

Name: _____

English

An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge by Ambrose Bierce

1. In what state and in what time does the story take place?
2. How can you describe Peyton Fahrquhar, the man who is about to be hanged? What does he do for a living?
3. For what crime was Fahrquhar being hanged?

THE MOMENT OF DEATH...

Match each line from the story with its correct meaning...

_____ His whole body was racked and wrenched with an insupportable anguish!

A. He falls into the water.

_____ The intellectual part of his nature was already effaced; he had power only to feel, and feeling was torment.

B. He is floating, with nothing to stand on.

_____ As to his head, he was conscious of nothing but a feeling of fullness- if congestion.

C. He feels sharp pain in his neck.

_____ Then all at once, with terrible suddenness, the light about him shot upward with the noise of a loud splash; a frightful roaring was in his ears, and all was cold and dark.

D. He couldn't think; he could only feel pain.

_____ Keen, poignant agonies seemed to shoot from his neck downward through every fiber of his body and limbs.

E. Blood rushed to his head.

9. How does Fahrquhar end up in the woods?
10. What are three (3) things Fahrquhar observes that show that he is possibly dead or in another world?
11. What does Fahrquhar do all night? Where is he trying to get?

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