

Name: _____

Class: _____

Date: _____

SCORE/GRADE:

SETTING: *The Bronze Bow*

In a single paragraph, evaluate the thematic significance of this story's TEMPORAL SETTING – 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.

The setting of this story is a real place, which intensifies Speare's descriptions. The story unfolds in the countryside of ancient Judea among the Israelites, the Biblical people of God. Downtrodden and oppressed, these people cling to prophecies preserved by their forefathers of a Messiah, a great deliverer, who will free them from the ruthless oppression of the tyrannical Romans and deliver the Kingdom of Israel back into the hands of a Davidic ruler. Even as all Israelites await this event, factions abound among them. Some believe that their God Jehovah will deliver them through peaceful means and willingly bow the knee to their oppressors. Others flout the Roman rulers and covertly organize themselves into military platoons, preparing for a day when they will take Jerusalem back by force like the famed Maccabees. Into this world comes the humble carpenter Jesus of Nazareth. The historic ramifications of His life lend deep significance to the events of this story. Whether through peaceful or militaristic means, the Jews expect an earthly savior who will deliver them from their physical oppressions. Jesus' message of loving one's enemies and looking to a heavenly kingdom shocks his countrymen and heightens societal tensions.