The Interlopers
by Saki (Published in 1969)

Presentation done by Eric Han, Ray Xu and Henry Liu
Saki’s Profile

- Born in December 18, 1870 in Akyab, British Burma
- Real name: Hector Hugh Munro
- Joined World War I, even though he was too old and injured to enlist in the army
- Started writing career as a journalist working for newspapers such as “Westminster Gazette”, “Daily Express”, and “Morning Post”. He also wrote for magazines like “Bystander” and “Outlook”.
- Died in November 1916 by a German sniper
  - Was taking cover during the Battle of the Ancre before he was killed
Other Works by Saki

- Wrote *The Unbearable Bassington* and *When William Came* as novels.
- Wrote the historical book *The Rise of the Russian Empire*.
Description of Setting

Time: Twentieth Century before World War One, Dusk, Midnight, Dawn, Winter

Place: Eastern Carpathian Mountains, Ukraine, Strip of land (legally belonging to Ulrich)

This setting adds a dark mood to the mix, because of the woods at night. It also adds an amount of loneliness because the woods are so vast and not many humans will travel through here.
Characters

Ulrich Von Gradwitz:
- Legally Owns the land
- **Protagonist**: Ulrich is the main character of the story.
- **Aggressive**: Will defend land to the point where he summons men to kill Georg
- **Honor Bound**: Will not shoot Georg until Georg makes a move
- **Round**: Ulrich’s feud with Georg’s family is described more in detail.
- **Major**: Around for the entire story
- **Dynamic**: Ulrich believed it was better to become friends with Georg and forget about their feud.

Georg Znaeym:
- Thinks land rightfully belongs to him
- **Antagonist**
- **Stubborn**: Highly believes the strip of land belongs to him and at first, refuses to be friends with Ulrich.
- **Honor Bound**: Will not shoot Ulrich until Ulrich makes a move
- **Round**: Georg’s history with Ulrich and his family has been explained.
- **Major**: Around for most of the story
- **Dynamic**: Georg decided to become friends with Ulrich.
Summary

Ulrich von Gradwitz and Georg Znaeym encountered each other in land east of the Carpathian Mountains, Ukraine. The land legally belongs to Ulrich’s family but Georg’s family constantly hunts on Ulrich’s land. A rivalry between the two families was created as a result. The two men were about to act when a tree fell on both of them. Ulrich said his men would find him and kill Georg. Georg said likewise for Ulrich. While they wait for their men, Ulrich drank some wine from his flask and offered some to Georg, who refused. Ulrich decided to let Georg go if his men arrive and ask him to be his friend. Georg eventually agreed with Ulrich. Ulrich and Georg decided to call for help, which attracted the attention of ten wolves. It’s implied Ulrich and Georg got eaten by the wolves.
**Plot Diagram**

**Setting:** A dense forest in the Carpathians in the 20th century.

**Social Milieu:** Upper class.

**Inciting Incident:** A tree falls down due to a storm overhead and traps Georg and Ulrich underneath.

**Exposition:** Ulrich and Georg find each other in the forest, and both prepare for a fight.

**Rising Action:** Ulrich and Georg mock each other of getting trapped under the tree.

**Rising Action:** Ulrich and Georg argue about whose men would find and save their leader first while leaving the other one dead.

**Rising Action:** Ulrich drinks some wine and offered some to Georg, who refused.

**Climax:** Ulrich said he wants to put their hateful past behind them and become friends. Georg agrees with his request.

**Falling Action:** Ulrich and Georg call for help in hopes of someone rescuing them.

**Falling Action:** Ulrich spots many figures in the distance and shouts for help.

**Resolution:** A pack of wolves appear running at them.
Point of view

“The Interlopers” is in a third person limited point of view. This means that there is a narrator for the story, however the reader can only see one person’s thoughts. Also in third person, the narrator uses pronouns such as he, she or it, as well as the people’s names. In this story’s case it would be Ulrich’s thoughts only.
Examples of Techniques

Many examples of situational irony were present in this short story such as...

- Both Ulrich and Georg get trapped in the forest that they claim to be their own. You would expect them to both know the forest extremely well but they still get stuck.
- Both Ulrich and Georg become friends even though both of their generations hated each other forever. You’d expect them to continue to hate each other for their whole lives as the rest of their generation has.
- There’s irony in the end, when they spot the wolves coming towards them after Ulrich and Georg become friends. Normally when you become friends, you would stick with them for long periods of time. In this case, they just became friends but are going to spend very little time together.
- When Ulrich and Georg and both trapped under the tree and starts to insult each other, Georg says when Ulrich dies to his men, he will send condolences to Ulrich’s family for form’s sake. But Ulrich says that when Georg dies, he won’t send condolences to his family. You would think because of this, Georg is a bit more polite and friendly overall, but it was Ulrich who decides to offer his wine and ask to become friends.
Symbol

The wine flask is a crucial symbol to the story. Ulrich drinks from his wine flask after he and Georg got trapped under a tree. Wine is often used in jovial celebrations and parties with friends. Ulrich wanted to be friends with Georg after thinking about their rivalry and wanted to forget about their feud. Ulrich offered some wine to Georg. Georg agrees to Ulrich’s proposal and wanted to forget about the past as well. He drinks from the wine flask, and in doing so, becomes friends with Ulrich. So, the wine flask symbolizes friendship.
A theme for this short story is to never wait until the end, because it might be too late. Ulrich’s and Georg’s families have been fighting for a very long and they never really were willing to be together and talk things out. Both just argued and hated each other. When they were pinned down beneath the tree, Georg and Ulrich were in the same position in their heads, and could relate to each other more once they started to talk together. When they finally decided to become friends though, it was the end of the line for both of them. The wolf pack was running towards them, letting both Ulrich and Georg only become friends in their last moments.
Rating

We rate this short story a 2 out of 3 stars because there was a lot of techniques put to good use, as well as it being very entertaining. Many examples of irony, suspense, foreshadowing, and imagery were all placed skillfully in the right places to make the story naturally flow. The ending was very abrupt and makes the readers think about what’s going to happen next. The one thing that we disliked about this short story is that there wasn’t too much of a plot to follow, so we felt we were put into the story right away.