

Name: _____

Class: _____

Date: _____

SCORE/GRADE:

FINAL DRAFT: *The Bronze Bow*

Attach the final 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

Age 13

The Bronze Bow

Final 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 overcome their greatest struggle: hatred of the Romans. In the story, the image of the bronze bow represents [the idea](#) that with God's strength and love, one can overcome their hatred and bitterness. [Much improved!](#)

Thacia sees how the bronze bow represents the ability of God's strength to make the impossible possible. After reading a Psalm of David, Thacia, Joel, and Daniel, choose the bronze bow as their group's symbol because it signifies to them the strength to do the impossible. 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). [Omit period inside quotation marks.](#) They all believe the bronze bow signifies God's strength to help them fight and defeat the Romans. However, after hearing Jesus speak to the people about love, Thacia challenges Daniel's constant hatred of the Romans by asking him "why does he say we must love our enemies?" (Speare 178) In response to Jesus' teaching, she replaces her vow of hatred for the Romans with a desire to follow and obey Jesus. Thacia sees the bronze bow as an image of what can only be accomplished with God's strength.

At first Joel sees the bronze bow as just only as his rebel group's symbol, but gradually he understands ~~that it means~~ it to mean that with God's strength, he can do the impossible. 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 when says, "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' way to live with peace and love is better than living with hatred and violence. He understands now that by following Jesus, his 'bow' of hatred can be bent with God's love. Joel now believes the bronze bow symbolizes that with God's strength an impossible obstacle, his hatred for the Romans, can be overcome.

Daniel's impossible obstacle is his deep hatred of the Romans. I like the way you leave Daniel for last – powerful! He believes he must avenge his family's brutal death by 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 and finally living in peace. Daniel now believes 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 hatred and love the Romans by following Jesus' teaching. He accepts God's strength to bend the bow of his hatred with love and forgiveness. This is an elegant clincher sentence.

Speare 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, love, and forgiveness. Daniel, Joel, and Thacia all come to this conclusion and understand that Jesus deserves their loyalty. Daniel surrenders his vow of hatred for the Romans and learns to love and forgive them; Thacia accepts Jesus'

command to love one's enemies as the better vow to take; and Joel believes Jesus is the true leader he has been waiting for. *The Bronze Bow* describes how three people can overcome their greatest obstacles with God's strength and love.

Works Cited

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

Jane,

You have done a fine job of incorporating my suggestions and improving your essay. This is a strong interpretation, well supported by evidence from the text and elegantly structured.

Despite a few minor mechanical issues, it reads smoothly and displays an engaging style.

Well done indeed!

<u>Element</u>	<u>Grade</u>
<u>Thesis</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>Supports</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>Structure</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>Mechanics</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>Style</u>	<u>5</u>