

“Hugo, the Lord’s Nephew”

Find the following text sections in the monologue and write your answers to the questions:

“When I went back, there was my uncle, rod in hand, but he didn’t strike—I told him, ‘There’s a boar in the forest.’”

- What does it mean that the uncle had “rod in hand”?

In the monologue, Hugo’s uncle says, “You’ll hunt like a man, or be flogged like a boy.”

- What point is the uncle making by using both the words “man” and “boy”?

“I could smell my sweat, rank with fear, and then—it was like my dream—the underbrush moved, and the sticks shattered. I saw it— bristling, dark as the devil, huge as a horse—and my bowels turned to water.”

- What is happening in this stanza?
- How does word choice “the sticks *shattered*” affect the tone of this scene? How is the use of “shatter” different than “break”?

“It charged—my uncle lunged and I behind him—thrust!—felt the spear pierce. Braced myself—end to armpit—shoved. It took a long time, the dogs keening and the boar struggling.”

- What does it mean to “thrust”?

- What does the author mean when he says “*It took a long time ...*”?

“At last it was over, and the brute lay still. I almost wept: the joy of it, and the terror. I gasped like a fish, let my head fall back: the green leaves swam in the sky.”

- What does it mean by “the brute lay still”?

- Why is this stanza important for understanding the theme of becoming a man?