Federigo’s Falcon *from The Decameron* (page 785)

Active Reading SkillBuilder

**Predicting**

A *prediction* is a reasonable guess about what will happen in the future. Predictions can take into account the story’s characters, settings, and events. Predictions can also take into account hints, or foreshadowing, that the author gives in a story. As you read, make predictions about what will happen in “Federigo’s Falcon.” Note the lines from the tale that contribute to your predictions. Then continue reading and note the actual outcome.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>My Prediction</th>
<th>Lines It’s Based On</th>
<th>Actual Outcome</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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**Literary Analysis SkillBuilder**

**Irony**

*Irony* is a contrast between what is expected to happen and what actually does happen. *Situational irony* occurs when a character or the reader expects one thing to happen but something entirely different happens. "Federigo’s Falcon" is filled with examples of situational irony. In the chart below, list some expected situations and then describe what actually happens. An example has been provided.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What’s Expected</th>
<th>What Actually Happened</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Federigo believes that he will win the favor of Monna Giovanna through his lavish spending and wild gestures of love.</td>
<td>Federigo loses his wealth and is reduced to poverty. Monna Giovanna visits him only after he is impoverished.</td>
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<td>2.</td>
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<td>3.</td>
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Words to Know SkillBuilder

Words to Know
- anguish
- commend
- compel
- diminish
- discretion
- donor
- illustrious
- inevitably
- meagerly
- presumption

A. Circle the word in each group that has the same meaning, or a similar meaning, as the boldfaced word.

1. meagerly
   - neatly
   - poorly
   - fully
   - forcefully

2. anguish
   - anger
   - horror
   - delight
   - agony

3. illustrious
   - famous
   - wicked
   - creative
   - mysterious

4. diminish
   - expand
   - elevate
   - reduce
   - reconsider

5. commend
   - obey
   - criticize
   - interrupt
   - praise

B. Fill in the blank in each sentence with the correct Word to Know.

1. Elizabeth used great ________________ whenever she spoke with Sally, the town gossip.

2. The ________________ waited patiently for her turn to give blood.

3. The laces on my favorite boots ________________ wore out, forcing me to buy new ones.

4. With his stern voice, Principal Sanders could ________________ any student to tell the truth.

5. Heidi is known for tact and kindness, not arrogance and ________________.

C. Imagine the conversation that might have occurred if Monna Giovanna had simply told Federigo immediately what the purpose of her visit was. Write her statement to him and his reply to her, using at least five Words to Know in their dialogue.
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Selection Quiz

Recall the events in the story. Then answer each question in one or two sentences.

1. At the beginning of the story, how does Federigo try to win Monna Giovanna's love?

2. What happens to Federigo when he doesn't succeed in winning Monna Giovanna's love?

3. Explain the request that Monna Giovanna's son makes.

4. What reason does Monna Giovanna first give Federigo to explain her visit to him?

5. What does Federigo do as a result of Monna Giovanna's explanation?

6. What is the true reason for Monna Giovanna's visit?

7. When Federigo learns the true reason for Monna Giovanna's visit, he weeps. What does Monna Giovanna think he is weeping about?

8. What is the real reason for Federigo's tears?

9. What sad events follow Federigo's "mistake"?

10. What happy event ends the story?
Federigo's Falcon
from The Decameron (page 784)

Selection Test

A. Situational irony occurs when a character or the reader expects one thing to happen but something entirely different happens. In the chart below, list two examples of situational irony in "Federigo's Falcon," one involving Federigo's expectations and the other involving Monna's expectations. Then, describe what actually happens in each case. (10 points each)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What Federigo Expects</th>
<th>What Actually Happens</th>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What Monna Expects</th>
<th>What Actually Happens</th>
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B. Write the letter of the best answer. This exercise is continued on the next page. (6 points each)

1. The Queen tells the story of Federigo's falcon in order to persuade the ladies of the company to
   a. be kinder.
   b. be livelier.
   c. let love take them where it will.
   d. take control of their own love lives.

2. At the beginning of the story, Federigo is all of the following except
   a. wise.
   b. noble.
   c. wealthy.
   d. respected.

3. Monna responds to Federigo's love with
   a. hatred.
   b. satisfaction.
   c. indifference.
   d. kind attempts to dissuade him.
4. Monna hesitates to ask Federigo for his falcon because she thinks
   a. the falcon will do no good.
   b. Federigo will refuse her request.
   c. asking for the falcon would be cruel to Federigo.
   d. asking for the falcon would put her in Federigo’s power.

5. Which of the following is the main reason that Monna decides to marry Federigo?
   a. She deeply loves him.
   b. She desperately wants a husband.
   c. Her mourning period is over.
   d. Her brothers are pressuring her to marry.

C. Words to Know. Write the letter of the best answer. (4 points each)

   1. A person acting with discretion could be best described as
      a. impatient.  b. careful.  c. emotional.

   2. Guests who are fed meagerly would most probably describe their meal as
      a. skimpy.  b. adequate.  c. abundant.

   3. Anguish would most probably be caused by a
      a. victory.  b. slight injury.  c. great loss.

   4. If you wished to commend your brother, you might
      a. comfort him.  b. correct him.  c. praise him.

   5. To diminish your sister’s efforts would mean to
      a. lessen them.  b. support them.  c. ignore them.

D. Answer one of the following questions based on your understanding of the selection. Write your answer on a separate sheet of paper. (20 points)

   1. What effects does love have upon Federigo? Does he behave foolishly? admirably? Support your answer with reference to the selection.

   2. The French writer Andre Maurois said, “We owe to the Middle Ages the two worst inventions of humanity—romantic love and gunpowder.” Do you think the story of Federigo proves or disproves this opinion about romantic love? Support your answer with details from the selection.

E. Linking Literature to Life. Answer the following question based on your own experience and knowledge. Write your answer on a separate sheet of paper. (10 points)

   Do you think it is possible to truly love someone who does not care for you? Explain.