

A Story of Vengeance

Alice Dunbar-Nelson

How does Dunbar-Nelson make vengeance expose the person who seeks it?

TOTAL TIME	TUMBLETA PASSAGE LOCATION
30 minutes	Short story - decision and consequence

TEACHER SETUP

Open the work in the Enhanced Reader and cue the span using the START and END anchors below.

START	I had everything seemingly that humanity craved for, but I suffered
END	Vengeance is an arrow that often falleth and smiteth the hand of him that sent it.
PASSAGE ID	sec-dunbar-vengeance-01

THE MOVE

Trace how a character’s chosen response reveals motive and moral cost.

WHY THIS PASSAGE

The story’s tension is not only what one person does to another, but what revenge requires the avenger to become. Cause and consequence reveal character.

MARK

Underline the injury or grievance. Circle choices made in response. Box the moment when retaliation reveals more than it repairs.

NOTICE

- What does the character believe vengeance will accomplish?
- Which choice changes the moral balance?
- What consequence undercuts the original purpose?

THINK

Answer provisionally: How does Dunbar-Nelson make vengeance expose the person who seeks it? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response. Use at least two details from the assigned passage and explain how they support your interpretation.

CLOSE

Name the single detail that most changed or sharpened your interpretation, and say why.

STRONG ANSWER

The story turns vengeance into self-revelation: retaliation promises control, but the choices required to carry it out expose the avenger’s own limits and costs.

EVIDENCE

Use the grievance and one consequence of the retaliatory choice.

WATCH FOR

Do not decide whether revenge is “good” or “bad” in general. Analyze this story’s cause-and-effect design.

SOLO

Read independently.

SUPPORTED

Narration + highlighting.

LISTENING

Listen; same evidence task.

STUDENT PAGE · GRADE 9 · LESSON 340

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TUMBLETA PASSAGE LOCATION	Short story - decision and consequence

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Your teacher will open or cue the work in the Enhanced Reader. Use the location and verbatim anchors below to confirm the assigned span.

START

I had everything seemingly that humanity craved for, but I suffered

END

Vengeance is an arrow that often falleth and smiteth the hand of him that sent it.

READ / LISTEN TO THE ASSIGNED PASSAGE SOLO: read independently. SUPPORTED: use narration and highlighting. LISTENING: listen to the assigned passage. The question and evidence task stay the same.

1. MARK Underline the injury or grievance. Circle choices made in response. Box the moment when retaliation reveals more than it repairs.
2. NOTICE What does the character believe vengeance will accomplish? Which choice changes the moral balance? What consequence undercuts the original purpose?
3. THINK Answer provisionally: How does Dunbar-Nelson make vengeance expose the person who seeks it?
4. WRITE Write a short response using at least two pieces of evidence from this passage.
5. CLOSE Name the single detail that most changed or sharpened your interpretation, and say why.