

Name: _____

Class: _____

Date: _____

SCORE/GRADE:

CONTEXT: *The Bronze Bow*

On the lines below, answer the following question in a single paragraph. Be sure to refer to the events of this story to explain your answer.

Did the author suffer hardships in his life that might have made him think or feel a certain way about his subject? What evidence from the story itself supports your answer?

Elizabeth George Speare took her calling as wife and mother seriously, putting her writing career on a back-burner in order to give her family her undivided attention. Even when her children entered junior high and she turned back to writing, she drew literary inspiration from her love for children. She saw a dearth of uplifting juvenile fiction in the market. Realizing how impressionable young people were, she resolved to produce something which might inspire and strengthen them at this vulnerable age. In a famous acceptance speech for one of her Newbery Medals, she said, "I believe that all of us who are concerned with children are committed to the salvaging of love and honor and duty." In each of her books, she portrays sympathetic characters ennobled by calls of honor and duty. Perhaps her primary role as a mother gave her insights into the sufferings of young adults and their need for inspiration, encouragement, and vision.

A case in point, Speare's protagonist in *The Bronze Bow* is an embittered teenage boy, Daniel bar Jamin, whose quest for vengeance threatens to destroy both him and his family. Ministered to by the kind followers of Jesus, Daniel finds himself drawn to this prophet of God and his message of forgiveness. His ensuing relationship with Christ challenges his preconceptions about the nature of honor and duty. By the end of the story, he matures into a capable leader, a humble brother, and a fierce follower of the God of Love. His redemption inspires young readers to look beyond themselves for salvation.