“The Interlopers”
By: Saki
Published 1919

Biography of Saki (Hector Hugh Munro)

- Scottish writer and journalist born on December 18, Akyab, Burma (Myanmar)
- Stories about children contain tyrannical aunts representing how he grew up
- Wrote for the Daily Express, the Bystander, The Morning Post, the Outlook and the Westminster Gazette
- Joined Burma police in 1893
- Volunteered as a soldier in World War I at age 44; shot fatally in France November 16, 1916
Other works by Saki

Historical:
- “The Rise of the Russian Empire” (1900)

Short Stories/ Sketches:
- “The Unbearable Bassington”
- “The Westminster Alice” (parody of Alice in Wonderland)
- “When William Came” (fantasy of German invasion and occupation of Britain)

Plays:
- “The Watched Pot”

Many more on... http://www.readbookonline.net/books/Saki/77/
Setting

- The short story takes place in a forest.
- The forest was Ulrich's and was called the forest land of Gradwitz.
- The setting actually adds a whole lot to the plot and to parts of this short story. If this never took place in a forest, then the two main characters would not have been stuck under a tree and then never come to the point of making up and becoming friends.
- Having the short story take place in the forest made the plot more interesting and pleasing to read.
Main Characters

Ulrich Von Gradwitz

- Dynamic Character
- Ulrich changed his mind during the short story.
- Ulrich changes and decides to be the bigger person and become friends with Georg by ending their feud.

Indirect Characterization

- Ulrich is forgiving and thoughtful.
- I think that Ulrich is forgiving and thoughtful because he was willing to forgive Georg and let go of his ongoing rage with Georg's family that had been going on for generations. Ulrich decided to become the bigger person and end the feud so that they can help each other get out of the crisis.
Main Characters

Georg Znaeym
Dynamic Character
- Georg does change throughout the short story.
- Georg agrees to end the feud and become friends with Ulrich.

Indirect Characterization
- Georg is demanding and a strong headed person and also pretty strong.
- Georg is demanding and strong headed because he always stayed in Ulrich’s forest even though Ulrich didn’t want him to.
- He is strong because he spent so much time in the forest.
- He also lives in a forest so he should be pretty strong and brave because he has to get his own food, take care and protect himself from animals and more.
Summary

- Two men, Ulrich Gradwitz and Georg Znaeym, have had a rivalry against each other’s family for three generations.
- The rivalry started with a famous lawsuit done by Ulrich’s grandfather that had taken back the illegal possession of land from the Znaeym family. The next generations follow with lots of poaching and scandals of many sorts.
- In the story, Ulrich and Znaeym find themselves in a showdown where both men have their guns pointed at each other. Suddenly, the storm blows a heavy tree onto them.
- Stuck, with no way to get out, the two men quarrel about whose men will find them first and who will die. They argue more, until Ulrich offers Georg a drink of wine from his flask. Georg, thinking of his dignity rather than his thirst, refuses.
Georg and Ulrich discuss how everyone else would react if they became friends.

Ulrich suggests to Georg that they could become friends.

Ulrich offers Georg a drink from his flask.

Ulrich and Georg realize that their men will not reach them in time, so they will have to fight each other to the death.

Georg claims that his men will find them first because he has men in the forest that are close behind him.

Ulrich claims that his men will reach them first since they are in his forest and his men are supposed to follow him after 10 minutes.

The tree falls on top of Ulrich and Georg

Ulrich and Georg agree to become friends

Ulrich and Georg yell together to try to be heard by their men and rescued

Wolves hear the men’s yells and run down the hill towards the trapped men.

Characterization

Ulrich: Forgiving and thoughtful

Georg: Trustworthy and strong

Carpathian Mountains. Forest owned by the Gradwitz's. Modern time. Ulrich Gradwitz and Georg Znaeym are enemies, meet in the woods ready to kill each other.
Point-of-View

- 3rd person limited
- Shows an unbiased point of view of the situation.
- If the story had been in Ulrich or Georg’s point of view, then it would have only shown what they thought about the other person or about the problem during the story.
- We see what both characters are doing, not just one character.
- Helps the reader get more involved in the action.
Technique: Irony

- Men claim they will kill each other
- Later agree to become friends and have peace
- Seems like they see their men coming to the rescue, it turns out to be a pack of wolves that likely kills them both
- Not many people thought both the men would die; impression that either one or none of them would die
- "Are they your men?" asked Georg. 'Are they your men?' he repeated impatiently as Ulrich did not answer... 'Who are they?'... 'Wolves'" (310).
The Symbol

- The symbol that is used in this short story is the wine flask.
- The wine flask represents the friendship of Ulrich and Georg because both of them decide to become friends when Ulrich offers Georg some wine.
- While offering the flask of wine to Georg, Ulrich also mentioned to him that he was tired of fighting and wanted to end it. As a way of accepting Ulrich's offer Georg said yes for the flask of wine.
Theme

- Life is too short to have meaningless grudges.
- The fight between Georg and Ulrich is three generations long, and is about a lawsuit and a quarrel that they don’t have to continue, but it does anyway.
- When they get stuck underneath the fallen tree, Ulrich sees that life is too short, especially underneath a four thousand pound tree bleeding and being crushed to death.
- He offers to forget about the poaching and become friends and Georg, after sometime of thinking, agrees.
- We’ll always have disagreements with people, but don’t live you life obsessed with a petty row.
This short story deserves a 2 out of 3 star rating. The conflict between Ulrich and Znaeym was interesting to read and it had a satisfying resolution. The end when Ulrich saw the wolves head toward them was also exhilarating. It was very short and the story wasn't as exciting as “The Most Dangerous Game”, or “Sonata for Harp and Bicycle”. It also didn't have very deep meanings like “The Rules of the Game”, or “The Golden Kite, the Silver Wind”. 
Citations

# Responsibility Chart

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