

TESS OF THE D'URBERVILLES

THOMAS HARDY THE AUTHOR

Thomas Hardy was born on 2nd June 1840 in Dorset a rural region of Southwestern England that was to become the focus of his fiction. His father, Thomas worked as a stone mason and local builder, and married his mother Jemima towards the end of 1839. Jemima was well read and she educated Thomas until he went to his first school at the age of eight

For several years he learned Latin and demonstrated academic potential. Because Hardy's family lacked the means for a university education, his formal education ended at the age of sixteen, when he was apprenticed to a local architect who lived in the city of Dorchester.

Hardy trained as an architect in Dorchester before moving to London in 1862. Hardy never felt at home in London because he was acutely conscious of class divisions and his social inferiority. During this time he became interested in social reform. After five years, he returned to Dorset and decided to dedicate himself to writing.

In 1870, while on an architectural mission, Hardy met and fell in love with Emma Gifford whom he married in 1874. Although they later became estranged, Emma's subsequent death in 1912 had a traumatic effect on him.

In 1914, Hardy married his secretary Florence, Emily Dugdale who was 39 years his junior. However, he remained preoccupied with his wife's death and tried to overcome his remorse by writing poetry. Hardy became ill in old age and died on 11th January 1928.

The Title

Tess of the d'Urbervilles is a tragic novel that tells the sad story of a young country girl, Tess Durbeyfield and the troubles she has in her relationships with two men. She marries one and kills the other for which she is hanged. The change in her last name from the common sounding Durbeyfield to its nobler original d'Urberville is what sets the tragedy in motion. To call her "Tess of the d'Urbervilles" as though she were a great aristocratic lady makes the title ironic.

Summary of the Novel

Phase the First: The Maiden.

The novel starts with Parson Tringham informing Jack Durbeyfield, the drunken father of a large, poor family, that he is actually the descendant of the d'Urbervilles, an ancient noble family. Durbeyfield celebrates this discovery with more drink and the hiring of a carriage he cannot afford.

His daughter, 16-year-old Tess Durbeyfield, is embarrassed by his behavior. She is with other young women of the village for a celebration consisting of a procession and then a dance. At the dance on the village green, Tess sees a man readers know to be Angel Clare, who, with his brothers, is passing through the village of Marlott. While Angel dances with the local girls, he notices Tess only as he is leaving and does not dance with her.

Later that night Tess goes to the inn to retrieve her father. He is to set out to market that night with the family's beehives, but he is too drunk to go. Tess and her nine-year-old brother Abraham go instead. Abraham falls asleep, and with no one to talk to Tess falls asleep as well. The horse drifts from the road and is killed in an accident. Jack refuses to sell the horse's corpse despite the family's need of money. With no horse and with Jack's newfound sense of entitlement from his noble ancestry, he and his wife come up with the solution to send Tess to their newly discovered d'Urberville relations.

Tess goes reluctantly, feeling responsible for the horse's death. There she meets Alec, her supposed cousin. The present d'Urberville family is really Stoke-d'Urberville, and no relation to the d'Urbervilles, although Tess's family does not know this. Simon Stoke, having made a great deal of money, added the name of a defunct aristocratic family to his own. Alec d'Urberville, Tess's "cousin," is flirtatious and offers Tess a job caring for his mother's chickens. When Tess goes to Trantridge to begin her job, Alec arrives to give her a ride in his carriage. He uses the opportunity to be physically aggressive. At a loss as to how to deal with him, she resists and implores him to respect her wishes. Over the next four months, Alec continues to be forward, and Tess continues to reject him.

One night when Tess is in town with a group of fellow workers, he confronts her again. She leaves with some of the others, but a verbal altercation with one of them prompts her to accept a ride from Alec when he appears again. Alec intentionally takes her off the path, and they get lost. While he is out trying to find out where they are, Tess falls asleep. When he returns and sees her there asleep, he rapes her.

Phase the Second: Maiden No More

Tess decides to leave Trantridge and the d'Urbervilles. Alec comes after her, going so far as to suggest marriage, but she will not accept his proposals. She returns to her parents' house and tells her mother what has happened. Her mother suggests she marry him, but Tess refuses.

The novel jumps forward to August. Tess is in the field working, and a baby is brought to her by her sister Liza-Lu. Tess nurses the infant, for whom she has mixed feelings, but as the story progresses she wants her son to thrive. Unfortunately he soon becomes seriously ill. She wants the parson to baptize him, but her father refuses, saying that she's disgraced the family enough and he doesn't want the parson involved. So Tess herself baptizes her son, calling him Sorrow, before he dies. When she asks the parson if her baptism will save her son's soul, he is moved by her tears and, against church dogma, tells her that the baptism is legitimate. She also persuades him to let her bury her son in the churchyard at night, when no one can see.

Phase the Third: The Rally

Two years have passed, and Tess, now 20, has decided to move forward with her life away from Marlott. She takes a position as a dairymaid at Talbothays, a farm some distance away from both Trantridge and Marlott. Tess settles in, getting along well with the other dairymaids and her employers. Also at the farm is Angel Clare, whom she remembers from the dance at Marlott four years ago. He is learning about dairy farming as he wants to become a farmer.

Tess and Angel share a mutual attraction, which grows steadily. The other milkmaids – Retty, Marian, and Izz – all believe themselves in love with Angel, who is handsome and personable; adoring him is something of a group sport. At first Tess resists her feelings, having decided never to marry. Eventually however, when Angel embraces her she weeps, and he declares he loves her.

Phase the Fourth: The Consequence

Angel visits his parents, whereupon he hears a story about his father's encounter with a young, wealthy man falsely claiming to be a d'Urberville. Angel tells them about Tess, too. Shortly after his visit home he returns to the dairy farm and proposes to Tess, who refuses. Angel continues to court her, and although she admits loving him she continues to refuse marriage.

Eventually Angel's affection and Tess's own affection for him wear down her resistance, and Tess agrees to marry him. She tries on several occasions to tell Angel about her past as she doesn't want to deceive him, but she can't bring herself to confess. Instead of her real secret, she tells him she is a d'Urberville. She later writes him a letter explaining what happened to her and slips it under his door. When he treats her as if nothing has changed, she thinks all is well at first. But soon after, having heard nothing from Angel, Tess goes to his room and finds the letter under the carpet. The wedding is set for New Year's Eve, and right before it she tries again to tell him. He dismisses her worries and then says he doesn't want to know.

They are married and head to the house he has rented for their honeymoon. Their luggage is delayed, and when it arrives they discover that Retty and Marian, devastated by the marriage, have taken bad turns, Retty has attempted suicide, and Marian has begun to drink heavily. Tess is saddened by their reaction to Angel being out of their reach, and she decides to tell him her secret.

But first, Angel too has a secret. He confesses he spent 48 hours in debauchery with a woman. Tess brushes it off as the past and is not bothered by it. Infact she thinks he will be more accepting of her secret, which she starts to tell him.

Phase the Fifth: The Woman Pays

While Tess thinks that Angel's confession places them on the same footing, Angel feels that Tess's shameful past is far worse than his. He rejects her, claiming that her early seducer is her true husband, and she is desolate. Admitting that she was more "sinned against" than a sinner, he nonetheless maintains she is not the woman he fell in love with and insists they part ways. He

cannot bear the thought of her impurity. For two days they remain at the rented house. Angel goes out, and she acts as if she were his servant. She offers to kill herself, and he orders her not to do so.

Angel has a strange sleepwalking episode in which he wraps Tess in a sheet and carries her to the abbey. He crosses water and, in that moment, considers drowning them both. He does not, and the sleeping Angel deposits her in a grave. Tess worries the night air and dampness might make Angel sick.

Angel and Tess leave, stopping at the dairy, and Tess then goes to her parents' house. Angel visits his parents, too, and then prepares to leave for Brazil. He gives Tess 50 pounds, with another 30 to follow, and tells her to contact his father if she needs anything. He orders her not to follow him and to write to him only in an emergency.

Before Angel leaves he encounters both Mercy Chant (whom he was expected to marry) and Izz Huett (from the dairy). He asks Izz to go with him to Brazil; she accepts, but he retracts his invitation almost immediately when Izz lets him know how deeply Tess loves him.

Eight months later Tess has run out of money. She gave 45 pounds to her parents. The dairy where she has been working has let her go, and she is at a loss. Her friend Marian from Talbothays Dairy has told her of a farm where she has found work, and Tess joins her there, signing a contract to work there until March.

Izz also joins them briefly, and Marian reveals to Tess that Angel asked Izz to go to Brazil with him. Tess once again blames herself for Angel's behaviour and decides she ought to have written to him more often. She decides she will go see his parents. She walks the 15 miles to where they reside. When she gets there, she overhears his brothers discussing Angel's unfortunate marriage, and consequently she decides not to approach the Clares. As she leaves she sees the local "ranter" (a kind of preacher) who, to her shock, is Alec d'Urberville.

Phase the Sixth: The Convert

Alec follows Tess. As she did four years ago, she tells him she is not interested in his attentions and rebuffs him repeatedly. He has become an evangelist preacher who delivers fiery sermons, influenced by none other than Mr. Clare. Tess tells him about Sorrow, and he chastises her for not coming to him. She asks him to leave her in peace, and he asks her to vow not to tempt him into sin.

Appearing at the farm where Tess works, Alec offers to take her away and shows her a marriage license. She refuses and tells him she's already married. Alec tears up the license but still wants to take care of her. Tess refuses, even as Alec points out she is a deserted wife. Tess slaps him with her glove, and he leaves.

He returns later to her cottage, where they discuss religion. Tess parrots Angel's words, admitting she doesn't understand much but thinking if Angel says it, it must be right. Between his interest in

Tess and what she shares about religion Alec loses his faith and surrenders his role as a preacher, returning to his former worldly ways. He offers to help Tess's family, and again she asks him to leave her in peace.

The latest encounter with Alec spurs Tess to write to Angel begging him to return or let her come to him. She asks him to save her. But she receives no reply.

At this time Tess also gets a visit from her sister Liza-Lu, who informs her their parents are ill. Tess abandons her contract and goes home to look after them. She tends the farm and soon discovers her father's "illness" seems his usual one: alcohol and laziness. Joan recovers, but Jack dies suddenly from an existing heart condition. Alec appears again offering help.

The Durbeyfields' lease on their house is not renewed partially because of Tess's status as a "fallen woman," and Joan has taken rooms in Kingsbere, the d'Urbervilles' ancestral seat. When they go there, however, there are no rooms. They take shelter for the night at the d'Urberville tomb, although Alec again offers to look after Joan and the children. In her desperation Tess laments she is "on the wrong side" of the tomb.

Meanwhile Izz and Marian write to Angel to tell him of Tess's despair and her family's dire circumstances.

Phase the Seventh: Fulfillment.

Angel returns from Brazil, looking sickly from the illness that has not left him completely, and begins to seek out his wife. Joan Durbeyfield is not very forthcoming to his initial inquiry, so he goes to see her in person. She is reluctant to reveal Tess's whereabouts but says the family has a provider, eventually telling Angel that Tess is now living in Sandbourne.

When Angel finds Tess in a wealthy area he is surprised. He shows up at her apartment and finds her beautifully dressed, but she is not happy to see him and tells him he has come too late. He asks if she rejects him because of his health and tells her he has come for her, adding his parents now will welcome her. She continues to insist he is too late, reminding him that she wrote and he didn't come to her. As she finally explains, she has gone to Alec, who has been as a husband to her, even though she hates him.

She goes back inside, and Angel leaves in shock. He goes to his hotel, where he receives the news his brother Cuthbert is engaged to marry Mercy Chant. After Angel leaves the hotel and the town, Tess overtakes him.

Tess has killed Alec. She explains that she felt she had to do it: Alec wronged her in the past, and now he has hurt Angel through her and torn them apart. She explains she was obliged to go to Alec because Angel had left her and she had nowhere to turn. On hearing Tess has killed Alec, Angel has a mixed reaction. On one hand he is horrified by her actions, but on the other he is awed she did so for love of him. He promises not to desert her and to protect her.

They go away together, and for five days they remain shut off from the world. During this time she asks him to marry her sister, Liza-Lu, when she is gone. They reach Stonehenge, and Tess falls asleep on one of the flat stones. While she sleeps the authorities arrive, allowing her to wake up naturally before they arrest her. The novel closes with Angel and Liza-Lu hand in hand in the capital city of Wessex; as the black flag is raised to signify Tess has been executed for her crime, they sink down, but then rise up again and walk away together.

PLOT SUMMARY

The Durbeyfields are a poor family. They think they are related to the d'Urbervilles (a rich family). They send Tess to the d'Urberville's house to get money. They find out they are not related. Tess meets this guy named Alec D'urberville. He likes her. He gets Tess a job. Then one night Alec rapes her. Tess goes home and is pregnant with Alec's baby. The baby is born and dies.

Tess gets a job at a dairy farm. She meets a guy named Angel Clare who recognizes her from a long time ago. They fall in love. He asks her to marry him. She wants to say no and tell him about her past. She chickens out and says yes, so they get married. She tries to tell him in a letter but he never gets it. Then he tells her they will confess their sins after they are married. So after the wedding, they reveal their sins. He had sex with an older woman and she was raped by Alec D'Urberville. He is angry at her. She leaves and he tells her not to come back until he comes and gets her.

Then Angel goes to Brazil to be a farmer. Tess goes back to work at the dairy farm. Tess visits Angel's family. She hears his brothers talking about the bad marriage and sees Alec, who has become a preacher. He quits the preaching to hit on Tess. Then Tess finds out her mom is sick. She goes home. Her mom gets better but her dad dies. The family moves.

Angel comes home from Brazil. He finds Tess and forgives her. She is with Alec. So she kills Alec and runs off with Angel. Then she is caught, goes to prison and is given the death penalty.

Practice Question

Examine Thomas Hardy's effective use of setting in Tess of the d'Urbervilles.

- Tess of the d'Urbervilles as a tragic novel examines the social and economic life of the Victorian society from the perspective of rustics (rural folk).
- Setting is (place) where and (time) when events occur to characters. This involves physical, time, social, psychological settings.
- Setting is suitably used to portray characters and reveal their traits, expose themes, develop plot, evokes feelings and teaches moral lessons.

Physical Places

- Jack Durbeyfield meets Parson Tringham – tells him he is a d'Urberville.

Marlott - May Day dance – Tess sees Angel but they don't talk/dance

- Tess and Abraham have to take beehives to Casterbridge
 - Letter from Alec – giving her work at the Slopes.
 - Tess returns home pregnant, she has a baby who later dies.
 - Tess' father dies, family is evicted and seek out a new house.
 - Alec is near Tess and supportive to the family – wins her back.
- Rolliver's Inn
- Mr. Durbeyfield is drinking – celebrating his new status.
 - Mrs. Durbeyfield, Abraham and Tess go to fetch him.
 - Joan (Mrs. Durbeyfield) suggests sending Tess to claim kin with a great rich lady at Trantridge → Husband is reluctant but accepts.
- Trantridge
- Tess given work in managing poultry farm
- The Slopes
- Led to Mrs. D'Urberville's presence – expected to whistle for the birds and be nice to them
 - Alec takes advantage.
- The Chase
- Alec rapes Tess – It is night, there's fog, Tess is tired and the place is unfamiliar to her.
- Talbothays
- Tess gets work as a milkmaid at Talbothays dairy.
 - Makes friends with Marian, Retty and Izz
 - Meets Angel who courts her, (proposes) and asks for marriage.
 - They wed (none of their parents attends the ceremony)
- Emminster
- Angel tells his parents of a woman he wants to marry (they encourage him to marry Ms. Mercy Chant)
 - He goes home after wedding without the bride.
 - Tells parents of his decision of going to Brazil
 - Tess after a year of marriage to Angel, tries to go and tell in-laws of her plight – no success.
 - Meets Alec on her unfruitful journey back.
- Wellbridge
- The two love-birds confess their past lives
 - Angel refuses to forgive Tess
 - They separate after 3 days of estrangement
 - Angel takes Tess via Talbothays to Marlott, gives her money and leaves.
- Flintcomb Ash-
- Tess starts hard work, even faints one time
 - Meets Marian there, Izz also joins them
 - Her employer is the man Angel strikes at the inn
 - Alec courts Tess: asks her to marry him, offers to help her family and says she is a deserted wife.
- Sandbourne
- Angel finds Tess at an Inn called 'The Herons'
 - Tess confronts Alec for his deception and kills him

- She pursues Angel and confesses murdering Alec
- Stonehenge - Tess asks Angel to marry Liza – Lu after her death.
- Police arrest Tess and put her in custody.
- Wintonchester - Tess is executed.

Time Setting

- Morning - Tess taken to Mrs. D'Urberville's presence – there's hope (a new beginning)
 - Goes to church on Sunday – has innate love of melody inherited from her mother
 - Going to Flintcomb – Ash
 - Going to Emminster – to her in-laws.
 - Tess stabs Alec
 - Tess is executed
 - Tess arrested by police
- Afternoon - The May Day dance – girls well dressed and gay
 - Angel proposes to Tess at Talbothays –
 - The cock crows three times as they leave after wedding.
 - Sees Alec preaching on her return from Emminster.
- Night - Mr. Durbeyfield drinking at Rolliver's Inn.
 - Tess and Abraham take beehives to Casterbridge – Prince dies
 - Tess raped at The Chase – the oldest wood in England.
 - Sorrow dies and is buried at night.
 - Confessions of their past lives is at night (Tess and Angel)

Social Setting

- May Day dancers – Tess among them – upholding an old tradition
- Rolliver's inn – drunkards meet here – Mr. Durbeyfield among them
- Talbothays dairy – workers and their boss are free, friendly, loving fun making, work together etc.
- Flintcomb - Ash – master is mean, over works, harsh, indifferent.
- Church members who gossip – are unforgiving, condemn Tess, hypocrites etc.
- Policemen hunt down and arrest Tess for murder – justice prevails.
- Alec (the convert) and the people he is preaching to religious
- Abandons them on seeing Tess and backslides hypocrisy

Psychological

- Tess - Angel doesn't dance with Tess
 - Death of Prince
 - Raped by Alec, impregnated and child dies
 - Ridiculed by society for illegitimate pregnancy
 - Church becomes hostile to her – they gossip about her.

- Angel separates with her on honey moon, deserts her as he goes to Brazil, doesn't communicate to her (doesn't reply any of her letters)
Loves a wrong woman – the woman's background.
- Angel - rejected by his wife when he returns 'Will you go away, Angel, and never come any more?'
- Alec - Is restless from the time he sees Tess when he is preaching – begins courting her again
- Mrs. Durbeyfield – Her husband dies
 - Family is evicted
 - Can't provide for her children
 - Wants a gentleman to marry the daughter.

SETTING

Phase the First

The Maiden

- Marlott
 - Jack Durbeyfield meets Parson Tringham on his way home in the evening.
 - On the May – Day dance Angel and his brothers (Felix and Cuthbert) on a walking tour stop by the gate on the highway. Angel dances with some girls before going away.
 - Tess returns home to find the mother and her siblings.
 - Mrs. Durberyfield, Abraham and later Tess go to Rolliver's Inn to fetch their father.
- Rolliver's Inn – Mr and Mrs Durbeyfield in the bedroom with others
 - Joan Durbeyfield suggests sending Tess to claim kin with a great rich lady at Trantridge who is a d'Urberville.
 - Abraham joins and Tess too. They return home.
- Marlott the
 - Tess is woken up by her mother. Her father can't deliver the beehives to the retailers in Casterbridge.
 - Tess goes with Abraham but Prince is killed on the way. Carcass is returned and buried.
- Trantridge- Tess walks to Shaston from Marlott. She takes a van to Trantridge Cross and walks to The Slopes where Alec d'Urberville welcomes her. She returns to Marlott.
- Marlott
 - Letter inviting Tess' services in managing poultry farm.
 - Alec visits Tess' family after a week – Tess isn't home.
 - Tess accepts to go out of necessity.
 - She is accompanied by mother and her siblings. Alec takes her.
- The Slopes- Tess is given lodgings in the gardener's cottage.
 - She is led to Mrs. d'Urberville's presence in the morning.
 - Tess is expected to whistle for the birds and be kind to them.

- Alec teaches her to whistle and says he is out of his (mother's) books.
- Chaseborough
(Sept)
- Tess has gone to Chaseborough where other cottage staff are.
 - Alec offers her a ride home which she turns down.
 - Later, Tess and Car Darch, get into a fight over Car's jealousy at Alec's attention towards Tess.
 - Alec rides up and rescues Tess from a group of resentful women.
 - He takes her past the Trantridge track and stops at The Chase. Taking advantage of fog, Tess' fatigue and unfamiliarity of the place, he rapes her.

Phase the Second Maiden No More

- Sunday morning in late October, Tess walks back to Marlott.
 - Alec pursues and offers her a ride home. He acknowledges his mistake and begs Tess' forgiveness. Leaves her near home.
 - She meets a sign painter whose messages preach against sin/vice
- Marlott- Tess meets her mother first and they share Tess' experiences.
 - Tess is visited in the afternoon by several young girls
 - She goes to church one Sunday morning after a few weeks. People turn and whisper to each other about her.
 - In August Tess is seen working as a field labourer harvesting corn.
 - Her siblings bring a baby for her to breastfeed during lunch break.
 - Later at night the infant falls ill. Sensing that the child will die yet he is not baptized, Tess gathers her siblings and baptizes the infant herself, naming him 'Sorrow'
- The child dies. He is buried at night in a shabby corner of the churchyard reserved for unbaptized infants, notorious drunkards, suicides etc.
- In May, a letter reaches Tess from a former friend of her mother's that a skillful milkmaid is required at Talbothays dairy.

Phase the Third The Rally

- Talbothays
- Tess, now 20 years leaves her home for the second time.
 - She arrives at Talbothays late in the afternoon at milking time. Mr. Richard Crick, the dairyman warmly welcomes her.
 - Angel Clare is recognized by Tess among these workers.
 - One of the milkmaids discloses more information about Angel and his family to Tess at night in the apartment they share.
 - Angel and Tess are drawn to each other daily. Hardy alludes them to Adam and Eve before their fall.
 - Mr. Crick tells the story of a man who impregnates a young girl when the milk does not turn to butter. Tess feels 'ridiculed.'
 - In July on a Sunday morning having been at Talbothays for two months, Tess, Marian, Retty and Izz are going to church. Downpour has flooded the creek. Angel coming from the opposite direction volunteers to carry each girl across.

- Tess' companions tell her, although Angel likes her best, he is meant to marry another woman chosen by his family.
- Angel tells Tess of his love for her in July (the month of heat) among the cows.

Phase Fourth **The Consequence**

- Talbothays - One morning at breakfast time a maid observed that she had not seen anything of Mr. Clare that day.
- Dairyman Crick tells them Angel has gone home to Emminster to spend a few days with his relatives (family).
- Emminster - Angel joins the family (Mr and Mrs. Clare, Rev. Felix, Rev. Cuthbert) at breakfast hour and they welcome him.
- He walks with his two brothers after breakfast and return for a meal.
 - After family prayers in the evening Angel tells his father fate or providence has thrown in his way a woman he intends to marry.
 - His parents encourage him to marry Ms. Mercy Chant.
 - They tell him it is better not to act in a hurry.
 - Angel is accompanied by his father on the morning of his departure and relates his encounter with Alec d'Urberville.
- Talbothays - Angel returns to the dairy and asks Tess to marry him. Tess says that she cannot.
- Angel volunteers to drive the milk to the train station in Egdon Heath and asks Tess to accompany him.
 - During the ride, in a downpour of rain, Angel learns that Tess comes from the d'Urberville family.
 - Tess consents to his marriage proposal and kisses Angel.
 - Tess writes to her mother and receives a response from her by the end of the week.
 - The two love birds have informed Mr. and Mrs. Crick and the girls (Marian, Izz and Retty) that they are going to get married.
 - Tess sets the date of their wedding as December 31.
 - Tess' bridal gown arrives and the wedding arrangements are completed.
 - Tess and Angel, travel to the nearby town on Christmas Eve. Two Trantridge men see Tess and talk of her past openly. Angel confronts them, striking one on the chin.
 - Tess writes a note to Angel explaining her history and slips it under his door. He never reads it.
 - On wedding day, none from the Durbeyfield or Clare families attends the ceremony.
 - They are ridden in a Durberville coach – foretelling a tragic event.
 - A white rooster crows as they leave Talbothays.
 - They go to an old d'Urberville home in Wellbridge, with portraits on the walls.
 - Tess receives a package from the Clare family.
 - Kail Jonathan delivers their luggage from Talbothays.
 - Tells them Retty tried to commit suicide, Marian gets very drunk and Izz depressed.
 - Angel and Tess confess their past sins.

Phase the Fifth The Woman Pays

- Wellbridge
- Angel cannot forgive Tess for her past.
 - Angel sleeps on the couch downstairs
 - At night Angel in a deep sleep-walking state enters Tess' room, carries her out and crosses a river into a small old chapel where he lays her in an empty stone coffin.
 - Tess rouses him and leads him back to the house.
 - After 3 days of estrangement, the two agree to part.
 - They go via Talbothays upto Marlott where Angel stops near the entrance to her hometown and gives Tess a good sum of money. He tells Tess to write to him via his parents if she needs anything.
- Marlott
- Tess enters the village through a back lane and goes home stealthily. She tells her mother her plight and both cry.
 - A few days later, she receives a note from Clare telling her he has gone to the North of England to look at a farm.
 - Tess gives her mother half the fifty pounds from Angel and leaves home.
- Emminster
- Angel goes to his parents at Emminster.
 - They are surprised to see him without Tess, the bride.
 - Angel tells his parents of his decision to go to Brazil. He would pick Tess to join him once he is settled there.
 - Angel while returning from a little town the next day meets Mercy Chant. He tells her, 'I think I am going crazy.'
- Wellbridge
- Angel meets Izz Huett and pays the farmer for his rent. He tells Izz he is going to Brazil and asks her to go with him instead of Tess. Izz tells him nobody could love him more than Tess did and he reconsiders his decision
 - Tess is on her way to the upland farm written to her of by Marian. The man Angel knocked down at the inn for insulting Tess overtakes and talks to her.
 - She enters a plantation (wood) for the night. In the morning she discovers several wounded pheasants whose suffering she ends by breaking their necks.
- Flintcomb-Ash-
- Tess who is walking to Flintcomb-Ash puts on a handkerchief as though she has a toothache to ward off men who might find her attractive.
- Evening
- She finds Marian who takes her to the farm-house where she agrees to work upto Old Lady Day (April 6th).
 - Tess begins hard work. Marian writes to Izz Huett who joins them shortly for work.
 - The farmer sends ladies to a nearby farm to make roof thatching. Tess recognizes Car Darch and her sister but they do not remember her.
 - Tess meets her employer, the very man Angel strikes at the inn over insulting her. Tess who stays behind with Izz and Marian to finish her work is overcome by exhaustion and faints.
 - When she recovers, Marian tells her how Angel had asked Izz to accompany him to Brazil.

- Emminster
- On Sunday, a year after her marriage to Angel, Tess goes to Emminster to inform her in-laws of her plight and find out if they have heard from Angel.
 - Tess overhears Angel's brothers talk of his ill-considered marriage to a dairymaid. They even discover Tess' walking boots stuffed into the hedge which they take away.
 - Dejected, Tess resumes her walk back to Flintcomb-Ash. She encounters Alec d'Urberville preaching in a village.

Phase the Sixth The Convert

- Alec stops his sermon when he sees Tess and follows her. He relates his conversion and his mother's recent death.
 - Tess tells him what happened to her after she left Trantridge and he apologises for that.
 - He makes Tess swear never to tempt him by her charms or ways.
- Flintcomb-Ash-
- Alec follows Tess in the field where she is working after several days since her futile journey.
 - He asks Tess to marry him but she refuses. He tells her that she is a deserted wife.
 - Alec goes to Tess' cottage in February. He blames her for being the innocent means of his backsliding.
 - Alec repeats his plea for Tess' hand and she slaps him with her heavy glove on the mouth till it bleeds.
 - He returns in the afternoon and offers to help her family and as well take her away from the hard labour on the farm.
 - Tess writes a passionate letter to Angel, urging him to return to her at once.
 - The letter reaches the Clares in Emminster who forward it to Angel.
 - Angel had not fully recovered from the severe fever he had suffered and was riding a mule back home.
 - A fellow farmer travelling with him whom he confides in tells Angel he was wrong in separating from his wife.
 - He dies of a fever shortly and is buried.
 - Angel feels remorse for his treatment of Tess.
 - Towards the end of her stay at Flintcomb-Ash, Liza Lu arrives in the evening telling Tess both of her parents are ill. Tess leaves for Marlott that evening.
- Marlott
- Tess arrives at Marlott and gets a neighbour attending to her parents. The family garden has not been planted.
 - Tess and Liza Lu begin work on the garden while the parents recuperate.
 - Alec who has been working in the garden comes to Tess, telling her she will see what he has sent for her when she gets to the house.
 - News comes to Tess that their father has died.
 - With Durbeyfield's death, the family is evicted. Another larger family has procured the house.
 - The family hires a cart and horse to take them to Kingsbere.
 - Alec appears again to lend his support, but Tess refuses his help.

- Tess writes a letter to Angel accusing him of wronging her and vowing never to forgive him for injustice on her.
- On the way to Kingsbere, Tess meets Marian and Izz.
- As the family approaches Kingsbere, a man informs them that their intended house has been rented to someone else.
- The family property is unloaded in the churchyard as a new house is sought.
- Tess goes into the church and finds Alec lying on a tomb. She is frightened by this sight.
- Marian and Izz write to Angel after a month urging him to come at once.

Phase the Seventh Fulfillment

- | | |
|------------|---|
| Emminster | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Angel's parents anxiously await his arrival from Brazil. He returns thinner owing to worry and bad climate. - He reads Tess letter and writes to Tess' mother. Joan's letter tells him Tess is away from her and she doesn't know where she is. - He finds out from his Dad that Tess did not visit nor ask for any money in his absence. - He reads the letter from Marian and Izz and decides to find Tess at once. - Angel first goes to Flintcomb-Ash and later Marlott to locate Tess. - He finds John's grave and pays the mason the balance owed on John's tombstone. - He learns the family is in Kingsbere and sets out for the Durbeyfield house. - He finds Joan, asks about Tess and is reluctantly told she is living in Sandbourne. |
| Sandbourne | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Angel takes a train to Sandbourne, arriving late at night, too late to find any information. - From information provided by a mailman, Angel finds Tess at an inn called The Herons in the morning. - Angel sees Tess, only to be told that Alec has won her back to him. Repeatedly Tess tells Angel, 'it is too late.' - She sends Angel away, urging him not to return.
Angel leaves the inn, wandering the streets aimlessly. - Tess returns to her room to confront Alec. Mrs. Brooks, the inn keeper watches the d'Urbervilles through a keyhole. - Tess realizes Alec's deception, blaming him for saying her husband would never return; something she believed. - In her fury, Tess stabs Alec through the heart with a carving knife. Thereafter, she leaves the inn immediately to pursue Angel. - The news of the murder moves quickly through the resort. - Angel walks to his hotel by the same way he had come.
A telegram from his mother informs him his brother Cuthbert is engaged to Mercy Chant. - Finding no train at the station, he walks onward to the next. Tess finds him and confesses murdering Alec. |

- They decide to walk northward, avoiding more travelled roads, towards the interior of England. When events surrounding the murder are forgotten, they can go for a port city.
- They walk for miles until they discover a vacant house with only a caretaker occasionally checking in.
- They reside in it (Bramshurst Court) for five days until the caretaker sees them sleeping in the large bedrooms.
- Once discovered, Angel and Tess move directly north until they reach the ancient monoliths of Stonehenge.
- Tess feels that her freedom is limited and her end is near so she asks Angel to promise to marry Liza – Lu after her death.
- Now that it is night and the two are tired, Tess sleeps on one of the ‘altars’ of stone.
- Near day break the two are surrounded by police who take Tess into custody for her part. Tess is glad that the end has come and she goes to the police willingly.
- In the final chapter, Angel and Liza – Lu journey together to Wintonchester to see that Tess is sentenced to death by hanging. They do not actually witness the deed but know it is done when a black flag is hoisted over the town’s tower.

CHARACTERS

- Tess Durbeyfield – beautiful – ‘She was a fine and handsome girl with large innocent (protagonist) eyes’
 - simple minded – believes the only reason her father is riding home in a carriage is because he is tired.
 - loving – To the father – threatens to stop walking with band members (protective) if one of them says any jokes about her father
 - To Angel Clare
 - responsible – offers to take the beehives with Abraham
 - daring - starts the journey to take beehives to Casterbridge at half – past one.
 - she kills Alec.
 - submissive - Obeys whatever Angel tells her. Tells Angel, ‘I will obey you, like your wretched slave, even if it is to lie down and die’
 - When the mother wants to dress her in her best clothes, she says, ‘Do what you like with me, mother.’
 - naive - doesn’t know the danger in men folk (their tricks) because the mother doesn’t warn her about them.
 - committed – To loving Angel. Tells Angel, ‘I love you forever – in all changes, in all disgraces...’.
 - determined – She goes to Talbothays dairy with renewed spirits and hopes, determined to live a changed life.
 - inconsistent – She falls for Alec again because he meets the needs of her little sisters, brother and mother.
 - She is reluctant to love Alec who is concerned and willing to help her but keeps talking of Angel who has deserted her.

- vengeful – kills Alec – He bitterly taunted her and called Angel by a foul name – stabs him for saying her husband would not return
- insensitive – after killing a person she goes to a deserted house to fulfill her sexual appetite for six days.
- independent – Her inner strength and independence are revealed when she applies her faith and performs baptism for her dying son.
- Jack Durbeyfield - Tess' father whose fortune has dwindled because of over drinking.
- Poor – gives the lad, Fred whom he sends on an errand a shilling for his labour.
- Foolish – Orders for a horse and carriage from The Pure Drop Inn to take him home triumphantly.
- Drunkard – over drinks at The Pure Drop Inn and Rolliver's Inn.
- Idealistic – begins scheming for what is not there hearing he is from a noble origin.
- Irresponsible – fails to take the beehives to Casterbridge
 - has produced many children whom he can't take good care of (Tess and all her little brothers and sisters sleep in one large bedroom)
- weak willed – His wife decides and does what she feels is good for Tess with little objection from him.
- insensitive – He doesn't see the plan Joan has for Tess (claiming kin) endangers her life – exposes her to exploitation of any kind.
- lazy – he has good strength to work which can't coincide with hours of requirement (locally he is called a slack – twisted fellow)
- wasteful
- Joan Durbeyfield - foolish – She lets Tess go then sobers up that she should have found out whether the gentleman is really a good hearted young man before releasing her.
- vain – She is proud of Tess' 'trump card' – her beauty (face) which is as hers. Tess has inherited her beautiful face.
- materialistic – Hatches the plan of sending Tess to claim kin. Tells Tess, 'We must take the ups with the downs...'
- Tells her younger children when Tess is leaving, "Going to work for our rich relation and help get enough money for a new horse".
- irresponsible – follows her husband to Rolliver's Inn to drink leaving the children in the house
 - Tess accuses her of not teaching and helping her know the danger in men-folk and not warning her about them.
- lazy – relieves herself of her domestic labours (washing, cooking) by postponing them. (Her Monday washing tub lingers to the end of the week)
 - Makes her labours in the house seem heavier than they are by prolonging them
- Cheerful - sings songs for her children
 - * She is a passionate lover of tune.
- simple minded – The author says, 'Being mentally older than her mother... The light – minded woman had been

discovering good matches for her daughter...'

- Angel Clare – Tess' lover, son to Rev. James Clare
 - rebellious – He does not take a University degree at Cambridge.
 - Tells his father he cannot honestly be ordained a Church minister as his brothers are.
 - adventurous – wants to acquire practical skills in various processes of farming
 - will practice farming in the colonies, America or at home.
 - independent – farming business, after careful apprenticeship will give him intellectual liberty.
 - gentle – takes his meals in the general dining kitchen with the maids and men.
(Also wins Tess' admiration)
 - loving - loves Tess
 - emotional - He is unable to forgive Tess for her past and he even decides to leave her.
 - responsible – Gives Tess fifty pounds before leaving for Brazil.
 - pays thirty pounds to the bank to be sent to Tess.
 - humble - views others without prejudice associated with his privileged class
(sees farm workers as his friends and regards them with high esteem)
 - impetuous - decides to try farming in Brazil when he learns land is offered on advantageous terms.
 - He asks Izz to go with him to Brazil instead of Tess.
- Alec D'Urberville
 - The proud, arrogant reckless sadist – he drives recklessly like a mad man, rapes and makes Tess pregnant and is not willing to take full responsibility.
 - Self-centered, passionate and lustful – ruled by passionate desires and doesn't think of the harm he inflicts on Tess.
 - libidinous – a man of strong sexual desires.
 - repentant and helpful – ready to pay for his wrongs, helps Tess' family
 - concerned – expresses concern to Tess at Flintcomb Ash.

THEMES

- * Fate
 - Parson Tringham while tracing the vicissitudes of the d'Urberville family observes Durbeyfield's name on his waggon.
 - Tess does not get opportunity of dancing with Angel at Marlott village ('club-walking' of the May-Day dance)
 - It is by chance that Parson Tringham and John Durbeyfield pass
On the road, an encounter that gives the parson the opportunity to share information he has about Durbeyfield's ancestors.
 - Prince dies in the hands of Tess.
 - Fate guides Tess to her rape – Hardy writes, "It (the rape) was to be"
 - Tess meets Angel Clare at Talbothays dairy.
 - Tess meets Angel's brothers instead of her parents-in-law.
 - She comes across Alec d'Urberville – now a street preacher
 - Mr. Durbeyfield dies, the family is evicted and the intended house at Kingsbere is rented out to another person.

- * Poverty
 - Tess' family is poverty stricken
 - Poverty leads Tess to Alec
 - Poverty responsible for all consequences on Tess
- * Exploitation
 - Tess is exploited at Trantridge, given little pay
 - Alec exploits Tess sexually
 - The dairy maids are paid very little.
- * Superstition
 - Mrs. Durberyfield tries Tess' fate in the Fortune – Teller which tells her, Tess is likely to be married by a noble gentleman.
 - A thorn of the rose remaining in Tess' breast accidentally pricks her chin which she thinks is an ill-omen.
 - Workers at Talbothays believe some cows go dry "go azew" when there is a new hand among them.
 - When milk does not turn to butter, it is believed that 'Perhaps somebody in the house is in love' – Mrs. Crick
 - Old white rooster crows when Mr. and Mrs. Clare leave Talbothays – an omen for bad fortune.
 - Old stone at 'Cross-in-Hand' is a thing of ill-omen.
- * Religious hypocrisy
 - Tess asks the sign painter, 'Suppose your sin was not of your own seeking?' which he has no real answer.
 - * Hardy suggests modern religion doesn't have any real answer.
 - Church is meant to comfort and forgive Tess' sins but ironically people whisper and gossip about Tess in church (they are not forgiving in their judgment of Tess)
 - Church doctrine of not according a proper Christian burial to the unbaptized is challenged (Tess and the parson)
 - * Hardy criticizes the heavy handedness of the church on the burial of the dead which is not found in any biblical text.
- * Snobbery
 - Angel despises material distinctions of rank, wealth and the 'good old family' which are social forms and observances.
 - Sorrow is not baptized and buried in a religious way because Tess' family is poor – baby buried at night at a cost of a shilling.
 - Nothing is done against Alec for raping Tess – society has no respect for the poor.
 - Alec uses his position of authority to overpower and use servants of the house for his own pleasures and whims.
 - Angel's mother asks her son of Tess, 'Is she of a family such as you would care to marry into – a lady...?'
 - Tess tells Angel, 'Your father is a parson, and your mother wouldn't like you to marry such as me. She will want you to marry a lady'
- Betrayal
 - Tess is betrayed by her parents.
 - Angel betrays Tess
 - Angel betrays his parents – rejects their Christian philosophy and refuses to marry the girl of their choice.

- Tess betrays her own conscience – accepts Alec a second time when she does not love him.
- Alec betrays Tess – manipulates her thereby destroying her future.

Conflict

- Car Darch and Tess
- Angel strikes a man on the chin for insulting Tess in an inn
- Tess strikes Alec's mouth with her leather glove resulting in blood oozing out.
- Tess stabs Alec with a carving knife through the heart.

TECHNIQUES

* Dialogue

- Parson Tringham tells Jack Durbeyfield that he is the lineal representative of the ancient and knightly family of the d'Urbervilles.
- Mrs. Durbeyfield tells her husband in Rolliver's inn she has a grand project of sending Tess to claim kin with a great rich lady at Trantridge of the name of d'Urberville.
- Abraham tells Tess what his mother shares with her father
- Tess tells Alec, 'I don't like 'ee at all! I hate and detest you!'
 - I've never really and truly loved you, and I think I never can'
- Tess' mother tells her children when Tess is leaving for The Slopes, "Going to work my dears, for our rich relation, and help get enough money for a new horse."
- Tess asks her mother '..... Why didn't you tell me there was danger in men-folk? Why didn't you warn me?'
- One milkmaid tells Tess information about Angel and his family.
- Angel tells Tess '.... The woman I have been loving is not you.'
- Izz tells Angel... nobody could love 'ee more than Tess did! She would have laid down her life for 'ee. I could do no more!'

- Biblical - allusions - how are the mighty fallen – Parson Tringham applies the same sentiment to the D'Urberville family.

- * David laments over Saul and Jonathan's deaths
- Thy, Damnation, Slumbereth, Not
 - Thou, Shalt, Not, Commit –
- Sorrow
 - Adam and Eve - lose innocence and paradise as well - their happiness is shattered when they lose innocence.
 - Mary Magdalene – reformed prostitute
 - Three Leahs to get one Rachel
 - The unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife and vice versa
 - Let not your heart be troubled
 - Alec says, O foolish Galatians - come out from among them and be ye separate.

• Letters/ epistolary

- Alec's letter to Mrs. Durbeyfield – Tess' services wanted in managing poultry farm.
- A former friend of Tess' mother informs Tess that a skillful milkmaid is required at Talbothays dairy

- Joan Durbeyfield writes a letter to Tess telling her not to disclose her past troubles to Angel.
 - Angel's parents write to him a sad letter deploring his rushing into marriage.
 - Marian's letter to Tess recommending her to an upland farm.
 - Tess writes a passionate letter to Angel.
 - She writes another letter vowing never to forgive Angel for his injustice on her.
 - Marian and Izz Huett write a letter to Angel urging him to come at once.
 - Joan's letter to Angel – telling Angel that Tess is away from her and she doesn't know where she is.
- Irony
 - Tess meets her future husband, Angel Clare, during the dance the girls perform but she does not dance with him.
 - Tess is more responsible than her parents.
 - Joan's plan for Tess (finding a suitable wealthy husband) leads to Tess' ruin.
 - Mrs. d'Urberville's house is new and contrary to Tess' expectation of an old one since they are an old family.
 - Joan dresses Tess to be estimated as a woman when she is not much more than a child.
 - Angel separates from Tess the very night of their wedding day.
 - People whisper and gossip behind Tess' back – are not forgiving in their judgment of her yet church is supposed to be a comfort and to forgive 'Tess' sins.
 - Alec makes Tess swear never to tempt him by her charms or ways yet he has fallen for her already – he cannot resist her.
 - Alec whom Tess hates is present to help her in her trouble.
- Symbolism
 - Tess is dressed in white on May-Day dance which colour symbolizes her innocence and purity at the celebration.
 - 'She wore a red ribbon in her hair' which symbolises the danger ahead of her.
 - The death of Prince symbolizes the end of her father's haggling business.
 - The crowing of a white rooster as they leave Talbothays is symbolic of bad omen.
 - Old stone at 'Cross – in – hand ' symbolises how Alec will sell his soul to the devil - backsliding and dies later a backslidden one.
 - Angel tells Tess of his love for her during the month of (July) heat signifying his burning passion for her.
- Songs
 - Tess recalls her mother's song sung to her as a child.
"That never would become that wife
That had once done amiss"
 - Master dairyman's song, 'Dairyman Dick
All the week-
On Sundays mister Richard Crick'
 - Mrs. Durbeyfield's song of 'The Spotted Cow'
 - Durbeyfield sings in the carriage slowly, 'I've-got a great family vault at Kingsbere and knighted forefathers in lead coffins...'

Tess' younger siblings sing a Sunday school song when the family is evicted.
 'Here we suffer grief and pain
 Here we meet to part again
 In Heaven we part no more'.

- Movements - Angel Clare and his brothers (Felix and Cuthbert) are on a walking tour as part of spending their holidays.
 - Tess and Abraham take beehives to retailers in Casterbridge but Prince is killed on the way.
 - Alec d'Urberville recklessly drives Tess on their way to Trantridge
 - Alec drives Tess past the Trantridge track and stops at The Chase where he rapes her.
 - Tess walks back to Marlott – Alec follows and gives her a lift.
 - Tess leaves her home a second time – goes to Talbothays.
 - Angel travels to Emminster for a few days with his family.
 - Angel on his way to Brazil passes by Wellbridge where he meets Izz Huett.
 - Tess goes to Emminster and returns to Flintcomb – Ash.
 - Tess returns to Marlott.
- Flashbacks - Hardy gives information regarding Angel's family – his mother is the second wife of his father, the first having died. Angel is the youngest of 3 sons and how he refuses a University degree telling his father he cannot be ordained a church minister as his siblings.
 - Mr. Crick narrates how Jack Dollop courts, deceives and impregnates a young woman whose mother attacks him.
- Humour - Mr. Crick's story of how a young woman's mother swings Jack Dollop in the churn for deceiving and impregnating her daughter.
 - Izz Huett puts her mouth against the wall and kisses the shade (shadow) of Angel's mouth.
 - Mr. Crick's story of how a man (William Dewy) who is returning home after a wedding at night is attacked by a bull but when he plays a fiddle, the bull softens down and stands still.
- Coincidence - Angel who has gone to pay his rent at Wellbridge meets Izz Huett at the farm house.
 - Tess on her way to Flintcomb-Ash encounters the man Angel knocked down at the inn for insulting her coarsely.
 - Tess encounters Alec d'Urberville – now a street preacher.
- Suspense - The identity of the man Angel strikes on the chin for openly insulting Tess at the inn is not revealed immediately.
 - The same man overtakes and talks to Tess on her way to Flintcomb-Ash. (Farmer Groby's identity is revealed much later)
 - The two –well-wishers who write a letter to Angel are not revealed to him though the readers know them.

LESSONS LEARNT FROM TESS OF THE D'URBERVILLES

- Love is unconditional/love should not be forced.
 - Love between Angel and Tess.
- A marriage without parents' blessings is tragic
 - Tess and Angel.
- The course of love is never smooth/marriage is not a bed of roses.
 - Tess and Angel
- Love should be reciprocated
 - Alec and Tess
 - Tess and Angel Clare
- Romantic passion is dangerous and heart breaking
 - Tess and Alec
 - Alec sees Tess and backslides
 - Tess kills Alec.
- Humility is virtuous
 - Angel Clare is admired and respected by the dairy folk.
(He respects and associates with all of them)
 - Tess and her friends – Marian, Retty, Izz
- Law breakers are brought to justice
 - Police hunt for Tess in the countryside
 - Tess is hanged
- Keep your dark past to yourself.
 - Tess confesses hers and the results are tragic.
- Children should heed their parents' advice.
 - Angel is discouraged from marrying a dairy maid by his parents.
 - Tess is told by her mother not to confess her past to Angel in the letter but she ignores it.
- The first cut is the deepest.
 - Alec, Tess' first lover wins her over to himself again despite being Angel's wedded wife.
- Distance marriage tempts.
 - Angel goes to Brazil leaving his newly wedded bride behind.
 - Alec exploits the void created and wins her (Tess) over.
 - However good communication between the couple keeps them together.
- Pursuit of a prestigious family name is meaningless and undesirable.
 - Jack Durbeyfield claims he belongs to the d'Urberville family.
- To err is human, to forgive is divine.
 - Angel is unwilling to forgive Tess over her past – he thinks she is pure and spotless forgetting that she is human.
- When you rush, you crash.
 - Angel is advised by his parents not to hurry with issues of marriage which he doesn't follow.

- Tess fails to manage the disagreement with Alec early morning and ends up stabling him.

RELEVANCE/ APPLICABILITY OF THE TEXT TO A UGANDAN SOCIETY

- There are people who are obsessed with a successful family name.
 - Tess' father identifies himself with the d'Urbervilles – they ruin their daughter in pursuit of the same.
 - In some families all the children take their father's surname if he is very successful.
 - Some of these big names have earned people scholarships, contracts, jobs, favours etc.
- Poor parents view their daughters as a source of wealth
 - Tess' parents send Tess to claim relations with a wealthy 'relative'
 - There are pre-arranged marriages among Muslims of Somali origin.
 - Child marriages are common in villages – the parents see their daughters as a source of bride wealth for the girl's bothers to marry with if not for her parents to sell and 'enjoy'
- There is labour exploitation in plantations.
 - Tess is exploited at Flintcomb Ash – over worked, under paid.
 - Sugarcane plantations run by Indians in Uganda such as Kakira Sugar Works, SCOUTS exploit abundant cheap labour – over work, under pay, abuse unskilled labourers.
- Rich employers take advantage of the poor.
 - Alec d'Urberville rapes Tess
 - In families some husbands rape maids and send them away empty handed after impregnating them.
 - Some mistresses keep chasing away maids without paying them.
- Separation and divorce are common among marrieds.
 - Angel and Tess separate while on honey moon – discovers something unpleasant about Tess' past too late.
 - Today couples organize lavish weddings to show off their wealth – some don't live to celebrate their first anniversary because they don't take time to understand the people they marry.
 - Take time to know the person whom you want to marry.
- Too much drinking causes irresponsibility.
 - Tess' father takes to too much drinking and becomes irresponsible – sometimes both parents take the same path
 - Tess provides for the family more than her parents
 - In towns children are driven to prostitution, petty businesses in trying to cover up for their parents' irresponsibility.
- Churches are full of hypocrites.
 - Rev. Clare, Mercy Chant, Cuthbert, Felix and Mrs. Clare are hypocrites
 - Some members whisper among themselves when Tess goes to church
 - Today some founders of ministries, their wives, children and followers are hypocrites – run churches as family businesses.
 - Some gossip about strangers and those who are improperly dressed, the way others sing in the choir etc.

- Some children betray their parents' wishes for them.
 - Angel refuses to be a church minister, refuses to go to Cambridge University and refuses to marry Mercy Chant.
 - In Uganda most parents want their children to study Science courses even when the sciences are hard for their children and the parents themselves are not scientists.
 - The children end up changing combinations/course at University.
 - The children refuse to go to the school of the parent's choice.
- The church now disowns those who live pagan life.
 - Tess' dead child is not accorded a proper Christian burial because he is got out of wedlock and is not baptised in church.
 - In Uganda, some churches have refused burying dead bodies of people who were not their members, were not baptised and have not been praying/those who commit suicides etc.
- When love turns sour, the result is violence.
 - Tess stabs Alec to death, - for deceiving her that her husband would not return.
 - Some lovers have poured acid on their former boyfriends, even kill their girl friends when they get a new catch in order to get rid of the old one (acid victims and murders are rising over past relations that have turned sour)
- Capital offenders are brought to justice.
 - Tess is arrested, imprisoned and executed for murder
 - Those who commit capital offences like murder, aggravated defilement (below 14 years), treason etc in Uganda are arrested, tried, imprisoned and sentenced to death or serve a life sentence.
- Some men elope with other people's wives.
 - Alec uses his money to help Tess's mother and siblings and takes Tess to Sandbourne.
 - There are men who elope with people's wives and hide in beaches, hotels, landing sites – they use their money to lure some women from their irresponsible husbands.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

1. Discuss the role of fate and destiny in the novel Tess of the d'Urbervilles.
2. Account for Tess' continued stay with Alec after being drugged and raped by him?
3. How do changes in physical setting enhance the plot in Tess of the d'Urbervilles?
4. "The main characters in Tess of the d'Urbervilles reveal themselves through self-assertion and self-denial." Discuss this view in relation to Tess and Angel.
5. For what reasons does Tess deserve the readers' sympathy? Explain with close reference to Tess of the d'Urbervilles.
6. What is the significance of the title Tess of the d'Urbervilles to your general understanding of the novel.
7. Discuss the portrayal of female characters in the development of themes in Tess of the d'Urbervilles.
8. Analyse the role played by Angel Clare in the development of events in the novel Tess of the d'Urbervilles.

9. Discuss the character of Tess and explain her role in Tess of the d'Urbervilles.
10. Discuss the use of three dominant techniques in Tess of the d'Urbervilles.
11. Do you like the ending of the novel Tess of the d'Urbervilles? Explain with close reference to the text.
12. To what extent is Tess responsible for her own execution at the end of the novel?
13. What important lessons have you learnt from the study of Tess of the d'Urbervilles?
14. How relevant is the study of Tess of the d'Urbervilles to Ugandan students of Literature?
15. For what reasons would you support Tess' killing of Alec d'Urberville?
16. Discuss the view that without Tess, the novel Tess of the d'Urbervilles would be meaningless.
17. Assess the contribution of setting to the portrayal of major themes in Tess of the d'Urbervilles.
18. Who is to blame for the tragedy that befalls Tess?
19. Discuss the effects of poverty on the Durbeyfields given the events of Tess of the d'rber viles