

The Drawbridge Exercise

As he left for a visit to his outlying districts, the jealous Baron warned his pretty wife: "Do not leave the castle while I am gone, or I will punish you severely when I return!" But within a few hours of the Baron's departure, the young Baroness received word that her mother was dying and desperately wanted to see the Baroness. Despite her husband's warning, the Baroness decided to visit her mother who lived in the countryside nearby. The castle was located on an island in a wide, fast flowing river, with a drawbridge linking the island and the land at the narrowest point in the river. "Surely my husband will not return before dawn," she thought, and ordered her servants to lower the drawbridge and leave it down until she returned. After spending several hours with her mother, the Baroness returned to the drawbridge, only to find it blocked by a madman wildly waving a long, cruel knife. "Do not attempt to cross this bridge, Baroness, or I will kill you," he raved. Fearing for her life, the Baroness returned to her mother and asked for help. "I am weak and poor," her mother said, "I can not help." The Baroness then sought out a boatman on the river, explained her plight to him and asked him to take her across the river in his boat. "I will do it, but only if you pay me my fee of five Marks." "But I have no money with me!" the Baroness protested. "That is too bad. No money, No ride," the boatman said flatly. Her fear growing, the Baroness ran crying to the home of a friend, and after again explaining the situation, begged for enough money to pay the boatman his fee. "If you had not disobeyed your husband, this would not have happened," the friend said. "I will give you no money." With dawn approaching and her last resource exhausted, the Baroness returned to the bridge in desperation, attempted to cross to the castle, and was slain by the madman.

All six characters are listed below in alphabetical order. Rank each character (1-6) according to their behavior as well as their level of responsibility for the Baroness' death with 1 being the worse behavior and 6 being the most responsible. Your ranking on the same character will not necessarily match. For example, you might rank one character a 2 on behavior, but a 5 on responsibility. Justify your rankings in the spaces provided after each character.

| <u>Character</u> | <u>Behavior</u> | <u>Responsibility</u> | <u>Justification</u> |
|------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Baron | _____ | _____ | |
| Baroness | _____ | _____ | |
| Boatman | _____ | _____ | |
| Friend | _____ | _____ | |
| Madman | _____ | _____ | |
| Mother | _____ | _____ | |