

Alien creature

There has never been any real proof that aliens exist, but what if our imagination could take us to a different world with inhuman creatures. Aliens exist in the imaginary world that Rainsford lives in. General Zaroff seems to be a very different character that doesn't seem to be of this world. Throughout the story, *the most dangerous game*, Richard Connell portrays General Zaroff through metaphors, imagery, and personification as a creature who is certainly not human.

General Zaroff gives Rainsford the impression that he is not entirely normal through the personification he uses to tell his life story. General Zaroff chooses to describe his life as a hunt, when he tells Rainsford of his adventures, "My whole life has been one prolonged hunt"⁶. Zaroff personifies his life, making it seem like one big hunt, but in reality he is the hunter, not his life. Although it is not true that his life hunts, this personification demonstrates his commitment to hunting which is abnormal. He seems to go strangely crazy just to hunt hinting that he is not a normal human and possibly an alien. The general is frighteningly in love with hunting more than any human is capable of loving it, "My hand was made for the trigger"⁶. The personification of his hand being made for the trigger shows the reader that his whole entire life depends on hunting, something that no human has ever been so deeply entranced in. General Zaroff seems to be an alien creature that has no sympathy for the hunted. The island that the general had inhabited seems just as different as the general himself.

The imagery and description of General Zaroff's island seems to have an eerie, feel about it, that gives the reader then sense that something isn't right with the island. When Rainsford and the crew reach the island the fog around it surprises them, "Ugh! It's like moist black velvet."¹. The fog almost protects and keeps the general from the outside world. This imagery of the island's misty surroundings makes the reader wonder if the island holds some mysterious creature. If the air around the island is different than the author must be indicating that island itself is different. Not only is the island different, but so is everything on it, including the alien creatures, "About the hall were mounted heads of many animals--lions, tigers, elephants, moose, bears; larger or more perfect specimens Rainsford had never seen."⁵. This imagery describes the alien characteristics of the animals that the general has slaughtered in the past. There is no way that a master hunter, Rainsford, doesn't know about a animal that can be hunted, meaning that the only kind of animal they can be is aliens animals. This unidentified animal must certainly be just as alien as General Zaroff.

The uncanny abilities the general has points directly to a being that isn't human.creature

The metaphors used to describe the general talk about his unusual abilities, “Even so zealous a hunter as General Zaroff could not trace him there, he told himself; only the devil himself could follow that complicated trail through the jungle after dark. But perhaps the general was a devil” 12. This metaphor describes the general as a devil and when he does find Rainsford, it is clear that he is not a normal man at all. This uncanny ability that makes him seem like a devil proves that he is either a devil, or an alien. There is no way that any human could ever track down a man in the middle of the night like the general did. The sharp instincts of the general are different and uncanny, not capable of a human, “Even as he touched it, the general sensed his danger and leaped back with the agility of an ape.” 13. The reflexes that the general possesses seem to be too quick to fathom. Although this is just fiction, the author scarily portrays the general as an alien almost to the point where the reader could believe in aliens. The possibility of aliens existing comes true throughout the story, *the most dangerous game*.

The alien that comes to life in this story has many frightening qualities that make the reader hope aliens don't exist. The horrors that the general gives Rainsford is something that will never happen, but what if it did? Would Richard Connell have been spot on about all the extreme attributes of an alien creature? No one knows for sure, but the alien that creepily hunts humans will live on in fiction forever through the use of metaphors, imagery, and personification.