

Name _____

Period _____

Study Guide for Liam O'Flaherty's "The Sniper"

(This handout is a combination of materials from Mr. Tyler and Mr. Brett Lettiere's handout for "The Sniper")

I. HISTORICAL CONTEXT:

Go to the following link on line and write two paragraphs. The first paragraph should focus primarily on the Irish Free State problems in 1921-1922. The second paragraph should pick one of the links marked "In this Section" (right hand of the page) and examine at least one other time period in the long going civil strife in Ireland. The main link and a couple other suggestions have been provided for you. Bring in any questions you have for a historical review of this situation.

- http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/events/northern_ireland/history/64206.stm
- http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/events/northern_ireland/history/64609.stm (Bloody Sunday, which is alluded to by the music group U2)
- http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/events/northern_ireland/history/60709.stm
- <http://www.waymarking.com/waymarks/WMRE> (An upside down traffic signal in an Irish neighborhood in the United States!)

II. VOCABULARY: Be able to define the following words and understand them when they appear in the story or class discussion.

ascetic _____

beleaguered _____

enveloped _____

fanatic _____

lodge _____

spasmodically _____

reel _____

ruse _____

remorse _____

III. LITERARY TERMS: Be able to define each term and apply each term to the story.

Point of View _____

First person _____

Third person omniscient _____

Third person limited _____

From what point of view is the story told? Provide evidence. _____

onomatopoeia _____

example _____

protagonist _____

Who is the protagonist? _____

antagonist _____

Who is the antagonist? _____

simile _____

example _____

situational irony _____

theme _____

What is a theme of this story? _____

IV. QUESTIONS: Answer the following questions. Be sure to use complete sentences and practice use of citation whenever using direct or critical information.

1. Describe, in as much detail as possible, the setting of "The Sniper" (some of this may come from your historical research into the actual incident).
2. Why does not give the sniper a name?
3. What side is the protagonist on? Does it matter?
4. Provide at least two examples of irony in the story and discuss them.
5. Find three examples of imagery in the story (or more) and discuss the effect these images have on telling the story.
6. Plot review: What happens to the driver and the old woman? What happens to the sniper? Describe the sniper's ruse to kill the other sniper.
7. How might the story be different if the story was told from third person omniscient?