

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

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

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

**SCORE/GRADE:**

**CHARACTER:** *The Bronze Bow*

In a single page, evaluate the thematic significance of this story's **PROTAGONIST** – 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.

Throughout the story, the most important thing to Daniel is freedom from Roman oppression. He wishes to help rid the country of the despised Roman rulers who imprisoned his brother, crucified his father, caused the death of his mother, and provoked the psychological torment of his sister. Telling his story to Joel and Thacia, Daniel says, "After my father died I made a vow. Maybe they would say a boy eight-years-old couldn't make a vow, a real one that was binding. But I did. I vowed I would pay them back with my whole life. That I would hate them and fight them and kill them. That's all I live for" (p. 82-83; see also p. 80).

Daniel is also motivated by a desire for loving relationships. He longs for a father-figure, a family, and a friend. Over the course of the story, Daniel's desires for revenge and loyalty to his oath become overshadowed by this desire for companionship. Through his relationship with Thacia, he becomes aware that love and hatred cannot share the same breast. Each is consuming, and Daniel is consumed by his hatred. Forced to choose between his vow and love, Daniel finds himself unable to do so. Rather than master of his wrath, he finds himself a prisoner of it. When he is eventually freed from this prison by the compassion of Jesus, he finds suddenly that knowing Christ is more important to him than his vow.

Daniel's struggle with bitterness and hatred is common to man. For this reason, the reader pities him in his isolation and loneliness, and rejoices in his budding maturity. Like Jesus, we hope for Daniel, just as we hope for ourselves. And like Daniel, our only hope is in Jesus.