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THE SAME BUT DIFFERENT

DOUBLE STANDARDS

DOUBLE STANDARDS

What does 'double standards' mean?

💬 Discuss with a partner, thinking about examples.

Tess of the d'Urbervilles was written during the late Victorian age. This was a time when people were discussing many different issues, especially sexuality and the position of women in society. By the end of the nineteenth century, people in England were starting to think differently about men, women, and relationships.

Many **authors** talked about these

↓
Writers like **George Egerton** and **Sarah Grand**, together with **Thomas Hardy**, questioned Victorian ideas about women and sexuality.

WEB Find out more about them online.

sensitive• issues. These stories talked about the big social changes of the time, such as the *Matrimonial Causes*• Act of 1857, which

introduced divorce for all social classes. However, the law still made it much easier for men to get a divorce than for women. Divorce also continued to bring shame, especially to women.

VICTORIAN SOCIETY

Victorian society had very strict moral rules. However, there were double standards that allowed men more sexual freedom than women. Women were expected to be pure, faithful•, and act as 'angels in the

house.' Men were expected to look respectable• and moral in public, but in private, they could often do what they wanted. Prostitution• was very common.

HARDY'S MESSAGE

Thinking of this, Hardy's novel can be seen as a strong criticism• of these unfair double standards in Victorian England. His stories are often about love and relationships, especially between people from different social classes. In *Tess of the d'Urbervilles*, as in his other books, Hardy shows how unfairly women were treated. Through Tess's suffering•, Hardy shows the injustice of a world that punished women much more than men for similar actions. In this way, he questions the Victorian belief that a woman's value depended on her purity and clearly refuses the double standards that divided men and women.

- **criticism**: act of speaking against something
- **faithful**: (here) loyal/true to one partner
- **matrimonial causes**: reasons for marriage
- **prostitution**: act of having sex for money
- **respectable**: who does the correct thing
- **sensitive**: delicate and difficult to talk about
- **suffering**: pain and difficulties

Tess of the d'Urbervilles

JOHN
DURBEYFIELD

ALEC
D'URBERVILLE

JOAN
DURBEYFIELD

TESS



ANGEL
CLARE

MR CRICK

MARIAN

IZZ

RETTY



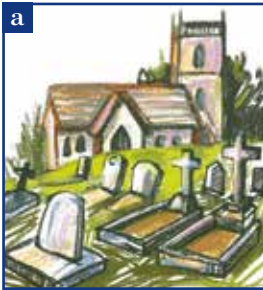
BEFORE READING

1 The story is set in the countryside in south-west England in the late 19th century. Match these typical places to their definitions.

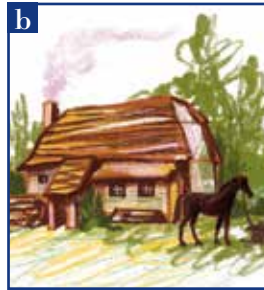
- | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| a <input type="checkbox"/> barn | d <input type="checkbox"/> cottage |
| b <input type="checkbox"/> dairy farm | e <input type="checkbox"/> inn |
| c <input type="checkbox"/> churchyard | f <input type="checkbox"/> mill |

- 1 small, simple house in the countryside
- 2 farm that keeps cows for milk and makes butter and cheese
- 3 area of land around a church where dead bodies are buried
- 4 large building on a farm for animals or hay
- 5 building for making flour, oil, etc.
- 6 small hotel and/or pub

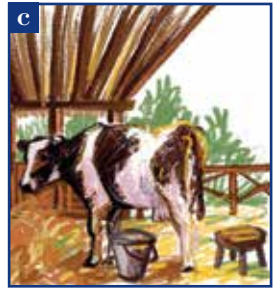
2 Label the pictures with the places from Exercise 1.



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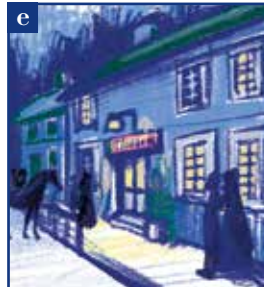
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3 Match the words to their definitions.

ancestor descendant noble relative title

- a someone who is related to a person
- b someone who is related to a person from the past
- c person in one's family from the past
- d word used in front of someone's name to show their position in society (e.g. Sir, Lady)
- e someone of high social class

4 Complete the sentences with the correct form of the word from Exercise 3.


- a The vicar explained that John was the last of Pagan d'Urberville.
- b Tess was near Kingsbere—where her were buried.
- c 'Now, Tess, you must go to our, the rich Mrs d'Urberville, and ask for her help,' her mother said.
- d 'She'll marry a gentleman, I'm sure,' said Tess's mother.
- e The family had long since lost its land and, but their tombs still lay under Kingsbere church.

5 The word 'kin' is an old-fashioned synonym of 'relative'. Read the extract below and then discuss the meaning of the words in bold with a partner.

When Tess's mother, Joan, learned of their noble ancestors, she made plans for her daughter. That night, she went to find her husband at the inn, and she suggested that Tess visit a wealthy Mrs d'Urberville in Trantridge to **claim kin**.



1 The May Day dance

 One warm May evening in the Blackmoor valley, John Durbeyfield, a poor salesman, was walking home to Marlott with an empty egg basket on his arm. On the road, he met a vicar[•]. ‘Good night, Vicar,’ said John.

‘Good night, Sir John,’ replied the vicar.

Confused, John asked, ‘Why do you call me “Sir John”?’ The vicar explained that John was the last descendant of Pagan d’Urberville, a knight[•] who had come to England from France with William the Conqueror.

WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR

Who was William the Conqueror?
When did he live, and why was he important?


WEB Research online.

The d’Urbervilles were very wealthy[•], and they had large houses all over this part of England. The family had lost its land and titles many years ago, but their tombs[•] still lay under Kingsbere church. Surprised by this news, John sat down on the grass by the road. He asked a boy to get a carriage[•] for him from the local inn. The boy frowned[•].

‘Who do you think you are, John Durbeyfield—asking for a carriage?’

‘Well, Fred, I’ve just found out that I’ve got noble ancestors, and I’m Sir John d’Urberville.’



- **carriage:** 
- **frowned:** made a very unhappy face
- **knight:** important man who fought as a soldier on a horse in the past
- **tombs:** places for dead people
- **vicar:** priest in the Church of England
- **wealthy:** rich

That evening, Tess Durbeyfield, John's eldest daughter, who was a very beautiful girl with large dark innocent• eyes, joined the village girls for the May Day dance. They all looked pretty in their white dresses. Three brothers on a walking tour were standing by the gate, watching the dance. The two elder brothers didn't want to stay, but the youngest brother put down his bag and opened the gate.

'What are you going to do, Angel?' asked the eldest.

'I'm going to dance with them. Why don't we all dance—just for a minute or two?'

Tess noticed the handsome young stranger—Angel, and he noticed her, too—but only after he had chosen another girl to dance with. She wished that he had danced with her. Later, he, too, was sorry that he had not danced with her or asked her name. He ran up the hill after his brothers and, when he looked back, the girls were still dancing. All except one, the pretty girl with whom he had not danced.

WISHES

Think about Tess and Angel.

Have you ever seen someone
and wished you could talk to them?

What happened?

• **innocent:** having no knowledge of bad or evil



When Tess's mother, Joan, learned of their noble ancestors, she made plans for her daughter. That night, she went to find her husband at the inn, and she suggested that Tess visit a wealthy Mrs d'Urberville in Trantridge to claim kin•.

'She'll marry a noble gentleman, I'm sure,' she said.

'How do you know that?' asked Mr Durbeyfield.

'I read her fate• in *The Complete Fortune-Teller!*' Joan Durbeyfield was very superstitious•.

THE COMPLETE FORTUNE-TELLER

The Complete Fortune-Teller was a book which people read to find out their fate (what would happen to them in the future).

Joan Durbeyfield believes in fate. What about you?

John was not well when they returned home from the inn. Tess was worried because her father needed to take their horse, Prince, and deliver some goods to the fair early the next morning. He was too ill to go. 'I'll go,' said Tess. Before dawn•, she set off with her little brother Abraham in an old cart•. Along the way, Abraham asked, 'Aren't you glad that we've become noble people?'

'Not really.'


'But you're glad that you're going to marry a gentleman?'

'What do you mean?' asked Tess.

'That our great relative will help you to marry a gentleman.'

'Our great relative? We have no such relative. What has put that into your head?'



- **cart:** 
- **claim kin:** say that you are related to someone
- **dawn:** start of day

- **fate:** (here) future
- **superstitious:** believing some things are lucky or unlucky

‘I heard them talking about it up at the inn when I went to find Father. There’s a rich lady relative at Trantridge, and Mother said that she’ll help you to marry a gentleman.’

Tess sat in silence for a while, and Abraham looked up at the stars. ‘Did you say the stars were worlds, Tess?’

‘Yes. They’re like the apples on our tree. Most of them are wonderful and healthy—a few are sick.’

‘Which do we live on—a wonderful one or a sick one?’

‘A sick one.’

‘We’re very unlucky!’

‘Yes.’

‘What if we were on a healthy one?’

‘Well, father wouldn’t have such a bad cough, and mother wouldn’t wash clothes all day long.’

‘And you would be a rich lady, and you wouldn’t have to marry a gentleman?’

‘Oh, Abraham, don’t talk about that anymore!’

As they drove through the night, Tess fell asleep. Suddenly, she woke up. The cart had stopped, and Prince was making a strange sound. Something terrible had happened. A mail-cart had hit them, and Prince was lying on the ground. Tess jumped down and knelt beside the horse. She tried to stop the blood with her hands, but it was too late. Prince died.

The mail driver left, promising to send help. Tess stood in the silent lane[•]. There was blood on her hands and skirt, and she felt so guilty. Her father couldn’t work without Prince. Her family would have no food or money. ‘It’s all my fault!’ she cried.

• lane: small road

‘It’s because we’re on a sick star, isn’t it, Tess?’ whispered• Abraham through his tears.

When they returned to Marlott, no one said it was Tess’s fault. The horse was buried in the garden, and her father could not afford• to buy another one.

‘Now, Tess, you must go to our relative, the rich Mrs d’Urberville, and ask for her help,’ her mother said.

At first, Tess refused. ‘I’ll find work,’ she said. ‘I won’t ask strangers to help us.’ But because she felt very guilty about the horse, she agreed to go and visit Mrs d’Urberville—but only to work, not to claim kin.

Tess rode in a carriage to Trantridge, then she walked alone to Mrs d’Urberville’s house, The Slopes. The Slopes stood crimson• in the sun, with its neat green lawns• and flowerbeds•. It was not the old noble house that Tess had imagined. The house was new.

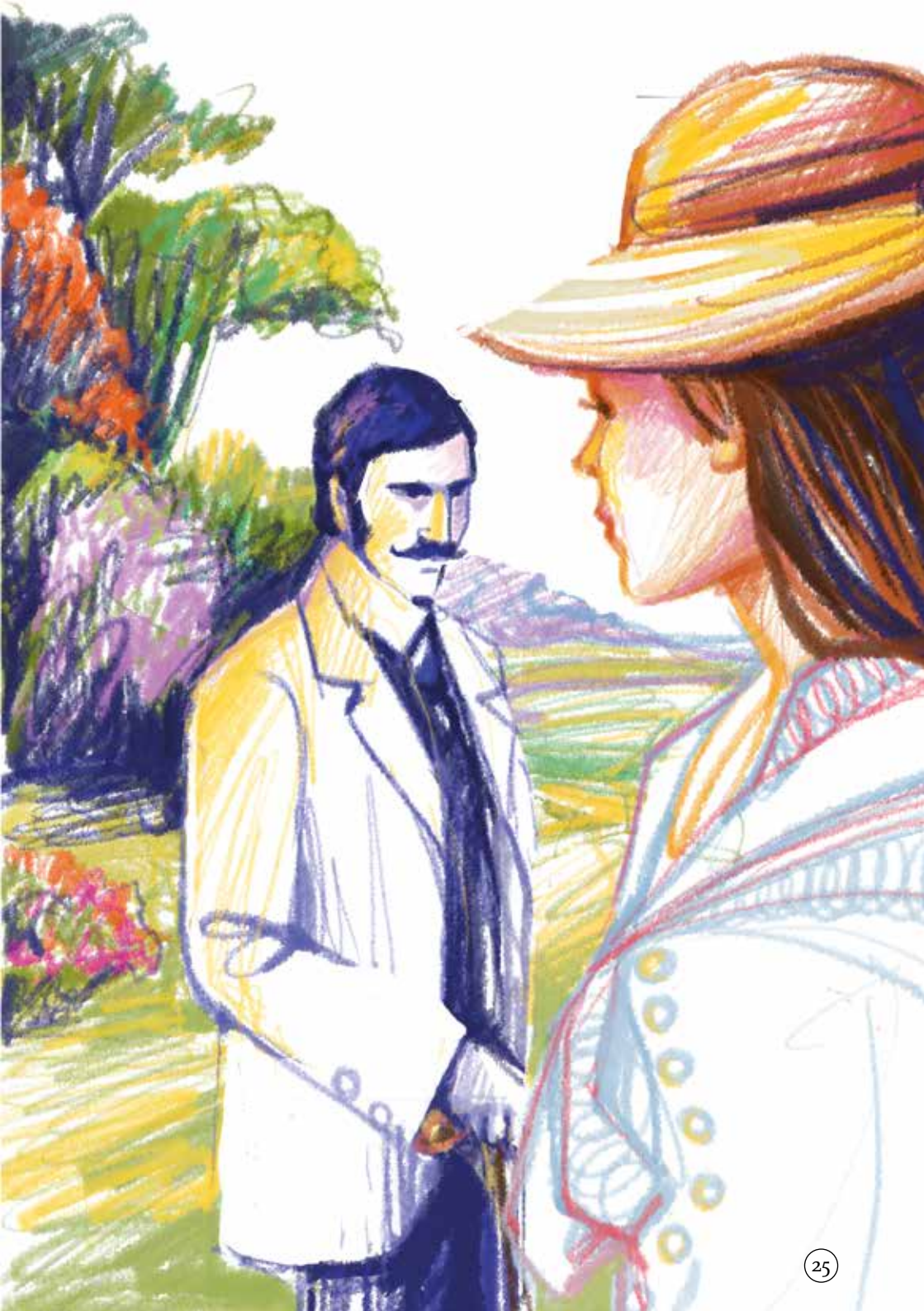
These d’Urbervilles were not related to Tess’s ancient family. Mr Simon Stoke had made his money in the North of England. Then he had gone to live in the South of England, where nobody knew him, and he had decided to give himself a new name. Mr Stoke found the noble name of “d’Urberville” and he added it to his old name. The d’Urberville name had been bought. But poor Tess and her parents did not know this.

Tess was standing shyly in front of the house, when a tall fashionable young man came out of a tent on the lawn. He had dark hair and a black moustache that curled• at the ends. This was Alec d’Urberville, the only son of Simon Stoke d’Urberville.

- **afford:** have the money to buy
- **crimson:** deep red
- **curled:**



- **flowerbeds:** areas with flowers
- **lawns:** areas with grass
- **whispered:** said in a low voice



‘Well, my Beauty, what can I do for you?’ he said, walking towards her, arrogantly•. ‘I’m Mr d’Urberville. Have you come to see me or my mother?’ This was not what Tess had expected a d’Urberville to look like. ‘Yes, I came to see your mother, sir,’ she replied.

EXPECTATIONS

What do you think Tess expected a d’Urberville to look like?
How was Alec different to her expectations?

‘I am afraid you can’t see her—she’s ill,’ replied the man. ‘Can I help you with your business?’

‘It isn’t business—it’s—I can’t say what!’

‘Pleasure?’

‘Oh, no. If I tell you, it will seem silly.’

Finally, Tess said that she had—on her mother’s advice—come to announce that they were related•. Alec smiled. He knew that his father had bought the name d’Urberville.

‘And so, my pretty cousin, you’ve come on a friendly visit to see your relatives?’

‘Yes,’ said Tess, looking uncomfortable.

Alec showed her the lawns and the flowerbeds, and then the fruit garden, where he asked her if she liked strawberries. When she said, ‘Yes’, he began picking strawberries for her and feeding them to her, one by one. Embarrassed, Tess accepted them. Then, Alec put red roses onto her dress and hat, and she felt as if she were in a strange dream.

‘And what do they call you?’ Alec asked, as he walked around the garden with her.

- **arrogantly:** in a way that showed he thought he was very important
- **related:** of the same family

‘Tess Durbeyfield.’

‘And you say your family have lost their horse?’

‘I—killed him!’ she answered, her eyes filling with tears. ‘And now I need to help my family!’

‘I must see what I can do. My mother must find some work for you.’

And so, it all began. Tess’s fate was to be seen and wanted by the wrong man, and not by the right man.

After she left, Alec d’Urberville walked back to the tent and sat down, with a big smile on his face. Then he broke into a loud laugh.

ALEC

Why does Alec laugh loudly?



Share ideas with a partner.

On the journey back, Tess hurt her chin with one of the roses. Like everyone in the Blackmoor valley, Tess was very superstitious. She thought this was a bad omen[•]. However, she soon forgot about it, because when she arrived home, her mother was very happy. ‘I knew it! He called you “cousin”!’ she cried. A letter soon arrived, offering Tess a job looking after the chickens.

‘I don’t want to go,’ Tess whispered. ‘I wish I’d seen the mother instead.’

But the family needed money. Her parents were hopeful, and her brothers and sisters were excited.

‘I’ll go,’ said Tess at last, ‘but I’m going for work, not for anything else.’

- **omen:** sign that something is going to happen (often bad)

AFTER READING VOCABULARY

1 Use five of the words in the box to complete the sentences.

afford dawn lane mercy
preacher spoil treacle wipe

- a Tess and Angel decided not to tell each other their secrets. They didn't want to their wedding day.
- b She set off before, when it was still dark.
- c They walked down the to reach the church.
- d When Prince died, Tess's father could not to buy another horse.
- e A black stream ran from the basket down her back. It was

2 Write three sentences with the words left out in Exercise 1.

3 Choose the correct preposition from the box to complete the sentences. There is one extra preposition.

away down off on to up with

- a As the carriage slowed, Alec tried to kiss Tess.
- b Alec's bad temper cleared at the sight of hers, and he laughed.
- c As the days passed, Tess grew used Alec d'Urberville.
- d The next morning, Tess set in an old cart.
- e When Tess noticed that Angel spent more time with her than all the other dairy maids, she tried to keep from him.
- f When he was in London, Angel had an affair an older woman.

P B1 Preliminary English Test Reading Part 5

1 Complete the sentences by choosing the correct answer (A, B, C or D).

1 Tess stood and waited. 'Are of you going home soon?' she asked.

- A one B none C any D some

2 They watched as a black flag above the tower.

- A raised B rose C arise D rise

3 Tess decided not to tell her secret yet—not the days were full of sunshine and happiness.

- A before B unless C since D while

4 She wished that he with her.

- A dance B danced C dances D had danced

5 Her mother suggested that Tess should visit a wealthy Mrs d'Urberville to kin.

- A claim B have C ask D get

6 If they were richer, their mother have to wash clothes all day long.

- A wouldn't B didn't C shouldn't D couldn't

7 Alec sat down, smiling. Then he into a loud laugh.

- A broke B went C fell D got

8 After a few minutes, Alec's bad temper up.

- A cleaned B cleared C closed D came

9 The air was thick the smell of old roses.

- A of B for C at D with

10 As the days passed, Tess used to Alec d'Urberville.

- A grew B made C was D kept