

His men scattered, then returned with rope and stones which they tied to the dead men's feet. Then they carried them to the bank.

Mount Valérien continued to roar, its summit hidden now in a mountainous cloud of smoke.

Two soldiers took Morissot by the head and the feet, two others seized M. Sauvage. They swung the bodies for a moment then let go. They described an arc and plunged into the river feet first, for the weights made them seem to be standing upright.

There was a splash, the water trembled, then grew calm, while tiny wavelets spread to both shores.

A little blood remained on the surface.

The officer, still calm, said in a low voice: "Now the fish will have their turn."

And he went back to the house.

And all at once he caught sight of the sack of gudgeons in the grass. He picked it up, looked at it, smiled, shouted, "Wilhelm!"

A soldier in a white apron ran out. And the Prussian threw him the catch of the two and said: "Fry these little animals right away while they are still alive. They will be delicious."

Then he lighted his pipe again.

Review and Assess

Thinking About the Selection

1. **Respond:** Were you shocked by the outcome of this story? Why or why not?
2. (a) **Recall:** How does the wartime situation in Paris affect the Sunday habits of Morissot and Sauvage? (b) **Analyze:** What does their decision to defy the war and fish again tell you about their friendship?
3. (a) **Recall:** What do the two men decide about the nature of war? (b) **Analyze:** How does the setting of their discussion add to the tension of the story?
4. (a) **Recall:** How does the men's final choice lead to the end of the story? (b) **Hypothesize:** How could the outcome of the story have been different?
5. (a) **Synthesize:** What message does Maupassant convey by showing how war breaks in on the peacefulness of fishing? (b) **Generalize:** What does this story suggest about the effects of modern warfare on everyday life?
6. **Evaluate:** Is it effective to end the story with the Prussian officer's order to cook the fish? Explain. In answering, consider what this detail does or does not add to the central idea of the story.

Guy de Maupassant

(1850–1893)



The short stories of Guy de Maupassant (gē də mō pāsān) are filled with fascinating details of nineteenth-century

life. In his writing, forces such as a person's family, surroundings, physical makeup, and personality determine the outcome of events.

Born into an aristocratic family, Maupassant was apparently destined for success. As a young man he was a talented writer and won the attention of famous authors. Soon, he was famous in his own right. Unfortunately, his weaknesses caught up with him. Troubled by health problems, he died in his early forties. Yet he left "fortune" to every future reader: 300 short stories.