

## People in the story

**Michael Henchard:** a farm worker who rises to become the Mayor of Casterbridge; he is married to Susan Henchard

**Susan Henchard:** a rather weak woman; she is married to Michael Henchard

**Elizabeth-Jane:** Susan's daughter; she has a quiet, strong character

**Donald Farfrae:** a Scot who becomes very successful in Casterbridge because of his cleverness and kindness

**Lucetta Templeton:** a woman who knows Michael Henchard from the past

## BEFORE YOU READ



- 1 Look at the cover and *People in the story*. Who do you think the people on the cover are?

.....

## LOOKING BACK

- 1 Check your answer to *Before you read* on page 4.

## ACTIVITIES

- 2 Complete the summary of the first four chapters with the names in the box.

|                    |             |                |
|--------------------|-------------|----------------|
| Henchard (x4)      | Susan (x2)  | Canada         |
| Casterbridge       | Newson (x3) | Elizabeth-Jane |
| Weydon-Priors (x2) |             |                |

When <sup>1</sup>..... is a young man, he makes a big mistake. One night, he drinks too much alcohol in a village called <sup>2</sup>..... and sells his wife, <sup>3</sup>....., to a sailor called <sup>4</sup>....., for five guineas. Susan, who has had enough of his drinking, takes their daughter, <sup>5</sup>....., and goes to live in <sup>6</sup>..... with <sup>7</sup>..... . After several years they return to England, and a few years after that <sup>8</sup>..... dies at sea. After his death, <sup>9</sup>..... is extremely poor and decides to try and find <sup>10</sup>..... again so that she can give her daughter a better future. She goes back to <sup>11</sup>..... and discovers that <sup>12</sup>..... now lives in <sup>13</sup>..... . He has become a successful businessman, buying and selling wheat and, as the mayor of the town, is very important. Susan hasn't seen <sup>14</sup>..... for about eighteen years and is surprised by the change in his circumstances.

**3** Read the sentences and write T (true), F (false), or ? (the answer isn't in the text).

- 1 Susan doesn't know that the woman is putting alcohol into Henchard's furmity. ☐
- 2 Henchard starts by asking a higher price for Susan. ☐
- 3 Henchard has been married to Susan for three years when he sells her. ☐
- 4 Susan and Elizabeth-Jane walk to Casterbridge. ☐
- 5 An old friend tells Susan where Henchard is. ☐
- 6 There are only men at the dinner. ☐

**4** Answer the questions.

- 1 Why is Susan surprised when she sees Henchard again?  
.....
- 2 What do the people in Casterbridge know about Henchard's past?  
.....
- 3 What change is Henchard going to make to his business?  
.....

## LOOKING FORWARD



**5** Tick (✓) what you think happens in the next four chapters.

- 1 Henchard refuses to see Susan and Elizabeth-Jane. ☐
- 2 Elizabeth-Jane discovers who Henchard really is. ☐
- 3 The Scot helps Henchard with his problem. ☐

## LOOKING BACK

- 1 Check your answer to *Looking forward* on page 23.

## ACTIVITIES

- 2 Match the two parts of the sentences.
- 1 Although Henchard offers Farfrae money for his help, ☐
  - 2 Farfrae doesn't accept Henchard's job offer at first ☐
  - 3 Henchard hires Farfrae ☐
  - 4 Henchard wants to meet Susan, ☐
  - 5 Henchard met the woman in Jersey when ☐
  - 6 Henchard isn't going to marry the woman in Jersey ☐
- a he was on a business trip.
  - b although he has already offered the job to someone else.
  - c because he wants to put things right with Susan.
  - d he doesn't accept it.
  - e because he has other plans.
  - f but he doesn't want people to see them together.
- 3 Put the sentences about Henchard's relationship with the woman in Jersey in order.
- 1 Henchard and the woman become lovers. ☐
  - 2 The woman falls in love with Henchard. ☐
  - 3 Henchard's wife returns. ☐
  - 4 Henchard and the woman decide to get married. ☐
  - 5 The woman looks after Henchard. ☐
  - 6 People say bad things about the woman. ☐

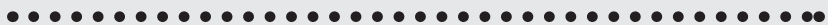
**4** Read the sentences from the text and answer the questions.

- 1 The only man not part of this general scene was Henchard himself. (page 24) Why is Henchard not part of the scene?  
.....
- 2 Susan says, 'We will leave quietly, without a fuss ...' (page 31) What can you tell about Susan's character from this?  
.....
- 3 Susan says about Newson, 'I thought I had to be faithful to him.' (page 35) Why does Susan feel like this?  
.....
- 4 Henchard doubted that he 'could go through twenty years without making more than one great mistake.' (pages 40–1) What are the two 'great mistakes' he has made?  
.....

**5** Answer the questions.

- 1 What was in the note Farfrae sent to Henchard?  
.....
- 2 What advice does Farfrae offer Henchard about the woman in Jersey?  
.....

## LOOKING FORWARD



**6** What do you think happens in the next four chapters?  
Answer the questions.

- 1 What happens to change Henchard and Farfrae's friendship?  
.....
- 2 What happens with the woman from Jersey?  
.....

## LOOKING BACK

- 1 Check your answers to *Looking forward* on page 43.

## ACTIVITIES

- 2 Read the sentences and write T (true), F (false), or ? (the answer isn't in the text).
- 1 At first Henchard is pleased with the changes Farfrae makes in the way his business is run. ☐
  - 2 Farfrae is happier working in his own business than working for Henchard. ☐
  - 3 Susan never forgave Henchard for selling her to Newson. ☐
  - 4 Henchard wishes he hadn't told Elizabeth-Jane that he was her father. ☐
  - 5 Elizabeth-Jane thinks that Lucetta is very intelligent. ☐
  - 6 Henchard is angry with Elizabeth-Jane because she doesn't behave like an educated woman. ☐
  - 7 Elizabeth-Jane wishes Henchard loved her. ☐
  - 8 Lucetta pretends to be ill in order not to see Henchard. ☐
- 3 Underline the correct words in each sentence.
- 1 People in Casterbridge had a *lower* / *higher* opinion of Henchard after he married Susan.
  - 2 *Henchard* / *Newson* is Elizabeth-Jane's father.
  - 3 Lucetta says that she *knew* / *didn't know* who Elizabeth-Jane was when she first met her.
  - 4 Henchard goes to High Place Hall to visit *Lucetta* / *Elizabeth-Jane*.
  - 5 Farfrae goes to High Place Hall to visit *Lucetta* / *Elizabeth-Jane*.
  - 6 Lucetta falls in love with *Michael* / *Donald*.

**4** Read the sentences from the text and answer the questions.

1 People soon began to make comparisons between Farfrae's and Henchard's way of doing things. (page 44)

Who do people prefer – Farfrae or Henchard?

.....

2 ... it made her heart beat faster ... (page 49)

How does Elizabeth-Jane feel here and why?

.....

3 'I decided to come here and ask you to carry out the promise you made to me some time ago.' (page 57)

What was the promise Henchard made to Lucetta?

.....

4 She said the word 'Miss' carefully. (page 62)

What is Lucetta telling Farfrae here?

.....

**5** Answer the questions.

1 How does Henchard feel about his second wedding to Susan?

.....

2 Why does the friendship between Henchard and Farfrae end?

.....

3 Why does Lucetta come to Casterbridge?

.....

## LOOKING FORWARD



**6** Tick (✓) what you think happens in the next four chapters.

1 Henchard and Lucetta get married. ☐

2 Henchard becomes very poor. ☐

3 Farfrae leaves Casterbridge. ☐

## LOOKING BACK

- 1 Check your answer to *Looking forward* on page 67.

## ACTIVITIES

- 2 Complete the sentences with the names in the box.

|         |         |               |                |
|---------|---------|---------------|----------------|
| Lucetta | Farfrae | Henchard (x3) | Elizabeth-Jane |
|---------|---------|---------------|----------------|

- 1 ..... asks someone to marry him.
- 2 ..... loses a lot of money.
- 3 ..... makes a lot of money.
- 4 ..... threatens to give away a secret.
- 5 ..... makes a promise but doesn't keep it.
- 6 ..... looks after someone who's ill.

- 3 Read the sentences and write T (true), F (false), or ? (the answer isn't in the text).

- 1 Henchard asks Lucetta to marry him because he feels pity for her. ☐
- 2 Farfrae is happy when Henchard buys up all the wheat he can. ☐
- 3 Jopp hates Henchard even more than he hates Farfrae. ☐
- 4 After what happens in the courtroom, people in Casterbridge don't trust Henchard. ☐
- 5 Lucetta marries Farfrae quickly to make Henchard jealous. ☐
- 6 Farfrae buys Henchard's furniture because he likes it. ☐
- 7 Elizabeth-Jane goes to look after Henchard even though he tells her not to. ☐



**4** What do the underlined words refer to in these lines from the text?

1 'I suffered enough for that mistake in the past...' (page 70)

.....

2 'If it hadn't been for your advice, none of this would have happened ...' (page 75) .....

3 'Yes, it is agreed ...' (page 77) .....

4 'No, what she says is true.' (page 80) .....

5 This of course created a very difficult situation for Elizabeth-Jane. (page 81) .....

**5** Answer the questions.

1 How does the weather ruin Henchard's plan to hurt Farfrae?

.....

2 How does Henchard's life change in these four chapters?

.....

3 How does Henchard plan to use the letters he received from Lucetta?

.....

4 What change is there in Henchard's feelings towards Farfrae towards the end of Chapter 16?

.....

## LOOKING FORWARD

.....

**6** Tick (✓) what you think happens in the final chapters.

1 Elizabeth-Jane discovers that Henchard isn't her father. ☐

2 Lucetta leaves Farfrae for Henchard. ☐

3 Farfrae dies. ☐

## LOOKING BACK

- 1 Check your answer to *Looking forward* on page 87.

## ACTIVITIES

- 2 Match the two parts of the sentences.

- 1 Lucetta is worried that Henchard ☐
  - 2 When Farfrae listens to Henchard reading the letters, he ☐
  - 3 In the end Henchard doesn't tell people about the letters because he ☐
  - 4 When Jopp is in Peter's Finger, he ☐
  - 5 When Lucetta sees the people in her street, she ☐
- a doesn't want to hurt Lucetta.
  - b will use their love letters to hurt her.
  - c shows Lucetta's letters to everyone.
  - d realises that everyone knows about her relationship with Henchard.
  - e doesn't know that Lucetta wrote them.

- 3 Put the sentences about Newson's life in order.

- 1 His ship sinks. ☐
- 2 Henchard tells him that Elizabeth-Jane is dead. ☐
- 3 He writes a letter to Elizabeth-Jane. ☐
- 4 He buys a house in Budmouth. ☐
- 5 He stays a few days in Casterbridge after his daughter's wedding. ☐
- 6 He comes back to live in England. ☐
- 7 He decides to let Susan think he is dead. ☐

**4** Read the sentences from the text and answer the questions.

1 It was only a question of time before Farfrae heard of these threats. (page 88)

What are the threats?

.....

2 'You know what's needed here? A skimmity-ride.' (page 93)

What is this? What reasons are given for doing it?

.....

3 '... they can ring the bell as loud as they like now, she won't hear it any more.' (page 97)

What has happened?

.....

4 'Oh ... it is you, Mr Henchard ...' (page 104)

Why does Elizabeth-Jane talk to Henchard like this?

.....

5 ... she was often surprised that such happiness had come to her in adult life ... (page 107)

What makes Elizabeth-Jane happy at the end of the story?

Why does it surprise her?

.....

**5** Answer the questions.

1 How do Jopp's actions help cause Lucetta's death?

.....

2 How do Henchard's feelings for Elizabeth-Jane change after Lucetta dies?

.....

3 Why didn't Newson tell Susan that he was alive after his ship sank?

.....