

## Canadian Literature And Culture

## The Idyl of the Island

1

By Susie Frances Harrison (1859-1935)

female

### *Definition*

Amherst: An English Admiral who kissed a married Canadian women without telling her in *The Idyl of the Island*.

“I know one man,” she said, in a voice choked with sobs, “who would not have done it.”

Amherst started. “I am sorrier than ever, believe me. I might have known you were engaged, or had a lover—one so charming”—

“It is not that,” said the lady. “I am married.” She was still struggling with her emotion.

Amherst recoiled. He was torn with conflicting thoughts. What if he had been seen giving that involuntary salute? He might have ruined her peace for ever. Who would believe in the truth of any possible explanation?

“I will leave you at once;” he said stiffly “there is nothing more to be said.”

“Oh! you will reproach me now!” said his companion, wiping her eyes as the tears came afresh.

### *Short Answer Questions*

1. A lover or engaged man before marriage. Love for that man is no longer possible.
2. He might be a third person to the Canadian woman’s life.
3. I wish you to stay, but you leave me to punish me.

## The Wedding Gift

65

By Thomas H. Raddall (1903-94)

male

### *Definition*

Kezia Barnes: The girl who married Mr. Mears in *The Wedding Gift*.

Mr. Mears: The English preacher who married Kezia in *The Wedding Gift*.

Mr. Hathaway: The man who is decided by the Barclays to marry Kezia in *The Wedding Gift*.

The Barclays: The home which brought up Kezia, an orphan as house-help in *The Wedding Gift*.

I'll ride a mile or so, then I'll get down and tie the horse to a tree and walk on. When you come up to the horse, you mount and ride a mile or so, passing me on the way, and you tie him and walk on. Like that, Ride-and-tie, ride-and-tie. The horse gets a rest between.

"Well, to begin with, he'll ask where I spent the night, and I'll have to tell the truth. I'll have to say I bundled with you in a hut in the woods."

Kezia watched him out of sight. Then, swiftly, she undid her bundle and took out the thing that had lain there (and on her conscience) through the night—the tinderbox—Mr. Barclay's wedding gift to Mr. Hathaway. She flung it into the woods and walked on, skirts lifted, in the track of the horse, humming a psalm true to the silent trees and the snow.

### *Short Answer Questions*

1. Two people share one horse and take turns to ride the horse ahead and tie up for the person following behind on foot.
2. The method that Mr. Mears and Kezia slept together. Sleeping with their clothes on when a couple is courting on a winter evening.
3. A small box used for holding the things needed for lighting a fire. It was Mr. Barclay's wedding gift to Mr. Hathaway but abandoned by Kezia in the end.

Petite Misère

96

By Gabrielle Roy (1909-83)

female

### *Definition*

Christine: A little girl who refused to eat and go out until his father cooked her a pie in *Petite Misère*

That day I dug the word from my memories, seized upon it, and, not yet aware of the terrible meaning it contained, I repeated to myself, "A child of duty! I am a child of duty!"

And later on, after another silence, he said to me, so sadly that even today finding its way amid memories as crowded as a forest, the exact tone of my father's voice comes back to me: "I've made a rhubarb pie ... It's still hot ... Would you like to eat some?"

### *Short Answer Questions*

1. A child born after unwanted pregnancy, as compared with a child of love.
2. A pie containing diced rhubarb and much sugar, which was lead and cause Christine sick. However, it was made with the father's love.

The Day I Sat with Jesus on the Sundeck and a Wind Came Up and Blew My Kimono  
Open and He Saw My Breasts

120

By Gloria Sawai (1932-2011)

female

*Definition*

Gloria Johnson: A housewife who served Jesus as her guest in *The Day I Sat with Jesus*

Now, I know there are ways and there are ways of exposing your breasts. I know a few things. I read books. And I've learned a lot from my cousin Millie.

I knew then why so many Glorias hang around bars, talking too loud, laughing shrilly at stupid jokes, making sure everyone hears them laugh at the dirty jokes. They're just trying to live down their name, that's all. I brought out the cups and poured the tea.

I went inside the house. Well, now, wasn't that a nice visit. Wasn't that something. I examined the clothes, dry and sour in the living room. I'd have to put them back in the wash, that's all.

*Short Answer Questions*

1. I'm not that innocent; I'm not that naive. I'm experienced; I know sexuality.
2. To make people forget about something embarrassing or silly that you have done. To live so as to allow (a mistake, disgrace, etc.) to be forgotten or forgiven.
3. Jesus did not create miracles. He has been dethroned from the distant and divine position.

## Anita's Dance

139

By Marian Engel (1933-1985)

female

### *Definition*

Anita: A lady who beat her no-good brother Jack before her boyfriend Clive in *Anita's Dance*.

Jack: A no-good brother of Anita, who was beaten before her sister's boyfriend Clive in *Anita's Dance*.

Clive: Anita's boyfriend in *Anita's Dance*.

Dance: Anita's well-done movement in beating her brother Jack.

"I'm mean-tempered today," she said. "As bad as Martha the cat. My brother Jack turned up. The no-good one."

No use having a day in the country if we're not in good spirits. Was he mother's blue-eyed boy?

All our friends celebrated when they heard we were getting a divorce. Perfection drives everybody up the wall.

### *Short Answer Questions*

1. A woman kept very busy, especially in domestic affairs.
2. A young man who is admired because he is very successful, attractive etc. This word usually shows that you dislike people like this.
3. Into an acutely frantic, frustrated, or irritated state.

## The Hockey Sweater

151

By Roch Carrier (1937- )

male

### *Definition*

Maurice Richard: A famous player in Montreal Canadiens, who was many little boys' idol.

School was a sort of punishment. Parents always want to punish children and school is their most natural way of punishing us.

Monsieur Eaton's an Anglais: he'll be insulted because he likes the Maple Leafs.

### *Short Answer Questions*

1. I hate school.
2. Englishman

## Simple Recipes

155

By Madeleine Thien (1974- )  
female

### *Definition*

Simple recipe: a simple way of making rice by the girl's father. A familiar way her father made food with love in her childhood.

“I hate you! You're just an asshole, you're just a fucking asshole Chink!” My brother holds his plate in his hands.

### *Short Answer Questions*

1. An informal and offensive word referring to a Chinese person. This word shows the gap between father and son when they migrated to Canada.