

# Short Story

In the first term, we studied a course under the title of "**An introduction to prose**". This term we are going to study a similar one which is "**Short story**".

First of all, we have to know what are the differences between prose "novel" and short story.

Prose "novel"	Short Story
1- This is longer than short story, it contains more than 100 pages	1- It is shorter than prose, it may contain only 30 pages.
2- It cannot be read in one sitting.	2- It can be read in one sitting.
3- It has main plot and sub-plots.	3- It rarely has sub-plot.
4- It may concentrate on many complicated ideas	4- It concentrates on one aspect of life.

Second, this course contains three short stories, and what we will start with is the story of *Thomas Hardy*, "The Withered Arm".

### *Thomas Hardy*

**1840-1928**

*Thomas Hardy* was born in **England**. His father was a **stonemason; a builder**, while his mother was an **educated woman**, so she began to teach her son. *Thomas Hardy* entered the school at the age of **eight** and he finished his study when he was **sixteen** years old.

*Thomas Hardy* was a poet, novelist, and a writer who wrote many short stories. His best novel was "*Jude the Obscure*".

He seems to be pessimistic in most of his writings. All critics criticized him for his sad mood. The real reason behind his sadness was that the woman whom he loved and married, has died. That woman was called Emma. However, he fell in love with another woman after one year of the death of Emma.

The second one was a secretary, and he married her but stayed faithful to his first love.

*Thomas Hardy* is described as a Victorian realistic in the tradition of George Eliot, who was also a novelist.

Also, he wrote many novels in which he was influenced by the Romanticism especially by Charles Dickens and William Wordsworth.

The last poem which he has written was about the death of his first wife. He was buried beside her when he died.

### {The Characters}

**1- Mr. Lodge**

**2- Rhoda Brook and her son.**

**3- Gertrude**

**4- Trendle**

#### **1. Mr. Lodge:**

**Mr. Lodge** was a wealthy and rich man. He had a farm and there were many women who worked in that farm.

He got into an illegal relationship with one of those women and had a son. Then he decided to marry a woman who was from his class (upper class). He did **not** admit with his secret of having an illegal son then he lost his son at the end.

#### **2. Rhoda Brook:**

**Rhoda Brook** is the heroine, the main character of our story. *Thomas Hardy* presented her as a thin, faded and tired woman. She was about 30 years old.

She was a poor woman who had to work in order to live. She worked as a milkmaid in **Mr. Lodge's** farm.

When she was about 20 years old, she was beautiful and youthful, but her face and hands began to be tanned because of her

exposing to the sun, all the day, milking the cows, so she seemed to be older than her true age. As she had a son whom his father was **Mr. Lodge**, she lived in a small cottage away from the village where she was working.

### 3. Gertrude:

She was a beautiful young lady who was married to **Mr. Lodge**. She has had blue eyes, red mouth, shining teeth and red hair.

She seemed to be a charitable woman. She was softhearted and dealt gently with **Rhoda's son** without knowing that he was the illegal son of her husband.

### 4. Trendle:

He was a magic man who used to work with magic to make people reach their goals (desires).

### 5. Rhoda's son:

He was the illegal son of **Rhoda** and **Mr. Lodge**. *Thomas Hardy* did **not** mention his name. All what we can know about him is that he was about 12 years old, and he seemed to be a very clever boy.

## {The story's summary}

*The Withered Arm* is a short story written by *Thomas Hardy*. This story is about a woman called **Rhoda Brook**.

This woman is thin and faded because of her work. She works as a milkmaid, so her hands and face are tanned.

When **Rhoda** was 20 years old, she got into an illegal relationship with the owner of the farm which she worked in. That man called **Mr. Lodge**. As a result, they got an illegal son whom his name is not mentioned in the story.

**Rhoda's son** is about **12** years old, and he is a very clever son. He lives with his mother in a small cottage in another village.

One day, **Rhoda** hears from the other milkmaids that **Mr. Lodge** is going to get married. Nevertheless, **Mr. Lodge** did not announce his relationship with **Rhoda**, and he hired the cottage for her and her son in order to hide his secret.

**Rhoda** sends her son once to buy some things from the market, and she asks him to look at **Gertrude**, the new wife of his father, and she wants him to describe **Gertrude** from top to bottom.

**Rhoda** is a jealous woman, and jealousy is the nature of all women as well. The son goes to see **Gertrude** and gets astonished when he sees the expensive carriage and the horses. He looks at the new wife and feels that she is very beautiful.

When he comes back home at night, he finds his mother waiting for him. He tells his mother that the lady is very beautiful, her hair is red and she, the lady, has blue eyes. He says that the new wife is like a doll, she has a white skin and a red mouth, and when she smiles, her teeth shine as the sun.

**Rhoda** does not want to see her, but she has a strong desire to know her features. **Rhoda** is tall, so she wants to know if the new wife is tall or not because she feels jealousy, and this is the nature of women.

When she asks her son about the lady's tall, he tells her that he did not notice if she is tall or not because she was sitting in the carriage. **Rhoda** wants to know more details about **Gertrude**, so she asks her son to go again in the next day to the church in order to get more information.

When the boy goes in the next day to the church, he sees **Gertrude** and notices that his mother is taller than her. **Rhoda** feels satisfying when she knows that she is taller. Then **Rhoda** asks about **Gertrude's** hands and if she seems like her, tanned and faded. The son could **not** know about that because **Gertrude** was wearing gloves.

### {The second part of the story's summary}

When **Rhoda's son** looks at **Gertrude**, his father's new wife, she notices him and tells her husband about what she sees. **Mr. Lodge** says that the boy is a poor boy who lives with his mother in another village. Moreover, **Gertrude** is not clever enough to wonder how her husband knows this information. **Mr. Lodge**

suggests that since the boy is poor, so he is staring at them and the carriage.

Two days later, **Gertrude** sees the boy again. She notices the poverty he suffers from, and she asks him about the reason behind his poor appearance and his cracked shoes. The boy says that he is a poor child who lives with his mother in a small cottage in another village.

Then he tells her that he and his mother do **not** have money to buy clothes and shoes, but they have money only to eat. So, **Gertrude** promises to visit him and his mother in their house and to bring him new shoes. (a new pair of shoes).

One night, **Rhoda** goes to bed in order to sleep. Then she dreams that **Gertrude** comes to her house before she really comes to the visit. **Rhoda** has a nightmare, she dreams that **Gertrude** comes with her silk dress and sits on her chest (bosom). Then **Rhoda** falls with a pressure and pushes **Gertrude** away, scratching her left arm with her fingers. **Rhoda** wakes up at night, and upon her face there was cold sweat. All that night, she could not go back to sleep.

In the morning of the next day, she goes to the farm to work, and all the workers notice that she is tired. At night, she returns home, and her son asks her about what happened to her in the last night.

He tells her that he heard her fall off her bed. She gets astonished and says that she ca **not** remember anything about that. Then she asks her son about the time of the tumble he heard, and he replies that it was at 2:00 o'clock. Then he tells his mother about his

meeting with **Gertrude** and Gertrude's promise to visit them and bring a new pair of shoes for him.

Two days later, **Gertrude** comes to visit the son in his cottage, and brings new shoes with her. When **Rhoda** sees her, she gets astonished because **Gertrude** is the same woman **Rhoda** dreamt with in her nightmare and with the same silk dress. **Gertrude** seems to be tired, so **Rhoda** asks her about the reason behind that. **Gertrude** tells her that one day, while she was sleeping, she felt a pain in her left arm. **Rhoda** is shocked and asks her about the time when that happened. Then **Gertrude** tells her that it was 2:00 o'clock." It is a great coincidence between dream and reality". **Gertrude** tells **Rhoda** that her pain causes many problems for her relationship with her husband who starts to hate her because of her complaining.

Two days later, **Rhoda** sees **Gertrude** and feels sympathy with her. She asks her about her pain and if she gets better, but **Gertrude** tells her that she sees many doctors and they advise her to put her arm in the warm water, but it could **not** cure her pain. **Rhoda** tells her that she could keep her arm covered in order not to annoy her husband. That is because all men care about the appearance of the woman.

Then **Rhoda** advises **Gertrude** to treat her pain with magic, and she tells her that she knows a magician.

This man is called "**Trendle**", and he lives in **Edgon**, a village near to their home. **Gertrude** says that she does not believe in magic, but she accepts to go because she ca **not** stand more with her pain and suffering. She asks **Gertrude** to accompany her, and to promise not to tell her husband about this matter.



They go and see **Trendle**, and they tell him about the problem. When **Trendle** sees the injury, he tells them that it is a work of an enemy, and no medicine can cure it. **Rhoda** surprises, and **Gertrude** gets shocked, when she hears that. **Trendle** asks her if she wants to know who her enemy is, and she says "yes". Then he asks **Rhoda** to leave the room.

Now, the magician and **Gertrude** are alone in the room. **Trendle** takes a glass and fills it with water. Then he brings an egg and breaks it on the edge of the glass and puts the yolk in and throws the white away. After that, he asks **Gertrude** to look into the water and asks her if she can see any likeness. In fact, he knows that **Rhoda** is the enemy, but he wants **Gertrude** to know that by herself.

### {The third (final) part of the summary}

**Gertrude** is still young, but she seems to be much older than she really is. After six years of marriage with no children, **Mr. Lodge** starts to think that this is a divine punishment because he has left **Rhoda** and her son with no care in another village.

**Mr. Lodge** notices that his new wife, **Gertrude**, is sad all the time, so he suggests to bring her a boy to live with them and to cheer her up. Then he cannot find that boy and tells her that the boy is lost and nobody knows about his place.

After that, **Mr. Lodge** tells his wife that he will travel city for business, and that he has to travel alone without her. **Gertrude** decides to go once again to visit **Trendle**, but this time she wants to go without **Rhoda**. (we see the determinism of **Gertrude** and her insist on curing her arm). This time, **Trendle** tells her again that

normal medicine will not cure the hurt arm. He says there is a different kind of remedy, but this remedy is hard for her to achieve because she is a young lady and a beautiful one. Nevertheless, **Gertrude** insists on knowing what the remedy is. **Trendle** tells her that she has to go to a prison and wait till someone be hanged. Then she has to touch the neck of the dead man, and the blood will flow in her withered arm.

**Trendle** claims that many people have come to him with the same illness and that he cured them by the same method. **Gertrude** turns to be hard-hearted and starts asking God to let someone be hanged. She does **not** care about if this person maybe innocent or guilty, but she only wants to cure her pain. She goes to the city of the prison, and in the next day, there will be someone who is supposed to be hanged.

On the day of execution, **Gertrude** is in the tower corridor where the dead body should pass. she has made a deal with the executioner that she shall be able to touch the neck of the dead body. Then she asks her to uncover her withered arm and to put it on the neck of the dead man. She puts her hand and feels surprised and happy when the blood starts moving again in her arm.

Then **Gertrude** turns around and sees **Rhoda** and **Mr. Lodge** behind her. **Rhoda** stands with tears. **Mr. Lodge** asks **Gertrude** why she is here and what she is doing between him, **Rhoda** and their dead son. **Rhoda** pushes **Gertrude** because she thinks that she is the reason why the young man (her son) is hanged. **Gertrude** falls unconscious on the ground.

Three days later, and though **Gertrude**'s arm is recovered, she dies. **Mr. Lodge** is sad because of his wife's death, so he sells his

properties, gives the money away to charity, and goes to live in another village. Then he dies two days later.

**The story has five main topics:**

- 1. Jealousy and Love.*
- 2. Superstition and magic.<sup>1</sup>*
- 3. Sympathy and compassion.*
- 4. The dream.*
- 5. Determination.*

{Comments}

**P.3:**

*"Nothing more was said publicly about Farmer Lodge's wedding, but the first woman murmured under her cow to her next neighbor, 'Tis hard for she,' signifying the thin worn milkmaid aforesaid."*

This passage is taken from *The Withered Arm* by *Thomas Hardy*. **The speaker** is the author. **The listeners** are the readers. **The occasion** is that while **Rhoda** was working in **Mr. Lodge's** farm, she heard that her son's father decided to marry another

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<sup>1</sup> Note:

- You should know that superstition is something different from magic.

Superstition means the unreal events and ideas while magic means the supernatural power which can control people in some ways.

woman. It was so difficult for her to know that because she has had an illegal relationship with **Mr. Lodge**, which led to have the son. **The main idea** is jealousy and love.

**Note:**

You may have only these words to comment on in the exam:

**" 'tis hard for she"**

**P.3+4:**

*'They have just been saying down in Barton that your father brings his young wife home from Anglebury tomorrow,' the woman observed. 'I shall want to send you for a few things to market, and you will be pretty sure to meet 'em'.*

*'Yes, Mother,' said the boy. 'Is Father married then?'*

*'Yes.....You can give her a look, and tell me what she is like, if you do see her.'*

*'Yes, Mother.'*

*'If she is dark or fair, and if she is tall- as tall as I. And if she seems like a woman who has ever worked for a living,'*

This passage is taken from **The Withered Arm** by **Thomas Hardy**. **The speaker** is **Rhoda Brook**. **The listener** is her son. (There is a conversation between **Rhoda Brook** and her son). **The occasion** is that **Rhoda** felt jealous when she knew about her husband's marriage. She asked her son to go in order to bring some

things from the market, and she ordered him to see the new wife whom his father decided to marry. She told him to be aware of every detail he could see. **The main idea** is jealousy.

**P.4:**

*'Yes,' she resumed, 'see if she is dark or fair, and if you can, notice if her hands be white; if not, see if they look as though she had ever done housework, or are milker's hands like mine.'*

This passage is taken from *The Withered Arm* by *Thomas Hardy*. **The speaker** is **Rhoda Brook**. **The listener** is her son. **The occasion** is that **Rhoda** felt jealous when she knew about the marriage of her son's father, so she wanted to know more details about the new wife. She told her son that he should look at the lady's hands and notice if they seemed like hers, since **Rhoda** had rough hands because of her work as a milkmaid. **The main idea** is jealousy.

**P.6:**

*'I do - though I think the poor boy may have looked at us in the hope we might relieve him of his heavy load, rather than from curiosity.'*

This passage is taken from *The Withered Arm* by *Thomas Hardy*. **The speaker** is **Gertrude**. **The listener** is **Mr. Lodge**. **The occasion** is that when **Rhoda's son** went to see his father's new

wife again, the lady noticed how he was staring at her. Then she told her husband about the boy, and **Mr. Lodge** said that the boy might be surprised with what he saw of her beauty. Also, he suggested that he might be a poor boy who lived with his mother in another village. **The main idea** is sympathy and compassion.

**P.7+8:**

*'Well, did you see her?'*

*'Yes; quite plain.'*

*'Is she ladylike?'*

*'Yes; and more. A lady complete.'*

*'Is she young?'*

*'Well, she's growed up, and her ways be quite a woman's.'*

*'Of course. What colour is her hair and face?'*

*'Her hair is lightish, and her face as comely as a live doll's.'*

*'Her eyes, then, are not dark like mine?'*

*'No - of a bluish turn, and her mouth is very nice and red; and when she smiles, her teeth show white.'*

*'Is she tall?' said the woman sharply.*

*'I could not see. She was sitting down.'*

*'Then do you go to Holmstoke church tomorrow morning: she's sure to be there. Go early and notice her walking in, and come home and tell me if she's taller than I.'*

*'Very well, Mother. But why do not you go and see for yourself?'*

*'I go to see her! I would not look up at her if she were to pass my window this instant. She was with Mr Lodge, of course. What did he say or do?'*

*'Just the same as usual.'*

*'Took no notice of you?'*

*'None.'*

This passage is taken from *The Withered Arm* by *Thomas Hardy*. There is a conversation between **Rhoda Brook** and her son about his father's new wife. **The occasion** is that **Rhoda's son** went back after he had seen the new wife and told his mother that the lady seemed to be a complete one. He described her as a beautiful woman with blue eyes, red mouth, and shining teeth. **Rhoda** asked him about the lady's tallness because she, **Rhoda**, herself was a tall woman. Also, she refused to go with her son because she wanted to imagine the lady not to see her. **The main idea** is jealousy.

**P.8:**

*When he reached home his mother said, 'Well?' before he had entered the room.*

*'She is not tall. She is rather short,' he replied.*

*'Ah!' said his mother, with satisfaction.*

*'But she's very pretty - very. In fact, she's lovely.' The youthful freshness of the yeoman's wife had evidently made an impression even on the somewhat hard nature of the boy.*

*'That's all I want to hear,' said his mother quickly. 'Now, spread the tablecloth.*

*The hare you wired is very tender; but mind nobody catches you.*

*You've never told me what sort of hands she had.'*

*'I have never seen 'em. She never took off her gloves'*

This passage is taken from *The Withered Arm* by *Thomas Hardy*. There is a conversation between **Rhoda Brook** and her son about his father's new wife of his father. **The occasion** is that **Rhoda** asked her son to go again and to notice the lady's tallness. He went and saw that she was not as tall as his mother, and that gave **Rhoda** a kind of satisfy. Then she asked him about the lady's hands, but he could not see them because she, the lady, was wearing gloves. **The main idea** is jealousy.

**P.10:**

*'O, merciful heaven!' she cried, sitting on the edge of the bed in a cold sweat; 'that was not a dream - she was here!'*

This passage is taken from *The Withered Arm* by *Thomas Hardy*. **The speaker** is **Rhoda Brook**. **The listeners** are the readers. **The occasion** is that **Rhoda** had dreamt with a nightmare one night. She felt as if **Gertrude** came and sat on her chest, wearing a silk dress and a hat. **Rhoda** pushed her away in the



dream and scratched her left arm. Then **Rhoda** woke up and felt that what happened was a real event. **The main idea** is the dream.<sup>2</sup>

**P.11:**

**Rhoda Brook** *slept no more that night, and when she went milking at the next dawn they noticed how pale and haggard she looked. The milk that she drew quivered into the pail; her hand had not calmed even yet.*

This passage is taken from *The Withered Arm* by **Thomas Hardy**. **The speaker** is the author, and **the listeners** are the readers. **The occasion** is that **Rhoda** went to her work after she had had a dream in which she saw **Gertrude** coming to her house, sitting on her chest. That made her feel tired, and all the women at work noticed that she was pale and busy-minded. **The main idea** is the dream.<sup>3</sup>

**P.11:**

*'What was that noise in your chimmer, mother, last night?' said her son. 'You fell off the bed. surely?'*

*'Did you hear anything fall? At what time?'*

*'Just when the clock struck two.'*

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<sup>2</sup> **Note:** you have to mention the dream that Rhoda dreamt with.

<sup>3</sup> **Note:** you have to mention the dream that Rhoda dreamt with.

This passage is taken from *The Withered Arm* by *Thomas Hardy*. The speaker is **Rhoda's son**. The listeners are the readers. The occasion is that **Rhoda** had a nightmare one night, she felt as if **Gertrude** came and sat on her chest then **Rhoda** pushed her away, scratching her left arm. That dream made **Rhoda** feel tired. At night, her son asked her about if she had fallen off her bed because he heard a noise. **Rhoda** asked him about the time, and he said that it was two o'clock. The main idea is the dream.

P.12:

*'I did not speak to her till she spoke to me. And I did not go near the place. I met her in the road.'*

*'What did you tell her?'*

*'Nothing. She said, "Are you the poor boy who had to bring the heavy load from market?" And she looked at my hoots, and said they would not keep my feet dry if it came on wet, because they were so cracked. I told her I lived with my mother, and we had enough to do to keep ourselves, and that's how it was; and she said then: "I'll come and bring you some better hoots, and see your mother." She gives away things to other folks in the meads besides us.'*

*Mrs. Lodge was by this time close to the door - not in her silk, as Rhoda had dreamt of in the bed-chamber, but in a morning hat, and gown of common light material, which became her better than silk. On her arm she carried a basket.*

This passage is taken from *The Withered Arm* by *Thomas Hardy*. **The speaker** is **Rhoda's son**. **The listener** is **Rhoda**. **The occasion** is that **Rhoda's son** told his mother about the conversation between him and **Gertrude**. He said that **Gertrude** met him and looked at his cracked boots and asked him about the reason behind his poverty. He told **Gertrude** that he lived with his mother in a small cottage, and that they do **not** have enough money to live in a good way. **Gertrude** promised him to come and visit him and to bring him new shoes. **The main idea** is sympathy and compassion.<sup>4</sup>

**P.12:**

*'I see I have come to the right house,' said she, glancing at the lad, and smiling. 'But I was not sure till you opened the door.'*

This passage is taken from *The Withered Arm* by *Thomas Hardy*. **The speaker** is **Gertrude**, and **the listener** is **Rhoda's son**. **Gertrude** came to visit **Rhoda** and her son in order to give the son what she bought for him. We notice that **Gertrude** was a naïve woman who was deceived by her husband. She tended to help his son without knowing that he was his son. **The main idea** is compassion and sympathy.

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<sup>4</sup> **Note:** you have to mention your attitude towards Gertrude.

**P.13:**

*Two days later she came again to know if the boots fitted; and less than a fortnight after paid Rhoda another call. On this occasion the boy was absent.*

This passage is taken from *The Withered Arm* by *Thomas Hardy*. **The speaker** is the author. **The listeners** are the readers. **The occasion** is that **Gertrude** went again to visit **Rhoda** in order to ask if the boots was fitted. **Rhoda** asked **Gertrude** about her paleness. Then **Gertrude** told her that she had a pain in her left arm. When **Gertrude** uncovered her injury, **Rhoda** saw her four fingers and got astonished. **The main idea** is the dream.

**P.13:**

*She uncovered her left hand and arm; and their outline confronted Rhoda's gaze as the exact original of the limb she had beheld and seized in her dream. Upon the pink round surface of the arm were faint marks of an unhealthy colour, as if produced by a rough grasp. Rhoda's eyes became riveted on the discolorations; she fancied that she discerned in them the shape of her own four fingers.*

This passage is taken from *The Withered Arm* by *Thomas Hardy*. **The speaker** is the author. **The listeners** are the readers. **The occasion** is that **Gertrude** went again to visit **Rhoda** in order to ask if the boots was fitted. **Rhoda** asked **Gertrude** about her

paleness. Then **Gertrude** told her that she had a pain in her left arm. When **Gertrude** uncovered her injury, **Rhoda** saw her four fingers and got astonished. **The main idea** is the dream.

**P. 15:**

*Rhoda could not avoid the subject which had so mystified her, and after the first few words she stammered, 'I hope your - arm is well again, ma'm?' She had perceived with consternation that Gertrude Lodge carried her left arm stiffly.*

*'No; it not quite well. Indeed it is no better at all; it is rather worse. It pains me dreadfully sometimes.'*

*'Perhaps you had better go to a doctor, ma'am.'*

*She replied that she had already seen a doctor. Her husband had insisted upon her going to one. But the surgeon had not seemed to understand the afflicted limb at all; he had told her to bathe it in hot water, and she had bathed it, but the treatment had done no good.*

This passage is taken from *The Withered Arm* by **Thomas Hardy**. There is a conversation between **Rhoda Brook** and **Gertrude**. **The occasion** is that **Rhoda** met **Gertrude** and felt sympathized with her because of her pain. **Rhoda** asks her about if she got better, but **Gertrude** said that she still has pain, and even medicine and doctors failed in treating her. **The main idea** is sympathy.

**P.16:**

*'I should not so much mind it,' said the younger, with hesitation, 'if - if I had not a notion that it makes my husband dislike me - no, love me less. Men think so much of personal appearance.'*

*'Some do - he for one.'*

*'Yes; and he was very proud of mine, at first.'*

*'Keep your arm covered from his sight.'*

This passage is taken from *The Withered Arm* by *Thomas Hardy*. There is a conversation between **Rhoda Brook** and **Gertrude** about the injury of **Gertrude**. **Gertrude** complained to **Rhoda** about her suffering. She said that her husband started to hate her because of her scratched arm. That was because all men cared about appearance. **Rhoda** advises her to cover her arm. **The main idea** is jealousy and sympathy.

**P.18:**

*'Yes,' said Rhoda.*

*'The place on my arm seems worse, and troubles me!' the young farmer's wife went OIL 'It is so mysterious! I do hope it will not be an incurable wound. I have again been thinking of what they said about Conjuror Trendle. I do not really believe in such men, but I should not mind just visiting him, from curiosity - though on no account must my husband know.*

*Is it far to where he lives?'*

*'Yes - five miles,' said Rhoda backwardly. 'In the heart of Egdon.'*

*'Well, I should have to walk. Could not you go with me to show me the way -say tomorrow afternoon?'*

This passage is taken from *The Withered Arm* by *Thomas Hardy*. There is a conversation between **Rhoda Brook** and **Gertrude**. The **occasion** is that **Rhoda** wanted to help **Gertrude** and advised her to cure her arm with magic. She told her that she knew a magic man lived in **Edgon**, five miles away. He may help her with his powers. That man was called "**Trendle**". **Gertrude** did **not** believe in magic but she had no other way. Then she asked **Rhoda** to go with her. **The main idea** is superstition and magic.

**P.21:**

*He was a grey-bearded man, with a reddish face, and he looked singularly at Rhoda the first moment he beheld her. Mrs. Lodge told him her errand; and then with words of self-disparagement he examined her arm.*

*'Medicine ca not cure it,' he said promptly. '"Tis the work of an enemy.'*

*Rhoda shrank into herself, and drew back.*

*'An enemy? What enemy?' asked Mrs. Lodge.*

*He shook his head. 'That's best known to yourself,' he said. 'If you like, I can show the person to you, though I shall not myself know who it is. I can do no more; and do not wish to do that.'*

This passage is taken from *The Withered Arm* by *Thomas Hardy*. **The speaker** is **Trendle**, and **the listeners** are **Rhoda Brook** and **Gertrude**. **The occasion** is that they went to visit him and showed him the injury in Gertrud's arm. **Trendle** said that medicine ca **not** cure her pain because it was a work of an enemy. Then he asked **Gertrude** if she wanted to know her enemy. **The main idea** is superstition and magic.

**P.21:**

*'Do you catch the likeness of any face or figure as you look?'*  
*demanded the conjuror of the young woman.*

This passage is taken from *The Withered Arm* by *Thomas Hardy*. **The speaker** is the magician **Trendle**, and **the listener** is **Gertrude**. **The occasion** is that she went to visit **Trendle** with **Rhoda Brook** in order to find a solution for her pain. **Trendle** told her that it was a work of an enemy and brought a glass filled with water, and inside the glass he put a yolk of an egg. Then he asked **Gertrude** if she could see any face inside the glass. **The main idea** is superstition and magic.



**P.23:**

*Half a dozen years passed away. and Mr. and Mrs. Lodge's married experience sank into prosiness, and worse. The farmer was usually gloomy and silent: the woman whom he had wooed for her grace and beauty was contorted and disfigured in the left limb; moreover, she had brought him no child, which rendered it likely that he would be the last of a family who had occupied that valley for some two hundred years. He thought of Rhoda Brook and her son; and feared this might be a judgment from heaven upon him.*

This passage is taken from *The Withered Arm* by *Thomas Hardy*. **The speaker** is the author, and **the listeners** are the readers. **The occasion** is that even though **Mr. Lodge** has married a beautiful young woman, he still has no children for six years. **Mr. Lodge** thinks about **Rhoda** and her son, then he considers his misery to be a kind of divine punishment because of what he has done when he left **Rhoda** and his son. **The main idea** is compassion and sympathy.

**P.23-24:**

*'You want somebody to cheer you,' he observed. 'I once thought of adopting a boy; but he is too old now. And he is gone away I do not know where.'*

This passage is taken from *The Withered Arm* by *Thomas Hardy*. **The speaker** is **Mr. Lodge**, and **the listener** is **Gertrude**. **The occasion** is that **Gertrude** spends year of sadness and pain because

of her hurt arm. Also, during these years, she has not had any child. So, her husband suggests to bring her a boy whom he knows in order to cheer her up. However, **Mr. Lodge** says that the boy has suddenly disappeared and no one knows any information about him. **The main idea** is sympathy and compassion.

**P. 24:**

*'She was now five-and-twenty; but she seemed older. 'Six 'years of marriage, and only a few months of love,' she sometimes whispered to herself. And then she thought of the apparent cause, and said, with a tragic glance at her withering limb, 'If I could only be again as I was when he first saw me!'*

This passage is taken from *The Withered Arm* by *Thomas Hardy*. **The speaker** is the author and **the listeners** are the readers. **The occasion** is that **Gertrude** has suffered a lot because of her pain and her hurt arm. Even though she is still a young lady, she seems to be older than her true age because of her suffering and frustrating. Then she wishes if she could return to be as beautiful as she was when she got married. **The main idea** is sympathy and compassion.

**P.25:**

*'You think too much of my powers!' said Trendle; 'and I am old and weak now, too. No, no; it is too much for me to attempt in my own person. What have ye tried?' She named to him some of the*

*hundred medicaments and counter spells which she had adopted from time to time. He shook his head.*

This passage is taken from *The Withered Arm* by *Thomas Hardy*. The speaker is **Trendle**, and the listener is **Gertrude**. The occasion is that **Gertrude** cannot endure her pain more, so she decides to visit **Trendle** again, but this time she wants to go without **Rhoda**. In her second visit, **Gertrude** asks **Trendle** to give her a solution to her pain, and he tells her that what she asks for is very difficult. Then she tells him that medicine has failed in doing that and she is so frustrated. The main idea is sympathy and compassion.

**P.25:**

*It has never failed in kindred afflictions - that I can declare. But it is hard to carry out, and especially for a woman.'*

*'Tell me!' said she.*

*'You must touch with the limb the neck of a man who's been hanged.'*

*She started a little at the image he had raised. 'Before he's cold - just after he's cut down,' continued the conjuror impassively.*

*'How can that do good?'*

*'It will turn the blood and change the constitution.*

This passage is taken from *The Withered Arm* by *Thomas Hardy*. The speaker is **Trendle**, and the listener is **Gertrude**. The occasion is that **Gertrude** visits **Trendle** for the second time in

order to find a remedy for her hurt arm. **Trendle** tells her that there is only one solution, but it is difficult for her as she is a young lady. **Gertrude** insists on knowing that way, so he tells her that she has to go to a prison and put her hurt arm on a neck of a hanged man. Then the blood will move again in her hand. **The main idea** is superstition and magic.

**P.27:**

*“O Lord, hang some guilty or innocent person soon!”*

This passage is taken from *The Withered Arm* by *Thomas Hardy*. **The speaker** is **Gertrude**, and **the listeners** are the reader. **The occasion** is that **Gertrude** has no more ability to endure her pain and suffering. She asks God to let someone is hanged, and she does not care if he is guilty or innocent. The only thing she wants is to cure her arm and she finds no other way except what **Trendle** suggests. **The main idea** is sympathy and determination.

**P.28:**

*, Lodge remarked to her that he was going away from home for another day or two on business at a fair, and that he was sorry he could not take her with him.*

This passage is taken from *The Withered Arm* by *Thomas Hardy*. **The speaker** is the author, and **the listeners** are the readers. **The occasion** is that **Mr. Lodge** tells his wife, **Gertrude**, that he has a

business for some days in another area, and that he cannot accompany her with him. **The main idea** is sympathy.

**P.30:**

*Gertrude reached the White Hart, the first inn of the town on that side. Little surprise was excited by her arrival; farmers' wives rode on horseback then more than they do now; though, for that matter, Mrs. Lodge was not imagined to be a wife at all;*

This passage is taken from *The Withered Arm* by *Thomas Hardy*. **The speaker** is the author, and **the listeners** are the readers. **The occasion** is that **Gertrude** knows that somebody will be hanged in the city. Moreover, her husband has left her and gone. Then she decides to go and attend the hang fair in order to cure her hand with the way of **Trendle**. Since she is a young lady, no one expects her existence there. **The main idea** is determination.

**P.30:**

*'What is going on there?' she asked of the ostler.*

*'Making the rope for tomorrow.'*

This passage is taken from *The Withered Arm* by *Thomas Hardy*. **The speaker** is **Gertrude**. **The listeners** are the crowd. **The occasion** is that **Gertrude** goes to the city prison, watching people who prepare the platform of hanging. Then she asks them about what

they are doing in order to make sure of that. **The main idea** is determination.

**P.36:**

*She bared her poor curst arm; and Davies, uncovering the face of the corpse, took Gertrude's hand, and held it so that her arm lay across the dead man's neck, upon a line the colour of an unripe blackberry, which surrounded it.*

This passage is taken from *The Withered Arm* by *Thomas Hardy*. **The speaker** is the author, and **the listeners** are the readers. **The occasion** is that **Gertrude** insists on doing the only solution **Trendle** has told her about. She attends the execution of someone at the prison, and the executioner helps her to put her hurt arm on the neck of the hanged man. **The main idea** is determination.

**P.37:**

*Her blood had been 'turned' indeed - too far. Her death took place in the town three days after.*

*Her husband was never seen in Casterbridge again; once only in the old market-place at Anglebury, which he had so much frequented, and very seldom in public anywhere Burdened at first with moodiness and remorse.*

This passage is taken from *The Withered Arm* by *Thomas Hardy*. **The speaker** is the author, and **the listeners** are the readers. **The occasion** is that **Gertrude** has done what **Trendle** suggests and put her arm on a neck of a hanged man. So, the blood moves again in her arm, and she is recovered. However, she has known during that execution that the hanged man is her husband's son, and this matter leads to her death after three days. **The main idea** is sympathy.

**P.37:**

*Soon after attending the funeral of his poor wife he took steps towards giving up the farms in Holmstoke and the adjoining parish, and, having sold every head of his stock, he went away to Port-Bredy, at the other end of the county, living there in solitary lodgings till his death two years later of a painless decline.*

This passage is taken from *The Withered Arm* by *Thomas Hardy*. **The speaker** is the author, and **the listeners** are the readers. **The occasion** is that **Gertrude** has died after three days of **Mr. Lodge** son's execution, which makes **Mr. Lodge** frustrated and sad. Then he sells all his properties and gives the money to the charitable companies. Finally, he leaves to another city and dies there. **The main idea** is sympathy.

- The second story:

## **The Force of Circumstances**

***W. Somerset Maugham***

***1876-1965***

The second short story is **The Force of Circumstances**<sup>5</sup>.

### **The life of the author:**

He is William Somerset Maugham. He lived between **1874** and **1965**. He was an English playwright, an author, a novelist, and he also wrote short stories. He was one of the most popular writers at his age. His parents died because of illness when he was **ten** years old. After their death, he was raised by his uncle. He trained and qualified as a doctor, and he served the Red Cross during the first World War. During and after this war, he traveled **India, South East, and Asia**. All of these experiences were reflected later in his short stories and novels. His father was a lawyer; the legal ambassador of the British embassy in Paris. His mother died when she was **41** years old on his **eighth birthday** because she was an ill woman. So, **Maugham** was very sad; *he tried always to keep her photograph beside his bed.*

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<sup>5</sup> You have to capitalize the title of the story. You will lose many marks if you do not capitalize it. You have to capitalize every word in the title except the prepositions and the articles; *we can capitalize them only if they come at the beginning of the title.*



Two years later, Maugham's father died in France because of cancer. So, his uncle adapted him; to look after him. He lived with his uncle. But his uncle was miserable not like his father and mother. When he became sixteen years old, he refused to continue his study in the king school. His uncle allowed him to travel to Germany in order to study literature, philosophy and German language because he likes literature; *he did not like medicine*. He wanted to be a famous man in literature. Some critics said that he was more creative in medicine rather than in literature. But he felt the contrary; *that he was better in literature rather than in medicine*. He wrote many novels, dramas and short stories. One of his novels was **Liza of Lambeth**. The second novel was **Of Human Bondage**. He got married and he had one daughter. But the marriage was unhappy, so his wife divorced him. At the end, he died when he was **91** years old. He established himself in literature as the top dramatist, the top novelist, and the top writer of short story.

### {The Summary}

**The Force of Circumstances** is a story which tells about a man, **Guy**, and his wife, **Doris**. They live in Malaysia. **Guy** moved there right after his school and has lived there for years. He left once and he came back with his white wife, **Doris**.

When **Guy** was young, he was very alone at night. Night after night it was the same. One evening his friend asked whether he'd like to have a girl to come and live with him. First, he had doubts

about it, but he said yes after all, and she stayed. They had three children.

One day, he was walking on the seashore when he saw a white girl her name is **Doris**. After a few days they loved each other, but he did **not** tell the **Malay Woman** about that.

**Guy** and **Doris** met the **Malay Woman** many times. **Doris** sympathized with her every time she meets her. She did **not** know that the **Malay Woman** had a relationship with her husband. She sympathized with the woman because her two boys were treating her in a very bad way. **Doris** asked **Guy** if he noticed how the children of the **Malay Woman** treat their mother. She told him that she sympathized with the **Malay Woman** because she was carrying a baby in her arms. **Guy** said that the baby is three years old. She was surprised because **Guy** knew the age of the baby. He told her that he knew everything about this woman.

He started to tell her his story with the **Malay Woman**. He gave her justifications about his relationship with the **Malay Woman**. He said that he was eighteen years old, and he found himself alone. He loved people. He said that he spent days and nights drinking. He felt as a prisoner alone in his house, and he spent many days without sleeping. He told her that his friend **Abdul** advised him to heir any girl in order to help him. **Abdul** brought a fifteen-year-old girl. She was young and small. **Abdul** said the he can fire her any time he wants. They treated the black people as slaves.

**Doris** asked him about the baby, and he said that the baby is his baby. He said that the two boys are also his kids. **Doris** was surprised. She asked him if the **Malay Woman** knows that he is

going to marry another woman. He said yes. He said that he gave her what he promised to take care of the children. **Doris** blamed him for not telling her the truth. She asked him to give her time to judge herself. She asked for six months in order to judge herself.

**The Force of Circumstances** moves around two main ideas (hypocrisy and loneliness)

**The Characters:**

1. **The Malay Woman.**
2. **Doris.**
3. **Guy.**
4. **Guy's friend, Abdul.**

**The Malay Woman:**

She is **Guy's** long-standing illegal relationship. She lived with him **ten** years. They have had three illegal children. When **Guy** meets **Doris**, he loves her from the first moment because she is an English woman and she is also an educated woman like him. He asks her for marriage and she accepts. But he does not tell her about his illegal relationship with the **Malay Woman**. He asks the **Malay Woman** to move to another village and he gives her some money. But when **Doris** knows about that, she decides to leave him. The **Malay Woman** is a black (dark) woman; *her skin was black*. She has had a black hair and black eyes. She was from Malaysia; *she is a native woman where the people were all black*. Although she is black, she is a beautiful woman. She is poor.

### **Doris:**

She is the wife of **Guy**. She is an English woman, but when she meets **Guy**, she decides to leave England and to live with him in Malaysia. They are very happy. This woman is described by the writer that she is a pretty woman, and she is young with brown eyes and short hair. But when she discovers the reality; *that **Guy** has illegal relationship with the **Malay Woman** and they had three illegal children*, she decides to leave him.

### **Guy:**

He is a short- fat man. His age is **29** years. His father serves the second sultan. He used to live with his family and his friends when he was in England. But suddenly he finds himself alone in Malaysia and he cannot bear to be lonely. So, he used a native woman in order to fill his emptiness and serve him. She had lived with him **ten** years, and they have had three illegal children. He seems to be very amused because he is laughing all of his time. So, **Doris** admires him because he spends most of his time laughing. In the first nine months, **Guy** and **Doris** are very happy because their life is very amusing. **Doris** feels happiness with **Guy** because he is good temper with her. However, at the end of the story, she will leave him because she will discover the reality that he has had three illegal children and *another woman*.

**Guy** has told **Doris** that he has had a relationship with the **Malay Woman** and that they have three children. Then **Doris** asks him to give her six months to judge her mind.

The six months have been ended, and she says that she cannot live with him because he has three children. She says that she does not blame him because he is a young man and alone when he has had this relationship. **Doris** decides to leave and **Guy** cries because she will leave him. He asks her to accompany her, but she refuses. **Guy** tells his son to go and bring his mother, the **Malay Woman** comes back to the house.

We do **not** blame **Doris** because she is an educated woman. She judges her mind not her heart. She leaves without taking anything because she knows that her husband has three children to take care of.

We cannot blame **Guy**. We blame his circumstances. We blame his society and his parents because they left him to live alone at an early age.

**P.2:**

*"‘Hulloa, Doris. Hungry?’ ‘Ravenous.’*

*‘It’ll only take me a minute to have a bath and then I’m ready.’*

*‘Be quick,’ she smiled.*

*He disappeared into his dressing-room and she heard him whistling cheerily-while. with the carelessness with -which she was always remonstrating, he. tore off his clothes and flung them on the floor ’’.*

This is a conversation between **Guy** and Doris.

**P. 2:**

*He was a little round man, with a red face like the full moon, and blue eyes. He was rather pimply. She had examined him carefully and had been forced to confess to him that he had not a single feature which she could praise. She had told him often that he was not her type at all. I never said I - was a beauty, he laughed. I ca not think – what it is I see in you”*

It is a description of **Guy**.

**P.6:**

*”Who do they belong to?”*

*’Their mother is one of the village girls.’ ’Who is their father?’*

*’Oh, My dear, that’s the sort of question we think it a little dangerous to ask out here.’ He paused. ’A lot of fellows have native wives, and then when they go home or marry, they pension them off and send them back to their village. ’”*

This passage is taken from **The Force of Circumstance** by **W. Somerset Maugham**. There is a conversation between **Guy** and **Doris** about the **Malay Woman**. **Doris** asks **Guy** about the three children they have seen. He tells her that all men in that area used

to have relationships with native women. **The main idea** is hypocrisy.

### **P.11**

*"They passed her. She was slight and small, with the large, dark, starry eyes of her race and a mass of raven hair. She did not stir as they went by, but stared at them strangely. Doris saw then that she was not quite so young as she had at first thought. Her features were a trifle heavy and her skin was dark, but she was very pretty. She held a small child in her arms. Doris smiled a little as she saw it, but no answering smile moved the woman's lips. Her face remained impassive"*

This is a description of the **Malay Woman**, from **Doris** view.

### **P.16-17**

*"'Guy,' she said, as they sat down, 'that woman 'we saw the other day was here again this morning.'*

*'So I've heard,' he answered.*

*'The boys were treating her brutally. I had to stop them. You must really speak to them about it.'*

*Though the Malay understood every word she said, he made no sign that he-heard. He handed her the toast.*

*'She's been told not to come here. I gave instructions that if she showed herself again she was to be turned out.'*

*'Were they obliged to be so rough?'*

*'She refused to go. I do not think they -were any rougher than they could help.'*"

*'It was horrible to see a woman treated like that. She had a baby in her arms.'*

*'Hardly a baby. It's three years old.'*

*'How d'you know?'*

*'I know all about her. She has not the least right to come here pestering everybody.'*

*'What does she want?'*

*'She wants to do exactly what she did. She wants to make a disturbance.'*

This passage is taken from **The Force of Circumstance** by **W. Somerset Maugham**. It is a conversation between **Guy** and **Doris** about the **Malay Woman**. **The occasion** is that they meet the **Malay Woman**. **Doris** notices that they are treating the **Malay Woman** badly. She sympathizes with her because she is carrying a baby in her arms. **Guy** says that the baby is three years old. **Doris** surprises because he knows the age of the baby. In my opinion, we cannot blame **Guy** for trying to hide his past because he would lose **Doris** if he does not. **The main idea** here is **hypocrisy**.

**P.18:**

*"'I -was only eighteen when I came out here. I came straight from school. I spent three months in Kuala Solor, and then I was sent to a station up the Sembulu river. Of course, there -was a Resident there and his wife.'*"



This passage is taken from **The Force of Circumstance** by **W. Somerset Maugham**. **The speaker** is **Guy**, and **the listener** is **Doris**. **The occasion** is that **Guy** is giving **Doris** justifications about his relationship with the **Malay Woman**. **Guy** told **Doris** that he was a young man. He was only eighteen years old. He said that he was alone. In my opinion, **Guy** deserves our sympathy because he was not a reasonable man when he was eighteen. **The main idea** is **loneliness**.

**P. 18:**

*"I'd never been alone before. Of course at home there'd been father and mother and generally an assistant. And then at school naturally there were always fellows about. On the way out on the boat, there were people all the time."*

This passage is taken from **The Force of Circumstance** by **W. Somerset Maugham**. **The speaker** is **Guy**, and **the listener** is **Doris**. **The occasion** is that **Guy** is giving **Doris** justifications about his relationship with the **Malay Woman**. **Guy** tells **Doris** that he could not bear loneliness. He says that he used to live with his father and mother. He has had a lot of friends at school. He says that he was always surrounded by people. He loves people and living in the crowd. Then he suddenly finds himself alone. In my opinion, **Guy** suffered loneliness and he deserves our sympathy. **The main idea** is **loneliness**.

**P. 19-20:**

*I was tired of reading. I could not have been more of a prisoner if I'd been in jail. Night after night it was the same. I tried drinking three or four whiskies, but its poor fun drinking alone, and it did not cheer me up; it only made me feel rather rotten next day. I tried going to bed immediately after dinner, but I could not sleep. I used to lie in bed, getting hotter and hotter, and wider awake, till I did not know what to do with myself.*

This passage is taken from **The Force of Circumstance** by W. Somerset Maugham. **The speaker** is Guy and **the listener** is Doris. **The occasion** is that Guy is giving Doris justifications about his relationship with the Malay Woman. Guy tells Doris that he feels as a prisoner alone in his house. He says that he has tried to drink, but that could not make him feel happy. He says that he could not sleep for nights. Everything he has tried to do was in vain. I think that nothing made Guy happy, so he tried to find any possible friendship. **The main idea** here is loneliness.

**P. 20:**

*“If you do not like her you send her away.”*

This passage is taken from **The Force of Circumstance** by W. Somerset Maugham. **The speaker** is Guy and **the listener** is Doris. **The occasion** is that Guy is giving Doris justifications about his relationship with the Malay Woman. He is telling Doris how Abdul has brought the Malay Woman for him. He describes the Malay Woman when she first came to him. He has told Guy that he could dismiss this woman if he would not like her. I think

that the only reason that has made **Guy** involve in a relationship with the **Malay Woman** is loneliness. **The main idea** here is **loneliness**.

**P. 21-22**

*" I was too young to be quite alone. I was never in love with anyone but you." He hesitated a moment. 'She lived here till I went home last year on leave. It's the woman you've seen hanging about Yes, I guessed that. She had a baby in her arms. Is that your child?'*

*'Yes. It's a little girl.'*

*'Is it the only one?'*

*'You saw the two small boys the other day in the kampong. You mentioned them.'*

*'She has three children then?'*

*'Yes.'*

*'It's quite a family you've got.'"*

This passage is taken from **The Force of Circumstance** by **W. Somerset Maugham**. **The speaker** is **Guy** and **the listener** is **Doris**. **The occasion** is that **Guy** is giving **Doris** justifications about his relationship with the **Malay Woman**. He is telling **Doris** that he could not live alone. He is about to be mad. He has brought the **Malay Woman** in order to help him. He says that he has had never loved her. He tells **Doris** that she is the only woman he has ever loved in his life. In my opinion, being lonely is what caused problems in **Guy's** life. **The main idea** is **loneliness**.

**P. 21-22**

*She felt the sudden gesture which her remark forced from him, but she did not speak.*

*'Did not she know that you were married till you suddenly turned up here with a wife?' asked Doris.*

*'She knew I was going to be married.'*

*'When?'*

*'I sent her back to the village before I left here. I told her it was all over. I gave her what I'd promised. She always knew it was only a temporary arrangement.*

*I was fed up with it. I told her I was going to marry a white woman.'*

This passage is taken from **The Force of Circumstance** by **W. Somerset Maugham**. It is a conversation between **Guy** and **Doris**. **The occasion** is that he is giving **Doris** justifications about his relationship with the **Malay Woman**. **Doris** asks him about the **Malay Woman's** baby. He says that it is a girl and she is his daughter. He says that he has two boys from her. He says that he does not love the **Malay Woman**. He tells her that he has given the **Malay Woman** all what he has promised and tells her that he is going to marry a white woman. I think loneliness caused the problems that made **Guy** lying at **Doris** and acting in a hypocritical way. **The main idea** is **hypocrisy**.

**P. 22:**

*"I fell in love with you at first sight and then I knew it was either you or nobody.*

*Why did not you tell me? Do not you think it would have been only fair to give me a chance of judging for myself? It might have*

*occurred to you that it would be rather a shock to a girl to find out that her husband had lived for ten years with another girl and had three children. 'I could not expect you to understand. The circumstances out here are peculiar. It's the regular thing.*

*Five men out of six do it. I thought perhaps it would shock you and I did not want to lose you. You see, I -was most awfully in love with you. I am now, darling. There was no reason that you should ever know. I did not expect to come back here. One seldom goes back to the same station after home leave. 'When we came here I offered her money if she'd go to some other village. First she said she would and then she changed her mind.'*

*'Why have you told me now?'' '*

This passage is taken from **The Force of Circumstance** by **W. Somerset Maugham**. **Doris** is speaking to **Guy**. The occasion is that **Guy** tells her about his relationship with the **Malay Woman** and gives her his justifications. **Doris** is telling him that he had to tell her about this relationship before their marriage. He had to tell her that he has lived with this woman for ten years and they have three children. In my opinion, **Doris** has the right to be angry and sad because **Guy** has hidden the truth for a long time. The main idea here is **hypocrisy**.

**P. 24:**

*Now she had heard everything. He waited for her to speak, but she said nothing. She sat motionless.*

*'Is there anything more you want to ask me, Doris?' he said at last.*

*‘No I’ve got rather a headache. I think I shall go to bed.’ Her voice was as steady as ever. ‘I do not quite know what to say. Of course it’s been all very unexpected. You must give me a little time to think.’*

*‘Are you very angry with me?’*

*‘No. Not at all. Only—only I must be left to myself for a while. Do not move. I’m going to bed.’*

This passage is taken from **The Force of Circumstance** by **W. Somerset Maugham**. It is a conversation between **Guy** and **Doris**. **The occasion** is that **Guy** tells her about his relationship with the **Malay Woman** and gives her his justifications. She asks him to give her a little time to think and to judge herself. Then she asks him to sleep alone in the dressing room. She goes to her bed room and locks the door. In my opinion, hiding the truth and **Guy's** hypocrisy have made **Doris** very sad. **The main idea** here is hypocrisy.

**P.27:**

*‘I’m not going to live with you as your wife again.’ ‘Never?’ She shook her head. He looked at her in a puzzled way. He could hardly believe he had heard aright and his heart began to beat painfully.*

*‘But that’s awfully unfair to me, Doris.’*

*‘Do not you think it was a little unfair to me to bring me out here in the circumstances?’*

*‘But you just said you did not blame me.’*

*‘That’s quite true. But the other’s different. I ca not do it.’*

This passage is taken from **The Force of Circumstance** by **W. Somerset Maugham**. It is a conversation between **Guy** and **Doris**. **The occasion** is that **Guy** gives **Doris** time to think after he has told her about his relationship with the **Malay Woman**. She says that she does not want to live with him because he has three children and he is responsible for them. I think that **Doris** cannot afford the shock of **Guy**'s family, so she decided to leave him. **The main idea** is hypocrisy.

**P.28:**

*'Does not it mean anything to you that I love you?'*  
*'Oh, I know you love me. I'm not going to do that. I want to give us both a chance. I have loved you so, Guy.'* Her voice broke, but she did not cry. *'I do not want to be unreasonable. Heaven knows, I do not want to be unkind. Guy, will you give me time?'*  
*'I do not know quite what you mean.'*  
*'I just want you to leave me alone. I'm frightened by the feelings that I have.'*

This passage is taken from **The Force of Circumstance** by **W. Somerset Maugham**. This is a conversation between **Doris** and **Guy**. **The occasion** is that **Doris** asks her husband to give her time to think after he told her that he has a big family. I think that **Doris** is a reasonable woman who judges her mind not her heart. **The main idea** is hypocrisy.

**P.30:**

*"'I want you to do something for me.'*  
*'My darling, I'll do anything in the world for you.'*

*He put out his hand to take hers, but she drew it away. 'I want you to let me go home.'*

*'You?' he cried, aghast. 'When? Why?*

*'I've borne it as long as I can. I'm at the end of my tether.'* *'How long do you want to go for? For always?'*

*'I do not know. I think so.'* *She gathered determination. 'Yes, for always.'*

*'Oh, my God!*

*His voice broke and she thought he was going to cry.*

*'Oh, Guy, do not blame me. It really is not my fault. I ca not help myself.'*

*'You asked me for six months.'"*

This passage is taken from **The Force of Circumstance** by **W. Somerset Maugham**. There is a conversation between **Guy** and **Doris**. **The occasion** is that **Doris** decides to leave and go home because she cannot stay with him. **Guy** is so sad and starts crying. In my opinion, **Doris** makes a hard decision after a long time of thinking, so she is obliged to do this because of **Guy's** hypocrisy. 5**The main idea** here is **hypocrisy**.

**P.31-32:**

*"'That -would not help. She'll be there always. You belong to them, you do not belong to me. I think perhaps I could have stood it if there'd only been one child, but three; and the boys are quite*



*big boys. For ten years you lived with her. 'And now she came out with -what she had been working up to. She -was desperate.'*

This passage is taken from **The Force of Circumstance** by **W. Somerset Maugham**. **The speaker** is **Doris**, and **the listener** is **Guy**. **The occasion** is that **Doris** says to **Guy** that if he has had only one child, she can bear that, but he has three. She says that he belongs to them not to her. **The main idea** is hypocrisy. In my opinion, we do not have to blame **Guy**, we have to sympathize with him because of his circumstances. He had to live alone at an early age.

**P.32:**

*"I'm willing to take the consequences; if you say I must stay here, I'll stay, but if I stay I shall die. I beseech you to let me go."*

This passage is taken from **The Force of Circumstance** by **W. Somerset Maugham**. **The speaker** is **Doris**, and **the listener** is **Guy**. **The occasion** is that **Doris** decides to leave **Guy** and go home. She begs him to let her go in his demand, because if she stays, she will die. I think **Doris** shows a lot of depression in this passage, and this clarifies what the **Guy's** hypocrisy has done to her. **The main idea** here is **hypocrisy**.

**P.37:**

*'Tell your mother to pack up her things and yours. She can come back.'*

*'When?' asked the boy, impassively.*

*Hot tears trickled down Guy's funny, round spotty face.  
'Tonight.'*

This passage is taken from **The Force of Circumstance** by **W. Somerset Maugham**. **The speaker** is **Guy** and **the listener** is his son. **The occasion** is that **Guy** tells his son to go and ask his mother, the **Malay Woman**, to come back tonight. He says that after **Doris** has left him because he has told her about his relationship with the **Malay Woman**, and they have three children. I think that it is the nature of most men that they cannot live without women. **The main idea** is **hypocrisy**.

- The third story:

## **Fear**

**The important questions in the Fear story:**

1. What is this story about?

**It is about two characters: Richard and his grandfather.**

2. What is the setting?

**It is a small hut in the forest at night.**

3. How can we prove that **Fear** is a universal story?

**This story is a universal in the sense that it can happen anywhere and anytime. It contains many universal aspects as follow:**

- 1. The feeling of fear is universal in the sense that every human undergoes different kinds of fear**
- 2. The boy's insistence on going home is another aspect in this story.**

**4. What are the factors that made the boy afraid of?**

**He was afraid of darkness and the light of the peaceable and quite while everything in nature was frightening and terrible.**

**5. What are the factors that helped the boy to forget all about his fear?**

- 1. The light of the match.**
- 2. The ticks of his grandfather's watch.**
- 3. The call of the cuckoo.**
- 4. The increasing number of stars.**

**6. What does nature represent in Fear?**

**Nature is represented as man's enemy. It frightens Richard with all its elements and he has no escape if he is mistaken for dogs or sack.**

7. What is the significance of the boy's insistence on going home?

**It is related to the theme of the universality of his story. He would like very much to go home because home represents protection, safety, love, warmth and security.**

8. What is the grandfather's attitude?

**At the beginning, he seemed indifferent where he scratched his beard and said nothing, but then he tried to encourage him in order to not to be frightening.**

9. Does the grandfather believe in superstition?

**The grandfather does not believe in superstitions but when he finds himself in that critical situation, he cannot believe with that, but when he connects between the falling star on the one hand and the superstition that if one sees a falling star, he will die, on the other hand.**

10. What is the difference between the boy's fear and his grandfather's fear?

**Richard is a little child and his grandfather is old man. Both of them undergo different aspects of fear. The origin of the boy's fear are the angry elements of the nature like the darkness of light and the voices of the cows and dogs. While the cause of the grandfather's fear is his believe in superstition in that if one sees a falling star, he will die. He started thinking of his weak**

**body because he is an old man and thinking of the death of his wife.**

**THE END**

Miss A-Astar