

Name: _____

Class: _____

Date: _____

SCORE/GRADE:

LITERARY DEVICES: *The Bronze Bow*

In a single paragraph, identify the most important literary device found in this story – quoting an example, of course – and explain its thematic significance.

The most important literary device in this story is symbolism. With it, Speare emphasizes the central theme of her story: love is stronger than hatred. Daniel, Joel, and Thacia inspire one another with a passage from the Song of David which reads: “God is my strong refuge and has made my way safe. He made my feet like hinds’ feet and set me secure on the heights. He trains my hands for war, so that my arms can bend a bow of bronze” (87). Thacia guesses that this bronze bow which David describes represents anything which seems impossible to a man without the helping power of God. Initially, this bronze bow becomes a symbol of Daniel’s quest for vengeance. He believes that God will empower him physically to wreak havoc on his Roman enemies. By the end of the story, however, it symbolizes Daniel’s own need for salvific love. Only love can bend a bow of bronze. Only love can change Daniel’s heart and bring him the peace for which he longs.