The Guest Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Albert Camus Ms. Proch

Albert Camus (1913-1960) was a French author who grew up in Mondovi, Algeria. He is known for his literary work which illuminates the problems of the human conscience in our times. His attitudes and his beliefs emerged from his life experiences. For example, life with his mother fostered the values of love and compassion for others and a hatred of injustice and cruelty. Also, Life in Algeria impressed him with the beauty of the universe, the pleasure of being alive, and the suffering of poor and innocent people.

Camus’ stories depict human beings in situations where personal involvement is necessary, and where the important values of independence, tolerance, compassion, and justice are difficult to preserve. For example, In Camus’ story “The Guest,” Daru, the protagonist, is Camus’ everyman, in love with the beauty of the universe and the pleasure of simply being alive. He struggles to remain true to the moral principles by which he lives, respecting the needs of all people to determine the course of their own lives.

1. What is the principle conflict in the story and how is it resolved?

2. Why does Balducci think that Daru has always been “a little cracked”? Why does he give him freedom of choice?

3. Why does Daru find the idea of taking the Arab to the government officials in Tinguit to be contrary to his sense of honour and humiliating?

4. To what extent, if any, is the end tragic? Why does Camus use the words “had loved” instead of “loved” in describing landscape?

5. What is Balducci’s function in this story?

6. How does the political setting of the story affect the plot?

7. An allegory is a story which characters, events, and settings represent abstract qualities. The author of an allegory expects readers to look for meaning below the surface of the story. To what extent can this story be considered an allegory?

How Much Land Does a Man Need?

1. Idioms are defined as “an expression whose meaning is not predictable from the usual meaning of its constituent elements” or “a dialect or style of speaking to certain people.” Examples of famous idioms are, Its raining cats and dogs, a penny for your thoughts, back to the drawing board, don’t judge a book by its cover, kill two birds with one stone etc.

Give an idiom for this story.

1. What is the major theme from this story?
2. How much land does a man really need?
3. Tolstoy gives us a didactic tale which means what?
4. In your opinion, how much wealth does a person need? When is it enough to be happy? Successful? Powerful?

Total of 15- Comprehend and Respond