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**“Two Fishermen” – Character Sketch Prep**

Morley Callaghan

The hangman in the story is a real person, friendly and a good companion, but the people in the village only have a picture of a stereotypical hangman in their minds. Michael, the reporter, is the only villager who knows the true character of the hangman, but he can only “back into the crowd” (pg. 3b) and has to live with his shame.

Each of the following excerpts from “Two Fisherman” help to develop the character of Smitty. Read each section in their entirety, not just what is on the worksheet, and discuss what you learn about him. What character traits and values does he have? What is important to him? etc. For each one, briefly explain how you came to that conclusion.

1. ***Page 1b* “Out of the jutting … … to go fishing.”**
* **He seems to be a gentle man based on the way he smiles at Michael upon his arrival.**
* **The physical description of him “grey baby curls”, “large head”, “small chin” almost make him seem childish.**
* **The way he smiles and “shyly” asks Mike if he “intend[s] to go fishing” suggests he is eager for friends or company, but may be slightly self-conscious.**
1. *Page 2a* “No, I don’t know anything about him … … they should do nothing to spoil and evening’s fishing.”

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1. *Page 2b* “Somebody’s got to do my job. There’s got to be a hangman,” he said.
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2. *Page 3a-b* “… … and behind him came the little hangman … … till he saw Michael who was standing up staring at him with his mouth open.”

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1. *Page 3b* “Smitty was bending down over his fishing basket … … and I’ve got to change my clothes.”

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1. *Page 4b* “Smitty seemed to stare at the fish with his mouth hanging open, then he didn’t even look at the crowd.”

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***Two Fishermen* – Paragraph Assignment**

**Instructions:**

Write a one-paragraph (200 word) **character sketch** of Smitty. You must include a minimum of three personality traits and give an example from the story to illustrate each one.  **At least one of your examples must include a quote**. When using a quote, remember to do the following:

* Make sure it fits naturally into your paragraph. When you are reading it aloud, you should not be able to tell where your words end and the author’s begin.
* Include the page number in brackets after the quote.

**Quote Example:**

When Michael questions Smitty about his choice of profession and Smitty responds, “Somebody’s got to do my job. There’s got to be hangman” (p.93), it becomes evident that he is a very pragmatic man.

**Brainstorming:**

You must complete the following graphic organizer before you write your paragraph. It is good practice to organize your thoughts before you start writing.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Personality Trait | Example from the story |
|  | Page: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
|  | Page: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
|  | Page: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |

**Self & Teacher Assessment**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Element** | **Student** | **Teacher** |
| **Topic Sentence*** A general statement about Smitty’s character that you can prove or defend
 |  |  |
| **Supporting Details*** 3 traits are provided
 |  |  |
| **Conclusion Sentence** |  |  |
| **Transitional Word or Phrases*** At least 2
 |  |  |
| **Inclusion of one direct quote*** properly inserted
 |  |  |
| **Style and quality of argument** | /5 | /5 |
| **Total** | /10 | /10 |

**Some possible virtues you may choose to use:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Adaptability | Appreciation | Attentiveness |
| Availability | Commitment | Compassion |
| Concern | Confidence | Consideration |
| Consistency | Contentment | Cooperation |
| Courage | Creativity | Decisiveness |
| Deference | Dependability | Determination |
| Diligence | Discernment | Discretion |
| Efficiency | Equitableness | Fairness |
| Faithfulness | Fearlessness | Flexibility |
| Forgiveness | Friendliness | Generosity |
| Gentleness | Gratitude | Honesty |
| Humility | Integrity | Joyfulness |
| Kindness | Love | Loyalty |
| Meekness | Mercifulness | Observance |
| Optimism | Patience | Peacefulness |
| Perseverance | Persistence | Persuasiveness |
| Prudence | Punctuality | Purpose |
| Resourcefulness | Respect | Responsibility |
| Security | Self-Control | Sincerity |
| Submissiveness | Tactfulness | Temperance |
| Thoroughness | Thriftiness | Tolerance |
| Trustworthiness | Truthfulness | Virtue |