

Name: _____

Class: _____

Date: _____

SCORE/GRADE:

PLOT: *The Bronze Bow*

In a single page, evaluate the thematic significance of this story's RISING ACTION – that is, explain how the author uses this structural element to emphasize the story's main themes. As always, refer to the events of the story in your answer. For page-length answers, attach a separate sheet if necessary.

As Daniel gains traction as a zealot leader in his own right, he looks to two opposing models of leadership for reference: Rosh and Jesus. Rosh is fierce and bloodthirsty, inspiring men to follow him based on his promises of Roman destruction. He justifies petty thefts and criminalities for the cause. He minimizes the individualities of his gang-members, requiring that they lose themselves entirely in the cause. He casts visions of a kingdom of God on earth attained by bloodshed and heartache.

In contrast, Jesus is gentle and compassionate, inspiring men to follow him based on his message of grace. He does not ask them to violate laws or become criminals to follow him. He does not minimize their individual importance to validate his cause. Rather, he sees them and knows them in an instant. He validates their sufferings even as he calls them to repentance. He preaches of a kingdom of God in heaven which is won only through forgiveness, unmerited love, and free grace.

Though Daniel feels loyal to Rosh due to his early years on the mountain under the zealot's protection, he cannot help but see the contrast between Rosh's band and Jesus' apostles. Rosh's men are dark, brooding, harsh and bloody-minded, while Simon and his fellowmen glow with excitement and peace. As a commander of a troop of eager patriots, Daniel's position forces him to consider the implications of these differing leadership styles. He must wrestle with these contrasting messages to discern the source of true strength. Does it stem from fierce hatred or abiding love?