The Interlopers

Use this key to check answers and read the explanations.

1. In what region does the opening place Ulrich von Gradwitz?
   A. A Carpathian forest
   B. A village on the English coast
   C. An Alpine train station
   D. A field beside the Danube in summer
   Correct answer: A. A Carpathian forest
   The opening identifies a forest on the eastern spurs of the Carpathians on a winter night.

2. Whom is Ulrich looking for when he patrols the forest?
   A. His grandfather
   B. A lost child
   C. Georg Znaeym
   D. A passing magistrate
   Correct answer: C. Georg Znaeym
   Although the opening sounds like a hunt for game, his target is his human enemy Georg.

3. What is at the center of the feud?
   A. A large farmhouse
   B. A narrow strip of woodland
   C. A railway bridge
   D. A flock that keeps crossing a fence
   Correct answer: B. A narrow strip of woodland
   The families dispute the ownership and use of a small part of the larger forest property.

4. Which family gained possession of the disputed woodland through the earlier lawsuit?
   A. The court gave both families equal shares.
   B. The Znaeym family
   C. The judge’s family
   D. The Gradwitz family
   Correct answer: D. The Gradwitz family
   The narrator says the lawsuit in Ulrich’s grandfather’s time gave possession to the Gradwitz side.

5. What traps both men before either can harm the other?
   A. Their men catch both in a snare.
   B. A large tree falls on them.
   C. A stream floods the woodland.
   D. A wall collapses beside a road.
   Correct answer: B. A large tree falls on them.
   A falling beech pins the men beneath its branches.

6. What does each man initially hope will happen after the tree falls?
   A. His own men will arrive first.
   B. A judge will bring a new deed.
   C. His rival’s men will settle the fight fairly.
   D. Both sets of men will turn back.
   Correct answer: A. His own men will arrive first.
   At first, each man expects having his own side arrive first to give him power over the other.

7. What does Ulrich offer Georg before proposing peace?
   A. Soup from a hunting camp
   B. Water from the stream
   C. Coffee from a pot
   D. Wine from his flask
   Correct answer: D. Wine from his flask
   He reaches his flask and offers wine, a first gesture of concern for Georg.

8. Why does Georg say he cannot drink with Ulrich at first?
   A. He believes his men have poisoned the flask.
   B. He can reach a full water bottle of his own.
   C. Blood has made it impossible for him to see the flask, and he refuses an enemy’s drink.
   D. Ulrich demands that he give up his land before taking a sip.
   Correct answer: C. Blood has made it impossible for him to see the flask, and he refuses an enemy’s drink.
   Georg gives both his immediate difficulty seeing and his refusal to drink with an enemy.

9. Who first proposes that the two men become friends?
   A. Ulrich
   B. Georg
   C. One of Georg’s men
   D. The judge who decided the case
   Correct answer: A. Ulrich
   Ulrich tells Georg that he has changed his mind about the feud and offers friendship.

10. How does Georg respond after considering the offer of peace?

A. He rejects the offer and stops speaking.
B. He insists the feud must be handled by his children.
C. He asks Ulrich to wait until the case is retried.
D. He accepts and imagines the two men visiting openly.

Correct answer: D. He accepts and imagines the two men visiting openly.
Georg imagines how the neighbors would react if the former enemies greeted each other as guests.

11. Why do Ulrich and Georg try shouting together?

A. They want to settle the land case by a vote.
B. They want to drive away their own rescuers.
C. Together they hope someone will hear them and come to help.
D. They are trying to sound like a hunting horn.

Correct answer: C. Together they hope someone will hear them and come to help.
After reconciling, they cooperate in hopes of making the call reach farther.

12. What does Ulrich identify in the final word of the story?

A. Georg’s foresters
B. Wolves
C. Ulrich’s neighbors
D. Runaway horses

Correct answer: B. Wolves
He realizes that the figures he and Georg hoped were men are wolves.

13. Why is Ulrich’s offer of wine a turning point even though Georg does not drink it?

A. It makes the fallen tree light enough to lift.
B. It gives the neighbors enough time to arrive.
C. It proves Ulrich has the legal deed in his pocket.
D. It is Ulrich’s first concrete effort to ease his rival’s suffering.

Correct answer: D. It is Ulrich’s first concrete effort to ease his rival’s suffering.
The offer shows the enmity softening before the more explicit proposal of friendship.

14. How does the ending complicate the idea of an interloper in the forest?

A. The men claim ownership, but the wolves expose how little control either man has.
B. The court discovers that the forest actually belongs to a visiting judge.
C. The two men learn that neither family has ever seen the forest.
D. The wolves leave because the title deed protects the men.

Correct answer: A. The men claim ownership, but the wolves expose how little control either man has.
The ending sets the men’s claims to the land against their physical helplessness within it.

15. Which statement captures the reversal that closes the story?

A. Ulrich regains the strength to finish the feud after making peace.

B. Georg’s rescue party creates a second court case.

C. Their call seems to bring rescue just when it reveals a new danger.

D. The men regain their freedom by proving whose land it is.

Correct answer: C. Their call seems to bring rescue just when it reveals a new danger.

The men interpret the approaching shapes as help, then recognize the threat. Their fate is left unstated.