

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**SCORE/GRADE:**

**ROUGH DRAFT:** *The Bronze Bow*

Attach the rough draft of your essay project to this form. Do not write on the lines below.

[See formatted, graded example on the following pages.](#)

Jane Student

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The Bronze Bow

Rough Draft

What does the Bronze Bow represent?

Elizabeth George Speare’s moving story, The Bronze Bow, is about how hatred can be overcome by love. Speare uses the symbol of a bronze bow to show how Thacia, Joel, and Daniel, young people living in Roman times, can conquer their greatest struggle: hatred of the Romans. This is awkward phrasing—one does not usually conquer a struggle. One conquers an enemy. Try ‘overcome’? In the story, the bronze bow represents the thing that is most difficult in one’s life to overcome. This tells me what the image itself is but doesn’t quite answer the whole prompt by telling me what thematic idea the author uses this image to demonstrate. Be more specific.

When discussing their hatred for the Romans, Daniel, Joel, and Thacia form a group and take a vow to, “Fight...for God’s Victory!” (Speare 83). This is good textual evidence but doesn’t make a claim—instead this tells me a portion of the story. The first sentence of each paragraph should tell me what you are about to argue, rather than narrating the story. After reading a Psalm of David, they choose the bronze bow as their group’s symbol because it signifies to them the strength to do the impossible. What do you mean? Above, you tell me that the bronze bow represents their own struggle, or the strength of their hatred, not the strength to overcome that struggle. Try to organize this paragraph in such a way that the clarification that follows this sentence comes before it instead. However, they question how someone can bend a bow made of bronze since it is humanly impossible. Thacia suggests that, “...David meant a bow

that a man couldn't bend – that when God strengthens us we can do something that seems impossible.” (Speare 87). After hearing Jesus, she challenges Daniel’s constant hatred of the Romans by asking him “why does he say we must love our enemies?” (Speare 178). [After hearing Jesus what? Be more specific...](#) Her vow of hatred for the Romans is replaced with a desire to follow and obey Jesus. Thacia sees how the bronze bow represents the ability of God’s strength to make the impossible possible. [Good! This is a great point. This is the point that your paragraph is trying to make. Use this as your first sentence, so that the reader understands what you are going to argue before you begin to argue it.](#)

At first Joel sees the bronze bow as just his rebel group’s symbol, but gradually he understands that it means much more. [This is good but could be more explicit. Rather than using ‘much more’ tell me what it means to him. There is no reason not to be direct.](#) When he comes to Daniel to ask him to warn Jesus about traitors and tell him he is going away to school, Joel admits he is wrong about Jesus.

“Go to see him, Daniel. I wish – but it’s too late for me now. Perhaps we made a mistake.

Maybe Jesus is really the leader we’re waiting for.” (Speare 220).

Joel now sees that Jesus is the better leader and that by following him, his hatred can be bent with God’s love. [What do you mean by this? Better than whom? And why is he better? What trait does he display that makes this claim relevant?](#) He leaves Daniel with the promise that he will be back and that he now understands he can do anything with God’s strength. [This is a narrative comment—generally you want to end your paragraph with a comment that reaffirms the argument that you make in the first sentence. Remember that you are making an argument, not telling the story.](#)

The thing that is impossible for Daniel to overcome is his hatred of the Romans. This is too many words—what you are referring to is what writers call a character’s ‘fatal flaw’ or ‘Achilles heel’. Use fewer words wherever possible. He believes he must avenge his family’s brutal death by ~~vowing to fight~~ fighting the Romans for the rest of his life. At first, he sees the bronze bow as a symbol of his impossible task of defeating them. However, Thacia helps him see that Jesus’ love is the key to forgiving the Romans.

“He knew that he would give everything he possessed in life to follow Jesus. Even his vow...Jesus said that the Victory was God’s promise...*Was it possible that only love could bend the bow of bronze?*” (Speare 252)

After meeting Jesus, Daniel learns to let go of his ~~hate~~ hatred and love the Romans by following Jesus teaching. He accepts God’s strength to bend ~~his bow of hatred~~ the bow of his hatred with love and forgiveness. This is good. Well done.

Speare’s uses a bronze bow from a Psalm of David to illustrate how one can overcome any obstacle in one’s life with God’s strength and love. Daniel, Joel, and Thacia all come to this conclusion and understand who deserves their loyalty. Go ahead and tell me who. No sense in leaving it unsaid! Daniel surrenders his vow of hatred for the Romans and learns to love them; Thacia accepts Jesus command to love one’s enemies as the better vow to ~~make~~ take; and, Joel believes Jesus is the true leader ~~he’s~~ he has been waiting for. The Bronze Bow describes how three lives are changed with God’s strength and overcome their greatest obstacles with love. This sentence reads awkwardly – try again?

## Works Cited

Speare, Elizabeth George. *The Bronze Bow*. New York, New York: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1989.

Jane, you've done a good job getting your essay into a final form. Now use my marginal comments to sharpen your thesis, eliminate narrative passages and be sure that your clincher sentences reinforce the main idea of each paragraph. I'm looking forward to reading your final draft!

<u>Element</u>	<u>Grade</u>
<u>Thesis</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>Supports</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>Structure</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>Mechanics</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>Style</u>	<u>4</u>