

## Post-Reading Worksheet for “The Dancing Girl”

1. Paraphrase the two quotes below.

Quote from Story	Paraphrase the Quote
<p>With Aizawa’s help she had not wanted for daily necessities, it was true, but this same benefactor had spiritually killed her” (24).</p>	
<p>“I might lose not only my homeland but also the very means by which I might retrieve my good name. I was suddenly struck by the thought that I might die in this sea of humanity—in this vast European capital. I showed my lack of moral fiber and agreed to go” (23).</p>	

3. What do the two passages above reveal about views of national identity and obligation to one’s home?
4. At the end of the story, we are told that “friends like Aizawa Kenkichi are rare indeed, and yet to this very day there remains a part of me that curses him” (24). What did the narrator mean by this?

5. Why were his countrymen so critical of his decision? What might this reveal about social attitudes of early 20<sup>th</sup>-century Japan?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. If Elise's madness had not removed the choice, how do you think the narrator would have resolved his dilemma?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. How does Mori Ogai's story comment on the social landscape of 20<sup>th</sup>-century Japan? Before responding, please consider who/what Elise might symbolize.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. Do you find the narrator's confusion to be sincere? Why or why not?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. What characteristics of modern Japanese literature are reflected in this story? Reference your notes on Japanese Modernism to support your position.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
10. What perspective on modernization does this story illuminate?