

“The Sniper” ~ Liam O’Flaherty

1. What sort of man was the sniper at the start of the story? What do the following things reveal about his character?
 - “The look in his eyes”
 - “Killing an old woman in cold blood.”
 - “The dressing of his wounded arm”
2. Discuss the mood of the story. Does the mood change as the story progresses? Explain.
3. Identify and describe one example from the story for each of the following kinds of conflict:
 - Human vs. Human
 - Human vs. Himself
 - Human vs. Society
4. The Sniper did not give a second thought to the old woman, or the man in the car whom he had killed. Why do you think he was so curious about the other sniper he had killed?
5. After killing the enemy, the sniper's attitude changes. Describe the reactions, both emotional and physical, of the sniper.
6. What type of irony is present at the end of the story?

