don't show up after 3 nights. That's when he decides to help him escape.* |

**HOTS – Distinguishing Different Perspectives**
The skill of ***Distinguishing Different Perspectives*** allows us to examine situations in the story from different points of view of the various characters in the story.
**Describe the following characters' point of view regarding Tom's presence in the house: Hana and Sadao, Yumi and the gardener.**

***Hana and Sadao*** have mixed feelings regarding the prisoner. On the one hand, he is the enemy, so he should die. On the other hand, the white man is wounded and Sadao must treat him because he is a doctor. Their compromise is to treat him and then turn him over to the authorities.

***Yumi and the gardener*** are clear about how they feel towards the POW. He is the enemy so Sadao mustn't treat him. The enemy must die.

**HOTS – Uncovering Motives**
When we use ***uncovering motives*** we try to understand what motivates the character to behave in a certain way.
\* **Explain why Sadao and Hana decide to save the white man –** *the Hippocratic Oath obligates Sadao to treat all human beings. This is the reason why he decides to save the man. In addition, their humanitarian values overcome their patriotism.*
**\* Explain why the servants leave the house –** *they leave because they can't stand being in the same house with the enemy. They are angered with their master for saving the white man.***\* Explain why the General offers to send his assassins instead of turning Sadao over to the authorities for treason –** *the General knows that Sadao is the only one who can operate on him, should he need an operation. The General thinks first of all about himself. That's why he is ready to keep Sadao's secret.*