

**The Thing in the Forest**  
**By Bernard Capes**

**DIRECTIONS: Choose any TWO of the following paragraphs to write. Make sure you are setting up and introducing quotations, as this will be what I am looking for when this assignment is graded. Use the handout to help you do this effectively.**

**Unless the directions say otherwise, all evidence from the text in paragraphs needs to be quotation from this point onward. Paragraphs that do not do this will receive failing grades.**

1. From Elspet's point-of-view, she is a sinner for having helped the werewolf at the beginning of the story. Does the point-of-view of the story agree with this assessment of her actions? Either defend or argue against Elspet's self-judgment using evidence from the text (quotation) in support of your answer.
2. The story is at least partially concerned with religious devotion in the remote area of Hungary where the story is set. There is a church setting, a priest, and statue of the Virgin Mary that plays an important role in resolving the conflicts. Using evidence from the text (quotation) explain what the story is trying to communicate to the reader about the nature of religion or the nature of devotion.
3. Elspet pities the werewolf, and this creates both an internal conflict with herself (guilt) and an external conflict with Father Ruhl. Keeping in mind the resolution to either of these two conflicts, what is the story trying to communicate about advisability of showing pity for others. Use evidence from the text (quotation) in support of your answer.
4. The toppling of the statue at the end of the story might seem like it comes out of nowhere, in that at no point earlier in the story was there any foreshadowing that such a thing might be possible. However, even though there is no hint that the statue might be literally unsteady on its base, one can still make an argument that the falling statue is set up earlier in the story or that, at the very least, it makes sense given what details the story does include. Explain how this could be the case using evidence from the text (quotation).
5. In the end it is revealed that the werewolf is actually Father Ruhl. By making this character the fiercely intelligent priest, what message is the story trying to communicate to the reader. Explain using evidence from the text (quotation).
6. In terms of the resolution of the story, what is Elspet's defining characteristic. In other words, what personality trait makes it possible for there to be a happy ending? Defend your point of view by defining her personality using evidence from the text (quotation) and explaining how this characteristic proves important in saving her life from the werewolf.