

Benjamin Ha  
*An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge*

**Directions:** Put this document in PAGES. If using the PDF of the story, put that in Notability. Discuss the following questions in your groups. When you come up with an answer, **mark the evidence on the actual text, indicating it by highlighting the text and putting the number of the question next to it as well.** If using an electronic version, pay attention to the color I am asking you to use for different questions. If you are using the Norton, just annotate the text with your pen or pencil and note the question number when you mark the text. **Each student must upload his questions and Canvas when complete.**

I will be doing a book check on Monday to make sure all the annotations are in the text.

**For questions 1-14, use the color blue for highlights.**

1. Why isn't Farquhar a soldier in the Confederate army?  
There was some unknown nature that prevented him from being in the army could be because of his responsibility to tend to his plantation.
2. At the start of part III, mark the number of times the word "seemed" appears in the first paragraph. Why do you think Bierce makes such frequent use of this word?  
It comes up 4 times. He repeats seemed to emphasize that Farquhar does not know what is happening.
3. What is Farquhar's crime? What was he caught doing? He wants to commit sabotage and burn the bridge. He gets caught trying to cross the bridge.
4. Why are the soldiers on the bridge motionless and quiet? They are quite in order to respect the hanging.
5. What distracts the condemned man as he tries to concentrate on thoughts of his wife and family? He sees drift wood and sees that the stream is very sluggish.
6. What does Farquhar ask the gray-clad soldier who stops at his gate for water? He asked how far is it from owl creek bridge.
7. What is the soldier's real motive for stopping at the Farquhar's' gate? The soldier was a Federal scout and was scouting out the area.
8. In parts II and III, Peyton frequently observes the color grey. List three objects he describes as grey. What do you think this color symbolizes? He describes eyes, spiders, and soldiers with grey and he uses grey because it symbolizes death and blankness emptiness and is the color of the confederates uniforms.

9. What does Farquhar believe has happened to save him from a death by hanging? He falls off the bridge to swim away.
10. Farquhar believes he has freed himself from the ropes and risen to the surface of the water. What are his first impressions? He believes that he has super powers that freed himself from the rope.
11. What jolts Farquhar out of his tranquility? A counter swirl wakes him up and snaps him out of his state.
12. Farquhar imagined himself swimming and then running to make his escape. What exaggerated sights, sounds, and feelings did he experience while making his escape? Exaggerated senses were like the yell and scream of "Bravo!" and seeing the dim light.
13. What does Farquhar do after he leaves the water? He tries to go back to the plantation to find his wife and children.
14. What does Farquhar imagine is happening at the moment of his death? What is really happening? He imagines that he is meeting his family however he this is the moment that he gets hung.
15. Why do you think Bierce called this unusual story of a hanging "an occurrence"? Because these hanging probably happened all the time and were a common sight to see.

**For question 16, highlight all lit terms in the color green.**

16. Highlight and label examples of the following literary terms:
  - a) Personification: a figure of speech in which something nonhuman is given human characteristics - water spider legs
  - b) Simile: comparison of two unlike things using like or as - spinning like a top
  - c) Metaphor: comparison of two unlike things without using like or as- the trees upon the bank were giant garden plants
  - d) Suspense: a feeling results from two factors: reader's concern for the welfare of a convincing and sympathetic character or an anticipation of violence - then all is dark and silence!
  - e) Imagery: a word or group of words in a literary work which appeal to one or more of the senses: sight,

taste, touch, hearing and smell. The use of images serves to intensify the impact of the work. - His tongue was swollen with thirst

- f) Foreshadowing: method used to build suspense by providing hints of what is to come - a blinding white light blazes all about him with a sound like the shock of a cannon

17. What do you think is the main theme of this story? The main theme of the story is assumptions. The man was killed before he committed the crime thus assuming he would've been a criminal.
18. Highlight 4-5 realistic details (use the color pink) that correspond back to the defining traits we took notes on in class.