Lit. Notes

Justice Unit

Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

“The Lady or the Tiger?” by Frank Stockton

**Before reading connections:**

Would you trust your life to a friend? Why or why not? Who? Under what conditions?

Which is a stronger emotion—love or jealousy? Why?

How completely can one person ever know and understand another?

**Some background:**

During the Middle Ages in England, guilt or innocence was decided through a practice known as an ordeal. An accused person was physically tested, and the  outcome determined guilt or innocence. The accusers believed that supernatural forces controlled what happened. For instance, in the ordeal by water, the accused person was tied up and thrown into deep water. A person who floated was thought to be guilty; a person who sank was considered innocent.  Unfortunately, those who sank often drowned before they could be hauled back up.

**Vocabulary**

Idealism-

Doleful-

Gnashed-

Anguished-

Genial-

Florid-

Courtiers-

Ardor-

Devious-

Reveries-

Rapturous-

Presume-

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| **Text-dependent Questions** | **Evidence-based Answers – Use direct quotes and examples in your responses.** |
| How does the author show that the king is semi-barbaric? With support from the text, explain in one sentence how he is barbaric, and in another sentence, how he is civilized, or progressive. |  |
| When the author states that the king “was greatly given to self-communing,” what does this say about the way he rules? |  |
| Break sentence four of paragraph one into its individual parts (divided by commas and semi-colons). Explain what is being discussed in each part of the sentence and explain the purpose for the use of commas, semi-colons and conjunctions. How did this process help you to better understand the character of the king? |  |
| Drawing on the text, describe the king’s method of administering justice within the arena.  Why does this method appeal to the king? Why does it appeal to his subjects? Use evidence. |  |
| What characteristics does the king’s daughter share with her father? Use a direct quote to support your answer. |  |
| Describe the princess’s passion for her lover. What role does her barbarism play? |  |
| Why doesn’t the king approve of the youth’s love for his daughter? What clues from the text make this clear?  Why is this love considered criminal? Explain with evidence. |  |
| According to the story, “No matter how the affair turned out, the youth would be disposed of.” What does this mean? Would justice have been administered fairly? Why or why not?  Comment on the author’s word choice in the quote above. |  |
| Why do you think the young man trusts the princess to save his life? Drawing from the text, explain how he knows that she will guide him to choose the right door. |  |
| The princess has an internal conflict which is central to the story. We read that she experiences many “grievous reveries” about the fate of her lover. How do you think these influenced her decision? |  |

**After Reading Activity:**

**TDA – 5 paragraph Essay**

TOPIC: “The Lady or the Tiger?”

At the end of the story, “The Lady, or the Tiger?” by Frank R. Stockton, the author cautions the reader to carefully consider the question of whether it was the lady or the tiger that came out of the arena door. Although he never explicitly answers the question himself, he does provide evidence for both positions. Choose the outcome that you believe is best supported by the text, and compose an argument that includes at least three textual references to support your claim using direct quotes and examples.