

## **The Situation**

The Way Things Are (Context):

The country of Ashari was conquered by a powerful wizard in control of a horde of Northern warriors and monsters over twenty years ago, almost the entire royal family was supposedly imprisoned (although many suspect they are dead), and the whole country became a rigidly controlled dictatorship overnight. The king's son and his lord protector fled into the countryside, where they assumed new identities and new positions. The rightful heir now works as a blacksmith, his former protector as the leader of a minor band of thieves (striking back in the only way he can against the new regime), but the people of the land have long since given up hope.

The Hero:

The hero, Sam Felding, was born a few years into the regime, and is now about fourteen years old. His father, who he looks up to, leads a pretty sad group of brigands who pillage only the buildings belonging to the government (think Robin Hood). However much his father would like him to be a warrior, his skills lie in the areas of magic, which has also become rigidly controlled under the current government.

The Story Goal:

After his father's kidnapping by warriors under the command of the leader of Ashari's dictatorship, he simply wants to free his father and get revenge on the people who kidnapped him. After learning more about the foe he is facing and about how far the land has fallen, he wants to drive out the wizard and his armies and free the land from its oppression.

## **The Question**

The villain:

Rufus Malcoth, who was exiled from his own land far across the sea when he was about twenty for his misuse of magic and twisted experiments, spent thirteen years in the wild north where his boat landed. His heart set on revenge against his fellow wizards, who he believed, could not understand the importance of his work, he cowed the local tribes into serving him. After building an army of savage Northmen and magical creatures, he invaded Ashari, taking few casualties from small battles along the border before the kingdom surrendered. After bringing the country under his iron-fisted rule, he made alliances with strong neighboring countries and conquered those that couldn't resist him. He has now ruled for over twenty years.

The price my hero will pay:

Sam will have learn to survive in a country where any potential ally could also be an informant or a backstabbing liar. He will be betrayed by those he considers friends, and see himself and others suffer at the hands of Malcoth, who tries his best to break any hope left in each person.

(Something to learn) The theme:

Can Sam defeat Rufus Malcoth and rescue his father? Can he survive and keep his hope intact in a

country where too many have already given in, or will his spirit be crushed and become just another link in the chain?

Complete: 10

Appropriate: 10

Well-Thought Out: 10

Total: 30

Quiz Results: 100%

Quiz Total: 33