

A Soul with Two Bodies (1928)

By Urann Thayer

DAY 1

Reading Assignment

beginning - middle of page 5 (paragraph ending "standing very still and listening to me")

Task 1

DIRECTIONS: As you read, make note of the following characters as they are introduced in the story. For each of the character, answer the clarifying question or questions following their name in complete sentences. You will use this activity to help you for a later assignment.

Example: narrator of first section: Why does he write his wife?

Answer: He is relating a story he discovered in northern Italy after finding two dead bodies. The story proper will tell the details from the point of view of one of these dead men.

Complete the rest on your own paper.

narrator of the first section (pages 1-2): What does he find in the chateau?

narrator (of the actual story, beginning on page 2): How is he relating the story so that the narrator of the first section knows it? Why was he in Italy? Why does he visit the chateau?

chateau in the Dolomite Mountains: What is it? What is it like on the outside? How does the narrator get in? What is it like on the inside?

Task 2

DIRECTIONS: For each days reading, summarize the action in no more than a paragraph. Remember: a summary only includes the most IMPORTANT events. Do NOT rewrite the story.

DAY 2

Reading Assignment

middle of page 5 (paragraph beginning "I waited a while longer") - end of page 10 (paragraph ending "Tell him, he's coming back ... and I'll be waiting")

Task 1

DIRECTIONS: As you read, make note of the following characters as they are introduced in the story. For each of the character, answer the clarifying question or questions following their name in complete sentences. You will use this activity to help you for a later assignment.

chateau in the Dolomite Mountains: What does the narrator find there that excites him so much? Why is he so happy at finding it?

narrator: What is the narrator's dream? What does the narrator decide about the dream that causes him to explore further? What does the narrator smell that is so striking? How does the narrator escape the power of the Graf?

Myra: In what state does the narrator find her?

the Graf: What is he doing to Myra? What had he attempted to do to the narrator? What powers does he display? What does the Graf tell the narrator before he dies?

Fred: Who is he? What does he tell the narrator? Why is odd about this message?

Task 2

DIRECTIONS: For each days reading, summarize the action in no more than a paragraph. Remember: a summary only includes the most IMPORTANT events. Do NOT rewrite the story.

DAY 3

Reading Assignment

end of page 10 (paragraph beginning "The Armistice came, and two months later") - end of p. 13 (paragraph ending "I would say he has been dead ten minutes!")

Task 1

DIRECTIONS: As you read, make note of the following characters as they are introduced in the story. For each of the character, answer the clarifying question or questions following their name in complete sentences. You will use this activity to help you for a later assignment.

the narrator: Why is he in Paris?

the Dawsons: How do they decide to amuse their guests at the party they throw? Does the party take this activity seriously (at first)? What changes their mind about this activity?

Professor Fallow: Who is he? What role does he play in the séance? How do you know that he doesn't believe in psychic powers? What goes wrong for him? What does he tell the narrator before he dies? Who is really giving the narrator this message? Why is that frightening?

the doctor: What does he tell the group that is so frightening? Why is it frightening?

Task 2

DIRECTIONS: For each days reading, summarize the action in no more than a paragraph. Remember: a summary only includes the most IMPORTANT events. Do NOT rewrite the story.

DAY 4

Reading Assignment

end of p. 13 (paragraph beginning "I walked home that night") - p. 18

Task 1

DIRECTIONS: As you read, make note of the following characters as they are introduced in the story. For each of the character, answer the clarifying question or questions following their name in complete sentences. You will use this activity to help you for a later assignment.

the narrator: Why is he so frightened upon leaving the Dawsons' party? What does he decide about his feelings for the girl Myra? What does he promise himself that he will never do? Why does the narrator go back to Italy?

Alhambra music-hall: Why is the narrator there? What kind of act does the narrator witness there? What goes wrong with the act? What is the message that is delivered to the narrator? From whom does he hear this message? Who is *really* delivering the message to him?

the old man on the train: What is unusual about his behavior? What is causing this behavior?

Task 2

DIRECTIONS: For each days reading, summarize the action in no more than a paragraph. Remember: a summary only includes the most IMPORTANT events. Do NOT rewrite the story.

DAY 5

Reading Assignment

p. 19 (paragraph beginning "Stacey waited no longer.") - middle of p. 23 (paragraph ending "I had entered the chateau where the fiend himself was waiting for me")

Task 1

DIRECTIONS: As you read, make note of the following characters as they are introduced in the story. For each of the character, answer the clarifying question or questions following their name in complete sentences. You will use this activity to help you for a later assignment.

tunnel in Italy: What happens there that is so frightening to the narrator? What does he see and smell that causes him such distress? How does the narrator know it was not just his imagination?

blind peasant: What is his behavior like (at first)? How does his behavior change? What is unusual about his behavior (given that he is blind)? What is causing this change in behavior?

chateau in the Dolomite Mountains: Why does the narrator return here after promising himself that he would not?

Task 2

DIRECTIONS: For each days reading, summarize the action in no more than a paragraph. Remember: a summary only includes the most IMPORTANT events. Do NOT rewrite the story.

DAY 6

Reading Assignment

middle of p. 23 (paragraph beginning "Meanwhile, the old man neared the door") - end

Task 1

DIRECTIONS: As you read, make note of the following characters as they are introduced in the story. For each of the character, answer the clarifying question or questions following their name in complete sentences. You will use this activity to help you for a later assignment.

blind peasant: What is unusual about his behavior in the chateau? How does he transform that allows him to capture the narrator?

the narrator: Whose body does he discover in the chateau? Why is he not in a position to run away when he discovers it? What does the narrator discover when he sees himself in the mirror? How does the narrator decide to defeat the Graf? What is the down side to this plan for the narrator? What is the narrator's final act before enacting his plan?

the Graf/the Count: What does he do to the narrator in the dark room? Why does he do this?

Myra: How does the girl find the narrator? Why does she scream when she encounters him?

Task 2

DIRECTIONS: For each days reading, summarize the action in no more than a paragraph. Remember: a summary only includes the most IMPORTANT events. Do NOT rewrite the story.