

NAME:

COURSE:

Ricochet

Owen **brooded** for a week, a scheme **simmering** in his mind.

*He might have pulled the trigger himself - but he knew his courage would fail him. Huw had only to look at him with those blazing black eyes of his and Owen would feel his strength of purpose drain away into the ground. And how to convince people it was an accident? No, Huw must be the one to pull the **trigger**. And hadn't the **slaughter** of an entire flock, a lifetime's work, been known to drive a man to suicide? Hadn't Huw been **morose** of late, since their loss? What better place to choose than his brother's home to spare his wife and child from finding his body?*

Thus was born the idea of the trap.

***Grudgingly**, Huw had agreed to come down to Owen's cottage this Sunday afternoon to talk about the farm. Huw would fling open the door and it would all be over. He wouldn't even suffer or know a moment's suspicion. A small price to pay for another's happiness, Owen thought.*

*Owen would walk back from the village after chapel, clutching his watertight alibi. It would take only minutes to falsify the evidence, to remove all signs of wire and **strings** and to place the gun in the dead man's hands. Then Owen would run in innocent horror to telephone the police. The widow would weep in his arms.*

Now Owen's heart thundered in his breast as he left his cottage and his gun, waiting, behind him.

The village lay freezing in the Sunday afternoon quiet. Though not, apparently, too cold for Mrs Price, Groceries, forever at her door.

QUESTIONS

1. Match the following words to the definitions (1 point).

Brood	Simmering	Trigger	Slaughter	Morose	Grudgingly	String
						Very unhappy and bad-tempered.
						Unwillingly, reluctantly, without wanting to do it.
						Massacre, the killing of animals.
						To think for a long time
						Boiling, planning, getting ready.

2. Answer the following questions according to the reading (5 points).

a. Why did Owen and Huw have to kill all the sheep?

b. Who was Margo's father?

