

❖ **Chapter 21**

- What purpose is served by introducing the butter-turning incident?
 - What does it show us about the community?
 - What does it show us about Tess?
- Look at the description of the sun and the bird song as examples of the pathetic fallacy
 - What does it show about Tess's emotional state?
 - How does this description compare to previous descriptions of sunrise and sunset?
- How does Hardy distinguish the three dairymaids?
 - In what ways are they all set apart from Tess?
 - What does the phrase 'more woman than either' mean?
 - What dilemma is Tess now faced with, having overheard the dairymaids' conversation?

❖ **Chapter 22**

- What do you think is the point of this little episode?
 - Do you think the discovery of garlic is symbolic in any way?
- Compare Angel's attitude to the dairymaids with Alec's attitude to farm girls
 - Why is Tess so surprised at it?
 - How does it make her feel about Angel?
- Explain the term 'heroically' in this context.

❖ **Chapter 23**

- With which earlier journey

could the journey in chapter 23 be compared?

- List the main similarities and differences
- Look at the various images of entrapment in the chapter
 - How do these images correlate with the clothes and social position of those concerned?
- Compare the way the four girls react to being carried by Angel
 - In what other ways is Hardy beginning to distinguish them?
- Explain the phrase 'there was an understanding between them'
- Hardy is building up a community of suffering within the larger dairy community
 - How does he set this smaller community apart from the larger?
 - What are the main features of the smaller community?
 - What words and phrases does Hardy use to characterise the girls' passion for Angel?
 - What is Tess's special 'thorny crown'?
 - Does she realise it?
- Is Hardy's reference to 'cruel Nature's law' consistent with remarks at the end of chapter 13?

❖ **Chapter 24**

- Collect together words and phrases that suggest sexuality and sexual passion
 - What is Hardy seeking to emphasise with these terms?
- Do Angel and Tess have any control over their feelings or their behaviour at this stage?

Investigate!

Tess of the d'Urbervilles: Volume II (chapters 21-39)

- How does Hardy present the forces acting on them?
- How is the geography of place and time symbolic?
- What parts of Tess's body are emphasised?
 - How does this compare to similar attention given to her body previously?
 - Why does Hardy stress 'there was nothing ethereal about it'?
- Again, Hardy implicitly compares Angel's behaviour to Tess with Alec's
 - What are the differences?
- How serious is Angel about Tess?
 - What evidence do we have one way or the other?
- What other thoughts and attitudes of Angel about Tess are given in the chapter?
- Look back at the previous references to Angel's family in chapter 2 and chapter 12
 - How much do these earlier references anticipate this chapter?
- How sympathetic do you think Hardy is to Mr. and Mrs. Clare?
 - Give examples of his judgements on them
 - Are these judgements ambivalent?
- Find examples of the different language registers in the two parts of the chapter
 - Why do you think Hardy switches register?

❖ **Chapter 25**

- Explain 'feeling had smothered judgement that day'
- What does Angel feel it best to do now he has declared his love?
 - Does the reader get the sense that this will help the situation?
- Angel is shown as living between two worlds: that of the farm and that of his family
 - How do they contrast with each other?
 - Do we sense there is anything in common between them at all?
- Look at the paragraph beginning 'This consciousness...'.
 - Is it Hardy or Angel who is commenting?
- How does Angel's attitude to Tess differ from Alec's?

❖ **Chapter 26**

- What are Angel's main obstacles in persuading his parents that Tess would be a suitable wife?
- What does 'amid beliefs essentially demonistic' mean?
- Why does he not even mention Tess to his brothers?
- How does Angel explain how he and Tess have been brought together?
 - How clear is this explanation?
 - Is this explanation likely to appeal to his father?
- Look at the comments made about education and about women and class.
 - To what extent are they Angel's views and to what extent Hardy's?
 - How far do you think Angel is in danger of becoming Hardy's mouthpiece at times?
- What is Hardy's attitude to Mr. Clare?

Investigate!

Tess of the d'Urbervilles: Volume II (chapters 21-39)

Investigate! *Tess of the d'Urbervilles*

Volume II (chapters 21-39)

- Why does Angel think he is more like his father than either of his brothers?
- List the references in the chapter by which Hardy reminds us of Tess's past
 - What effect do these references have on the reader?
- ❖ **Chapter 27**
 - Collect together words and images to do with fertility
 - Compare these with similar words and phrases in chapter 20
 - What do you notice?
 - Compare Angel's approach to Talbothays with Tess's in chapter 16.
 - What parts of Tess's body are emphasised?
 - What are the images Hardy uses of them?
 - What is their significance?
 - Examine the sentence beginning 'It was a moment when a woman's soul...'
 - What does it mean?
 - Discuss whether you think there is a possibility of conflict between body and soul
 - What does the simile 'like a plant in too burning a sun' suggest of their relationship?
 - Does Tess's inability to skim have any symbolic significance?
 - What does the mention of Alec do to Tess?
 - Why do you think that Hardy introduces this note into the chapter?
- ❖ **Chapter 28**
 - Consider Angel. He has some experience and knowledge of women, but a little knowledge can be a dangerous thing
 - What is his experience 'great enough' for him to know?
 - What is his experience 'little enough' for him not to realise about Tess?
 - In what ways is this dangerous?
 - Reflect on Tess. She is experiencing a conflict between natural instincts, the desire for a man, and her conscience
 - Trace the progress of this conflict through the chapter, perhaps as a graph
 - How does she try to resolve it?
 - Do we have any sense that she is in control of the outcome of the conflict?
 - Are there any significant words or phrases that are clues to this?
 - In what way could it be said that nature is Fate here?
 - In what other ways is it suggested Tess is changing as a result of her relationship with Angel?
 - How is the landscape a projection of Tess's inner state?
 - What images do you find particularly powerful here?
- ❖ **Chapter 29**
 - Work out the parallels between the Jack Dollop story and Tess's situation
 - Compare Alec and Angel in terms of their behaviour towards Tess, when Tess is forced to be always near them through her employment

Investigate!

Tess of the d'Urbervilles: Volume II (chapters 21-39)

- For all his sensitivities, is Angel being as predatory as Alec?
- How does Hardy handle the supposed 'day of truth' his readers were led to expect at the end of the previous chapter?
 - Do we sense there will be a day of truth at all?
- Explain:
 - 'she coveted the recantation she feared'
 - 'our tremulous lives are so different from theirs'
- Trace the sequence of Tess's acquiescence to Angel.
 - To what extent is Tess trapped?
 - By what?
 - Does Hardy really allow Tess any power over her own life at this stage?

❖ **Chapter 30**

- Which previous journey would be the best one to compare this journey with?
 - What would be the similarities and what the differences?
- List the images and symbols used by Hardy to describe the landscape and geographical features of the journey
 - What sort of atmosphere do they produce?
 - What can the reader discern in them?
- Look especially at the juxtaposition of the old house and the railway station
 - What is Hardy saying about history and modernity, and how does this relate to Tess and Angel?
- Study the paragraph beginning 'Then there was a

hissing of the train...'

- What different perspectives of Tess does the reader get?
- Examine the dialogue between Tess and Angel as she attempts to reveal her past.
 - Can you trace the dynamics of it?
 - Is there anything in these dynamics which prevents Tess from saying what she means to say?
- Look at how Hardy combines purity and passion in his heroine in this chapter
- List Hardy's examples of dramatic irony (irony of circumstances) in the section
- How does Hardy indicate to his readers that all will not be well for Tess?

❖ **Chapter 31**

- In what ways does Joan's letter help Tess?
 - Is it good advice, suited to her character?
- Look at the way Hardy portrays Tess and Angel in love
 - Examine the descriptions, images and the language he gives to the lovers
 - What are the main differences between their two approaches?
- Collect together images of light, shadow, and darkness
 - What emerges from Hardy's use of them?
- What other symbols do you see in Hardy's landscape descriptions?
- What does Hardy mean to convey by his description of the dairymaids' 'thin white nightgowns'?
 - 'which seemed a wrong to these'

Investigate!

Tess of the d'Urbervilles: Volume II (chapters 21-39)

Investigate! *Tess of the d'Urbervilles*

Volume II (chapters 21-39)

- Why does Tess's silence seem a wrong to the dairymaids?
- By the end of the chapter, what has the reader been led to anticipate?

❖ Chapter 32

- Look at the paragraph beginning 'The meads were changing now...'
 - What is the symbolism in the landscape?
 - How in particular is Tess symbolised in the gnats?
- Gather words and phrases that describe Tess's state of mind in this chapter.
 - What tensions or conflicts are evidenced?
 - What particular state seems predominant?
 - Does this correspond to her emotions?
- To what extent does Tess seem a free agent?
 - What are her deepest fears?
 - How are they expressed?
- Does Angel seem as ideal a lover to you as Tess thinks he is?
 - How practical is Angel being?
 - Angel seems to be making Tess an educational project. What does this say of his attitude to her?
- Explain the phrase: 'been made to miss his true destiny through the prejudices of his family'.
 - Is Angel being fair here?

❖ Chapter 33

- What questions does Hardy raise by the episode with the man from Trantridge?

- How would you interpret the letter-writing and the pushing under the carpet situation?
- Are Angel's reasons for not minding the absence of his family at the wedding justifiable?
 - The reader can understand Tess wanting a small and private wedding - can Angel's reasons be understood?
- Hardy spends more time on describing the coach and the old legend than on the wedding ceremony.
 - Why do you think that he considers it significant?
- Explain 'to call him her lord, her own - then, if necessary, to die'
 - Regarding the whole novel, in what way does this seem a piece of dramatic irony?
 - What other phrases and words suggest Tess's extreme emotional attitudes in this chapter?
- Look at the overall shape of the chapter
 - What is the effect on the reader of the chapter taken as a whole?
 - How does Hardy undermine any feelings of joy the reader may have for Tess?

❖ Chapter 34

- With which aspects concerning her ancestry is Tess confronted?
 - How do Tess and Angel differ in the way they see these ancestral manifestations?
- Tess is also presented with an heirloom. This is her first taste of being in another social class.

Investigate!

Tess of the d'Urbervilles: Volume II (chapters 21-39)

Investigate! *Tess of the d'Urbervilles*

Volume II (chapters 21-39)

- Why does she think immediately it should be sold?
 - Does this heirloom do any more for her than the d'Urberville 'heirlooms'?
 - How do your observations tie up with what Hardy has previously said about the past and Tess's family history?
 - Collect together images and words Hardy uses to create atmosphere.
 - What is their overall impression?
 - Would you say Hardy is being rather too 'Gothic' or melodramatic here, or would you say the images mirror Tess's state of mind exactly?
 - In what ways are both Angel and Tess marginalised, especially in terms of their class status?
 - In what ways is Angel still labouring under a sense of failure?
 - How does Hardy show this?
 - Why do you think Angel starts using learned words and quotations when he comes to confess?
 - How differently does Hardy present Tess's confession?
 - Explain 'had the effect upon her of a Providential interposition'.
 - Looking at this section as a whole, how far does Hardy really show what 'the consequence' is?
- ❖ **Chapter 35**
- Hardy turns from gothic to grotesque. Study the second paragraph
 - How does Hardy express the grotesque here?
 - What other parts of the chapter fit into the category of the grotesque?
 - Explain 'the perfunctory babble of the surface while the depths remained paralyzed'
 - What other words and phrases express this paralysis in the characters?
 - Look closely at Angel's explanations for his rejection of Tess
 - Why does he have problems with her identity?
 - Are they his problem or are they caused by Tess, do you think?
 - What are the conflicts going on within him?
 - Look at the words, his choice of vocabulary:
 - Would Tess understand them?
 - What do you think the words show about him?
 - Explain 'initiated into the proportions of social things'
 - What does the statement show about Angel?
 - Look closely at the way Tess tries to defend herself
 - Could she have said or done more?
 - Is she too passive?
 - Why do you think she is unable to persuade Angel to change his attitude?
 - Is Hardy pointing up a difference between men's love and women's love in general, or is this just a case of two individuals and their reaction to a crisis of trust?
 - Look at the paragraph beginning 'The cow and gorse-tracks...'

Investigate!

Tess of the d'Urbervilles: Volume II (chapters 21-39)

Investigate! *Tess of the d'Urbervilles*

Volume II (chapters 21-39)

- Look at the perspectives (bird's eye or worm's eye) gained here.
- What function do these perspectives have?
- Can you find another example of a shift of perspective?
- What other images or episodes in the chapter help to bring out the pathos of the situation?
- Analyse the symbolism of the walks taken by Tess and Angel
- List the descriptions of the lovers' faces and facial gestures
 - What do these descriptions reveal about their states of mind?
 - What effect do they have on the reader?
 - Where else has there been a reference to a 'little round hole'?
- In what ways does Hardy contrast the indifference or even hostility of natural forces to the intense personal emotions of his human characters?

❖ Chapter 36

- How does the opening paragraph incorporate devices used in the previous chapter?
- In what ways do the couple act out their marriage roles?
 - What effect does this have on the reader?
- How does Hardy seek to show that Tess is indeed 'a pure woman'?
- Where anger might be expected to predominate, there is a marked absence of it
 - What emotions does Hardy substitute between

- the couple?
- Do these other emotions make us feel the situation is more - or less - tragic?
- List the reasons Angel gives for discontinuing the marriage
 - Against which does Tess offer a defence?
 - Do you think any of the reasons hold water?
 - Give your reasons.
 - Do any of the reasons prefigure what will happen in the novel?
- List phrases that suggest Tess's state of mind
 - Are they associated with images or symbols in any way?
 - What aspects of Tess have you not seen before?
- In what way does Hardy link Angel's loss of faith in Tess with his loss of faith in Christianity?
- What is Angel's problem with her presence?
- Look at the last sentence.
 - What does it suggest might happen in the novel?
 - Does it?

❖ Chapter 37

- What does the sleepwalking incident reveal about Angel?
- How does Tess respond to the incident, and what does this show about her?
- Look particularly at references to death and dying
 - What, in fact, has really died?
- What does Hardy emphasize in the visit to the dairy?
- Look at Tess and Angel's farewell
 - What are the terms and conditions Angel lays down?

Investigate!

Tess of the d'Urbervilles: Volume II (chapters 21-39)

- Hardy seems to suggest that if Tess had tried harder, she may have been able to make Angel change his mind. Would you agree?
- What chances do you think exist for the marriage at this point?
- Is Angel's behaviour here any different from Alec's in chapter 12?
- Hardy also suggests there is a fatal family flaw
 - What is this?
 - Is Hardy being fair to Tess here?

❖ Chapter 38

- List references to Tess's loss of identity and place
 - Why does she sense she has no place at Marlott any more?
 - At the end of the chapter, do we have any indication where Tess is going and where she belongs?
 - Has she become a wanderer?
- Compare Tess's return with her previous return from Trantridge (chapter 12)
 - How does her mother come to accept the new situation so quickly?
 - Does Tess's family benefit from the gifts provided for them, either from Alec or Angel?
- List some of the ironies Hardy creates in the chapter
 - Which seems to you the most poignant?
- How does Hardy continue to stress Tess's purity?

❖ Chapter 39

- Compare the present visit

with Angel's previous one to his parents

- What do you notice about how Hardy has structured each visit?
- Tess's ancestry keeps coming up in Angel's thoughts as well as in Hardy's comments
 - Connect ancestral references to themes of:
 - The purity of Tess's character
 - The past and the destiny of history
 - Class consciousness
- For the first time, there is a full description of what Tess looks like physically
 - Why do you think Hardy has delayed so long in giving a complete picture of her, instead of just partial references to face or figure?
- What effect do the Clares' naivety and piety have on Angel?
- Look at the last paragraph
 - Do Hardy's comments add anything to what we have already realised?
 - Is Hardy being overanxious to establish Tess's purity, do you think?