Study Guide for Liam O’Flaherty’s “The Sniper”

I. VOCABULARY: Be able to define the following words and understand them when they appear in the story or class discussion.

ascetic
beleaguered
enveloped
fanatic
lodge
spasmodically
reel
ruse
remorse

II. LITERARY TERMS: Be able to define each term and apply each term to the story.

Point of View

First person
Third person omniscient
Third person limited

From what point of view is the story told? Provide evidence.

onomatopoeia
example
protagonist
Who is the protagonist?
antagonist
Who is the antagonist?

simile

eexample

situational irony

setting

List all the information you can about the setting in the story

theme

What is a theme of this story?

III. QUESTIONS: Answer the following questions. Be sure to use complete sentences.

1. What time of day is the story set?

2. What are the names of the two sides?

3. What side is the protagonist on?

4. Why hadn’t the sniper eaten since morning?

5. What risk does the sniper decide to take?

6. What pulls up in front of the building?

7. What happens to the driver and the old woman?

8. What happens to the sniper?

9. Describe the sniper’s ruse to kill the other sniper.

10. How does the sniper feel about war after he had killed the other sniper?

11. What happened when the sniper threw the revolver down?

12. Who was the dead sniper?

13. How might the story be different if the story was told from third person omniscient?