

1. Which town is the market held in?

The market is held in Goderville.

2. List three physical effects that are shown in the peasants' bodies.

- *Figures bent sideways* from working the plough.
- *Raised left shoulders* from repetitive ploughing.
- *Crooked legs* due to their long workdays and physical labour.

3. Suggest one piece of evidence of their poverty from Paragraph 2.

The women wear scanty shawls pinned over their flat bosoms, which suggests limited resources for more substantial clothing.

4. What does the phrase "came to the surface of that sea" tell us about the crowd, in Paragraph 4?

It implies the crowd is dense and lively, with heads and hats rising like crests in a sea of people and animals.

5. What condition did Maître Hauchecorne suffer from (Paragraph 6)?

Maître Hauchecorne suffers from rheumatism.

6. What does the scarlet comb refer to in Paragraph 7?

The scarlet comb refers to the bright red combs on the chickens' heads.

7. What do you think "impassive" means? (Paragraph 8). Bonus: why is this a very unusual word?

"Impassive" likely means unemotional or indifferent. It's unusual because it suggests a lack of expression, which contrasts with the bustling, energetic atmosphere of the market.

8. Read the two paragraphs beginning "At Jourdain's..." How does the writer use language to show us what the place is like? Try to use three quotes and have at least one answer from each paragraph.

- *The writer uses vivid imagery and sensory details:*
 - *"The huge fireplace, with its bright flame, gave out a burning heat" – suggests warmth and comfort.*
 - *"Three spits were turning, loaded with chickens, with pigeons and with joints of mutton" – conveys abundance and a delicious aroma.*

- o "The dishes were passed round, were emptied, as were the jugs of yellow cider" – *depicts a lively, communal atmosphere.*

9. What is unusual about the phrase "the aristocracy of the plough?" What do you interpret it to mean?

It's unusual because "aristocracy" usually refers to the upper class, not peasants. Here, it likely means the most esteemed or respected farmers in the region.

10. Look at the sentence that starts "His protestations were in vain." If this was rewritten without the semi-colon, which word would fit best in the gap?

- *The word "but" would fit best to connect the contrasting ideas.*

11. What do you think "railed at" means in this context? (Don't use dictionary).

"Railed at" likely means criticized or argued with loudly.

12. What do you think "buttonholing" means? (Don't use dictionary).

"Buttonholing" suggests stopping someone to talk to them, especially to tell them something at length.

13. What do you think "the environs" means? (Don't use dictionary).

"The environs" likely means the surrounding areas or nearby places.

14. In the paragraph that begins "All day..." find the quote that suggests people may be gossiping about Maitre Hauchecorne.

The quote is "He seemed to feel their remarks behind his back."

15. Read to the end of the story. What do the local people think Maitre Hauchecorne's crime was?

They think he stole the pocketbook and arranged to have it returned by an accomplice.

16. Look at the line "The more he denied it.." Which technique does the writer use here?

The writer uses irony, as Hauchecorne's repeated denials only make him seem more guilty in the eyes of others.

17. Read the last two paragraphs of the story: What is the effect of the ending on the reader?

The ending evokes pity and frustration for Hauchecorne, who dies still protesting his

innocence over a trivial piece of string. It underscores the theme of tragic misinterpretation.

18. The story is about a piece of string. Can you suggest any reasons why the writer may have chosen this title, other than the obvious one?

The string symbolizes innocent actions that can be blown out of proportion and misinterpreted, leading to undue suspicion and the destructive power of gossip.