



SUNSHINE STATE STANDARD
Literary Analysis
Benchmark LA.910.2.1.4 Identify and analyze universal themes and symbols across genres and historical periods, and explain their significance.

Comprehension

- Recall** Who are Morissot and Sauvage?
- Recall** How do the wartime conditions affect their habits?
- Recall** What prompts the two Frenchmen to cross the frontline of the war?
- Summarize** What happens to Morissot and Sauvage as a result of their venturing into enemy territory?

Literary Analysis

- Make Inferences** Review the chart you made as you read. Do Morissot and Sauvage seem to understand the dangers of war? Cite evidence to support your answer.
- Interpret Symbol** References to fish and fishing are repeated throughout the story. What do they symbolize? To help you interpret their meaning, create a chart like the one shown. Record descriptions of fish and fishing as well as the ideas you associate with them.

<i>Descriptions of Fish/Fishing</i>	<i>Associations</i>

- Examine Setting and Theme** Reread lines 25–40 and 118–143. Compare the conditions on the island of Marante before and during the Prussian occupation. What theme about war do these changes communicate?
- Analyze Irony** Explain the contrast between what you expected and what actually happens at the end of the story. Support your answer with details.
- Draw Conclusions** Describe how Morissot and Sauvage behave while in the enemy camp. What conclusions can you draw about their **friendship** from their final actions?
- Evaluate** Recall incidents you have heard about in recent years concerning the treatment of prisoners, the wounded, and civilians during times of war. Are the Prussian soldiers justified in their actions against the two Frenchmen? Explain your response.

Literary Criticism

- Biographical Context** “War! When I think of this word,” declared Maupassant, “I feel bewildered, as though they were speaking to me of sorcery, of the Inquisition, of a distant, finished, abominable, monstrous, unnatural thing.” How are Maupassant’s feelings about war reflected in the story? Support your response with details.