

# Lions and Tigers and Bears, Oh My!

1. Verb - Past Tense
2. Noun - Plural
3. Adverb

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"Off there to the right - somewhere - is a large island," said Whitney. "It's rather a mystery - "

"What island is it?" Rainsford .

"The old charts call it 'Ship-Trap Island'," Whitney replied. "A suggestive name, isn't it? Sailors have a curious dread of the place. I don't know why. Some superstition - "

"Can't see it," remarked Rainsford, trying to peer through the dank tropical night that was palpable as it pressed its thick warm blackness in upon the yacht.

"You've good eyes," said Whitney, with a laugh, "and I've seen you pick off a moose moving in the brown fall brush at four hundred yards, but even you can't see four miles or so through a moonless Caribbean night."

"Nor four yards," admitted Rainsford. "Ugh! It's like moist velvet."

"It will be light enough in Rio," promised Whitney. "We should make it in a few days. I hope the jaguar guns have come from Purdey's. We should have some good sport hunting up the Amazon. Great sport hunting."

"The best sport in the world," Verb - Past Tense Rainsford.

"For the hunter," amended Whitney. "Not for the jaguar."

"Don't talk rot, Whitney," said Rainsford. "You're a big-game hunter not a philosopher. Who cares how a jaguar feels?"

"Perhaps the jaguar does," observed Whitney.

"Bah! They've no understanding."

"Even so, I rather think they understand one thing at least --fear. The fear of pain and the fear of death."

"Nonsense," laughed Rainsford. "This hot weather is making you soft, Whitney. Be a realist. The world is made up of two classes - the hunter and the hunted. Luckily, you and I are the Noun - Plural. Do you think we've passed that island yet?"

"I can't tell in the dark. I hope so."

"Why?" asked Rainsford.

"The place has a reputation - a bad one."

"Cannibals?" suggested Rainsford.

"Adverb. Even cannibals wouldn't live in such a

God-forsaken place. But it's got into sailor lore<sup>3</sup>, somehow. Didn't you notice that the crew's nerves seem a bit jumpy today?"