

Far from the Madding Crowd

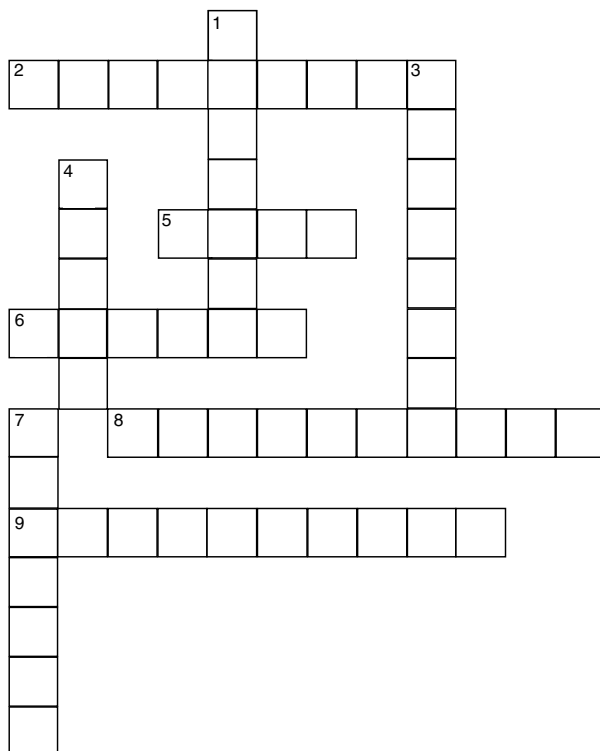
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A Before Reading

1 This story is set in the late 1800s in the English area called Wessex.

- What do you know about this period?
- What work did people do?
- How did they travel around?
- What kind of housing did they have?
- How did they spend their spare time?

2 Complete the crossword below.



Across

- A word which describes somebody's personality – it can be strong or weak – is: _____.(page 8)
- An amount of money that you owe to somebody or to a bank is called a: _____.(page 17)
- In England, the land is divided into small areas called a: _____.(page 4)
- A large piece of flat stone with words describing someone's life carved into it and placed over their grave is a: _____.(page 60)
- To ride a horse by sitting with both your legs on the same side of the horse is to ride: _____.(page 6) (page 11)

Down

- The cutting and gathering of a crop, for example a crop of hay, is to: _____.(page 7)
- A large group of soldiers is called a: _____.(page 18)
- A large vehicle which is used to carry heavy loads, has four wheels and is usually pulled by a horse is called a: _____.(page 8)
- When you pay money to an insurance company, they will pay you money if your property is damaged; this means you are: _____.(page 17, 83)

B While Reading

3 These eight places are mentioned in the story. Complete the table by describing what happens at these places, and if any of the main characters live or work there.

| Place | What happens there | Who lives or works there |
|---------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Norcombe Hill | | |
| Weatherbury | | |
| Casterbridge | | |
| Melchester | | |
| Bath | | |
| Lulwind Cove | | |
| Budmouth | | |
| Greenhill | | |

4 There are three men who all want to marry Bathsheba. Which of the men are these words describing?

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| 'an older and richer man who owned a small farm in Weatherbury; all the girls of the village would love to marry him, but he's not interested in them' | 'a quiet and sensible man who moves to Weatherbury; unmarried, a man of good character who worked on his farm during the week and went to church on Sundays' | 'a man born into a good family in Weatherbury; his father had been a doctor before he died, and made sure his son received a solid education' |
|--|--|---|

5 Here are eight sentences that summarise the main events of the story. Match the beginning of the sentences with the end of the sentence.

| | |
|--|---|
| Bathsheba's aunt tells Gabriel that ... | ... the weeks pass and spring arrives. |
| Fanny Robin disappears and ... | ... collect her body from the workhouse. |
| Bathsheba sends a Valentine to Boldwood but ... | ... had belonged to his mother and gives it to Bathsheba. |
| Boldwood begins to have strong feelings for Bathsheba as ... | ...marry Fanny Robin. |
| Sergeant Troy pulls out a gold watch saying that it ... | ...she soon realises this is a mistake. |
| Boldwood pays Sergeant Troy to | ...have spoken about their love for each other. |
| Bathsheba hears of Fanny's death and orders a new wagon to ... | ... Bathsheba asks her workers to look for her. |
| Bathsheba and Gabriel are content and understand each other now they ... | ... there are more than ten men who want to marry her. |

C After Reading

- 6 Bathsheba is a strong and independent woman for most of the story. How does her character change during the story?
- 7 If you were a Hollywood producer making a film of this story, which actors would you choose to play the main characters' roles and why?
- 8 At the end of the story Gabriel Oak thought about going to America, but then decided to stay in England.
 - (a) What would have happened to Bathsheba if he had gone to America?
 - (b) How would she have managed the farm?
 - (c) What would she have done about her feelings for Gabriel?
 - (d) Write a final paragraph for the story imagining Gabriel had left for America.

