**Quang Huynh The Guest Questions**

**1.) What is the central conflict of the story? Is it external or internal? Can it be defined in terms of dilemma? The central conflict of the story is Daru deciding to send the Arab back to France or send him to death row. This is an internal conflict because all of these thoughts are inside of Daru’s mind. His thought of should he let the prisoner free or send the prisoner to France. Daru does not want to send the prisoner back to the French officials, and he doesn’t want to kill him either, as it is against his morals. He is told to send the prisoner to the French. He either has to do what he is told or do what he wants and let the prisoner go free. This is a dilemma because it is a lose-lose situation, and there are two really difficult choices to pick between.**

**2.) Compare and contrast the attitudes of Daru and Balducci toward the prisoner and the situation. What is their attitude toward each other? Is either a bad or a cruel man? How does the conflict between Daru and Balducci intensify the central conflict? Balducci is a very nice man, but he is also very serious. Balducci treats the prisoner like an actual prisoner. Then, Daru is a very quiet and happy teacher, and treats the prisoner like a guest. Balducci will always follows orders and instructions, while Daru wants to choose according to his moral code. Daru is mad at Balducci because Balducci didn’t turn in the prisoner. Both men are not really bad, since Balducci is just following orders, while Daru is trying to do what is best for the prisoner. The conflict between Daru and Balducci intensifies the central conflict because they both have different opinions on whether the prisoner should be sent to the French officials or not.**

**3.) Why does Daru give the prisoner his freedom? What reasons are there for not giving him his freedom? Daru gives the prisoner his freedom because he does not want to listen to Balducci. Daru thinks that it is wrong to do so. It is against Daru’s beliefs to send the prisoner to death row or to the French.**

**4.) In what respect is the title ironic? Why does "The Guest" make a better title than "The Prisoner"? And why does the French title "L'Hôte" (which can mean either "The Guest" or "The Host") make an even better title than its English translation? The title is ironic because the guest in the story is not really a guest. The guest is actually a prisoner. The guest makes a better title than the prisoner since it shows that the prisoner has value, and this shows that it Daru had to choose between two difficult choices. To kill “The Guest” or to send “The Guest” back to France. No one would ever kill a guest or do any harm to a guest. Furthermore, the French title “L'Hôte” is a better title than the English translation because no one wants part in this, and the prisoner can be seen as a host.**

**5.) This story contains the materials of explosive action-a revolver, a murderer, a state of undeclared war, an incipient uprising, a revenge note-but no violence occurs in the story. In what aspect of the situation is Camus principally interested? The aspect of situation that Camus is principally interested in is irony. In the story, there are many instances of irony in The Guest. Camus likes to explore the concept of irony and how the social entanglement of taking ridiculous actions that affects people, and how those actions can fail with ironic circumstances.**

**6.) This story has as its background a specific political situation-the French Algerian crisis in the years following World War II. How does Daru reflect France's plight? Is the story's meaning limited to this situation? What does the story tell us about good and evil and the nature of moral choice? How does the story differ in its treatment of these things from the typical Western story or the patriotic editorial? Daru seems ambivalent to the French plight which is to control Algeria. On one hand, he says, “Fight, yes, If I have to.” On the other hand, he will not “hand him [the Arab] over” to the French authorities. Good and evil is often defined by the individual’s moral code. What is good to one could be evil to another. The typical Western patriotic editorial is often more in line with the country’s plight, glorifying the country.**

**7.) In what respect is the ending of the story ironic? What kind of irony is this? What does it contribute to the meaning of the story? There are multiple levels of irony at the end. Daru is a caring teacher who doesn’t want to be involved in any disputes. So, Daru lets the prisoner choose between going to prison or to become free. What’s so ironic is that the prisoner chooses to go to prison. This is ironic since usually, prisoners would want to be free. This is situational irony because there is an unexpected outcome, and this contributes to the story because Daru had let the prisoner free to choose where he had wanted to go.**

**8.) Comment on the following: (a) Daru's behavior toward firearms and how it helps reveal him; (b) Camus' reason for making the Arab a murderer; (c) the Arab's reason for taking the road to prison. Daru is not comfortable with Balucci’s notes of using firearms and carrying a gun, just in case the prisoner does anything. Daru is becoming less accustomed to using and holding a firearm. Then, Camus’ reason for making Arab a murderer is to show that even killers can have a good side to them and can have a good personality. There are other features to a criminal than just their wrongdoings. In addition, I think the prisoner chose going to prison because he accepts his fate and realizes that he has to face the consequences.**