

**Simplified Example of  
Contemporary Play Analysis**

**A Red Eagle Falling**

**Playwright: Ken Jones**

**By: Your Name**

**THEATRE APPRECIATION M W F at 10.00 am**

**Date: 00/00/0001**

**Note: This is just a guideline; you must use your own knowledge for each explanation for  
the play.**

## I. Plot

**Introduction:** A Red Eagle Falling is a play, which focuses on the struggles of a German fighter pilot known as Manfred von Richthofen also known as the Red Baron.

**Point of Attack:** Manfred got shot in one of his fights and brought down. He received a head wound; with this head wound,

**Rising action and climax:** he started seeing the spirits of the fighter pilots that he shot down.

**Falling action:** Katie Osterdorff, a German nurse tries to help him overcome this challenge.

**Resolution:** Because of war situations, she will be apart from Manfred for a long time.

## II. Characters

There are six characters in this play, five men and a woman. These characters are:

**Manfred Von Richthofen.** He is a famous German fighter pilot. He is famous for his over fifty kills in an early age of twenty-three. He was shot down and received a serious head wound. Due to this head wound, he began seeing the spirits of the fighter pilots he had shot down. He is the protagonist of this play. He is the kind of fighter pilot who runs first and assesses the situation, he will only attack if it is a sure kill.

**Captain.** He is a British fighter pilot that Manfred recently shot down, who is also product of his subconscious mind. He is one of the antagonists of the play. He gives challenges to Manfred through his guilt and conscience about killing all of those fighter pilots and he earns trophies and fame through taking another man's life.

**Kurt Shaeffer.** He is a German fighter pilot. He is a very young valiant fighter pilot. He flies alongside Manfred. He, unlike Manfred, loves the action he believes that one cannot be afraid of the unknown because there is nothing one can do about it. He is ready to die for his country and very proud of his kills. He aspires to be an ace as well at an early age.

**Katie Osterdorff.** She is a German nurse who fell in love with Manfred. She tried helping Manfred overcome his hallucinations that haunt him. She was re-assigned to a different medical location as the Americans entered the war. As a result, she will be apart from Manfred for a long time.

**Major.** Another British fighter pilot who Manfred recently shot down. He is as well a product of his subconscious mind. He is also one of the antagonists of the play. Disturbing Manfred through his conscience about all his kills. That the trophies and awards that he earns are by taking another man's life

**Lieutenant.** He is the third British fighter pilot that Manfred recently shot down. Like the others, he is also a product of his subconscious mind. He is also an antagonist in the play. Along with the Captain and the Major, they distract Manfred about all of those lives that he took away.

### **III. Setting**

The setting takes place in Manfred's room, somewhere in Germany and in his mind in the period of the First World War. Manfred's room is a part of an old house. The walls are filled with the serial numbers of the airplanes he shot down.

### **IV. Given Circumstances**

Manfred von Richthofen received a head wound in one of his clashes with the enemy. Along with the head injury he received are his hallucinations of the spirits of the fighter pilots that he shot down. Kurt Shaeffer told him that he should be proud of all his kills. However, their

views of fighting are very different. Manfred's view is that he would rather fly away from a battle if he knew that he will not succeed, while Kurt's view is that he would rather fight back than to fly away and look like a coward.

#### **V. Conclusion**

It is a great story. However, Manfred did not really do much intervention to escape his agony. The way that Manfred got freed from his agony from the spirits is that he accepts his guilt, that he actually feel bad for killing as those pilots. What at first may seem like a man versus man conflict, Manfred versus those three British fighter pilots were actually a man versus self-conflict, as Manfred is in a bout against his self, against his conscious, against his guilt.