

“Three Shots”: Ernest Hemingway’s Nick Adams



“Three Shots” Discussion Questions

Student Name _____ Date _____

As you discuss these questions in class, please take notes in the space provided. Cite lines from the text of the story to support every answer you give.

1. About how old is Nick in the story? (Guess a specific number). What in the story makes you think that?
2. What does Nick say he is afraid of? Why do you think he is afraid of this? What does this fear suggest about Nick?
3. What does he tell his father and uncle when they come back after hearing him fire the three shots? Why does this lie show about Nick?
4. Does Nick like or dislike his Uncle George? What makes you think that? Based on Nick’s opinion of Uncle George, what does Nick think makes one an adult?
5. What does Uncle George think about Nick? What do Uncle George’s feelings about Nick reveal about his attitude concerning the differences between children and adults? What does he say that makes you think that?
6. What does Nick’s father think about Nick? What does Nick’s father’s feelings about Nick reveal about his attitudes about the differences between children and adults? What does he say that makes you think that?

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7. Look over your answers for questions 5 and 6. Do you agree more with the attitude of Uncle George or Nick’s father toward Nick? Why?

8. At the end of the story has Nick changed or is he the same? Why do you think that?

9. What significance does the title “Three Shots” have for the story? What meaning does the title have for each of the characters in the story?

10. What if the main character of this story was Uncle George? Can you think of a different title for the story to reflect this change in focus? How would that change the meaning the title holds for each of the characters?