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**УЧЕБНО-МЕТОДИЧЕСКАЯ РАЗРАБОТКА ПО ДОМАШНЕМУ
ЧТЕНИЮ**

«У.С. МОЭМ. ЛУНА И ГРОШ»

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Ионова Е.Н. Учебно-методическая разработка по домашнему чтению по произведению У. С. Моэма «Луна и Грош» для студентов-бакалавров исторического факультета, обучающихся по специальности «История и иностранный язык». – Владимир: ВлГУ, 2013-16 с.

Учебно-методическая разработка по домашнему чтению по роману У. С. Моэма состоит из вокабуляра, подлежащего активному употреблению в соответствии с программой, а также систему учебных заданий по книге.

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William Somerset Maugham (25 January 1874 – 16 December 1965) was a British playwright, novelist and short story writer. He was among the most popular writers of his era and reputedly the highest paid author during the 1930s.

After losing both his parents by the age of 10, Maugham was raised by a paternal uncle who was emotionally cold. Not wanting to become a lawyer like other men in his family, Maugham eventually trained and qualified as a doctor. The first run of his first novel, *Liza of Lambeth* (1897), sold out so rapidly that Maugham gave up medicine to write full-time.

During the First World War, he served with the Red Cross and in the ambulance corps, before being recruited in 1916 into the British Secret Intelligence Service, for which he worked in Switzerland and Russia before the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917. During and after the war, he traveled in India and Southeast Asia; all of these experiences were reflected in later short stories and novels. (По материалам свободной энциклопедии Википедия <http://ru.wikipedia.org>)

Assignment 1

Chapters 1-4

I. Vocabulary:

1. out of the ordinary
2. authentic (adj.)
3. an object of ridicule
4. to have genius
5. singular, singularity
6. estimate (n), to estimate (v)
7. to rub shoulders with somebody
8. notoriety (n), notorious (adj.)
9. to whitewash
10. to recognize somebody's genius
11. to make a great stir in the world
12. the world of letters
13. to hold somebody/something in contempt (respect)

II. Questions and tasks:

1. Who is the narrator of the story? Discuss the narrator's profession, cultural level, and artistic creed as you can judge of him relying on the first chapters.
2. Whom is the book written about? What circumstances of Strickland's life, work and death have you got the knowledge of? Did the world recognize his genius in the lifetime?
3. Discuss the succession of the critical writings about Strickland after his death. Whom of the critics did Strickland's recognition mostly depend on? Whose work nearly killed the growth of Strickland's fame? What motives was the author of the critical work guided by? How did his opponent in criticism succeed in restoring Strickland's reputation? What facts of Strickland's life did Dr. Weitbercht-Rotholz chiefly throw light upon? Why did the narrator call him psychopathologist? Do you think Dr. Weitbercht-Rotholz held the public in respect?

4. Whom do you think the recognition of an artist generality depends on: fellows – professionals, critics or the public? Substantiate your opinion. Do you think Strickland's case typical?
5. What motives caused the narrator to start writing about Strickland? Find sentences in the text proving your point of view.
6. Speak about London world of letters of the time when the narrator was first introduced to it. What changes did the literary world undergo with the progress of time? Did the narrator like the changes?
7. Speak about narrator's first acquaintance with Mrs. Strickland. What impression did she make on him? What details of Mrs. Strickland's characterization does the narrator resort to? What made her a lion huntress? Why is she called "the most harmless of all the lion hunters"?
8. Pay attention to Rose Waterford's reference to Mrs. Strickland. Which of them contrary to what you already know of Strickland from another source? Do you trust Rose Waterford's estimates?
9. What devices of the author's portrayal have you observed in the chapters under discussion?

III. Paraphrase or explain:

1. "... the adulation of his admirers is perhaps no less capricious than disparagement of his detractors..."
2. "... but he was too good a journalist to be unaware that the human interest would enable him more easily to effect his purpose"
3. "The mystic sees the ineffable and psycho-pathologist the unspeakable"
4. "I am on the shelf. I will continue to write moral stories in rhymed couplets. But I should be thrice a fool if I did it for aught but my own entrainment"
5. "The spade wasn't invariably called a bloody shovel"

Assignment 2

Chapters 5-10

I. Vocabulary:

1. to take a fancy to somebody
2. a philistine
3. disparaging/ly, to disparage
4. to be a credit to somebody
5. to have social gifts
6. indiscreet
7. to keep up social pretences
8. to get infatuated with somebody, infatuation
9. to hide one's where about
10. to appeal to somebody's sympathies

II. Questions and tasks:

1. Why did the narrator take a fancy to Mrs. Strickland? What was her opinion of her as a housekeeper and a mother? Why do you think the author lays stress on Mrs. Strickland's domestic virtues?
2. How did Mrs. Strickland characterize her husband? Compare her references to him with those of Rose Waterford.
3. What impression did Strickland make on the narrator when they first met? Pay attention to the words which he chose to describe Strickland? Did the narrator's opinion of Strickland differ much from that Mrs. Strickland? Rose Waterford?
4. Speak about the children of the family? When the son's name was first mentioned in the novel? What sort of family did the Stricklands seem to the narrator? What social value did he ascribe to the family?
5. The news of Strickland's having deserted the family. How did the narrator take it? What motives for Strickland's action were suggested by those who knew about it? What did Strickland's action show in regard to his family and justify the opinions of him that had existed before he ran away?
6. Mrs. Strickland's reaction to her husband's action. What were her further intentions? Do you approve them?
7. Observe the logic of the gradual revelation of the characters of Mrs. Strickland and her husband in the chapters under discussion. Which chapter is the turning point in estimating the character of Strickland? Did

the domestic misfortune throw any new light on the character of Mrs. Strickland? What was it that slightly chilled the narrator's admiration of her?

Assignment 3

Chapters XI-XVII

I. Vocabulary:

1. contradiction (n.), contradictory (adj.)
2. to get over something
3. to be tortured by remorse
4. callousness (n.), callous (adj.)
5. straightened circumstances; Ant. easy circumstances
to assume the moral attitude
6. to be lost upon somebody
7. far-fetched (adj.)
8. instinct of creation
9. convention (n.), conventional (adj.); Ant. unconventional
to encourage a talent
10. vindictiveness (n.); vindictive (adj.)
11. to earn one's living
12. efficient (adj.)

II. Questions and topics for discussion:

1. Speak about the contradictions in Mrs. Strickland's behavior as seen by the narrator in retrospect. How did he explain them to himself? Do you agree with his explanations?
2. What was the first surprise the narrator got in Paris'? Describe the hotel Strickland lived in. What other surprise followed the first one when the narrator met Strickland? Did the information about Strickland the narrator after upon prove reliable?
3. In what day did Strickland speak of his family'? What were his future intentions in regard to his family and himself? Dwell upon the narrator's

reaction to it. Pay special attention to the words he chooses to express his opinion of Strickland's action.

4. What made Strickland desert his family? Why was his desire to paint shocking to the narrator? What explanation did the narrator find for Strickland's sudden change of the most of life? Does the explanation sound convincing to you. Compare it with the explanation insisted on by Mrs. Strickland. Speak about the incident in Paris proving that Mrs. Strickland was absolutely wrong.

5. What traits of Strickland's character made him so unlike other people? Did the narrator change his mind about Strickland's being dull and commonplace? Find sentences proving it.

6. Speak about people the narrator had to explain the situation to on returning to London. Dwell upon the peculiar way each of the people reacted to the news. Was Mrs. Mac Andrew very unlike her sister? What secret antagonisms existed between the sisters? Speak about Mrs. Strickland's reaction to the news. Do you believe her when she said she could be the first to encourage her husband's talent? What piece of news made her especially furious and why? What was astonishing in her behavior to all those present? How can you account for her sudden hatred for husband?

7. Pay attention to the narrator's behavior, the tone of his remarks and the way he directed the talk. Whom do you think the narrator sympathized with? Prove that his attitude towards Mrs. Strickland's somewhat changed during the talk.

8. Who do you think was the author of the rumor that Strickland had run away with a woman? Why did the rumor raise Mrs. Strickland's prestige? Do you think Mrs. Strickland's behavior usual for a woman under the circumstances?

9. Speak about the way Mrs. Strickland began to earn her living. How does it characterize *her*? Was Strickland right when he said she would get over difficulties?

10. What was the essence of the conflict between Strickland and his environment? Was it mere a family conflict? Was Strickland right when trying to solve his problem and the way he did'? Do you approve of his action?

Assignment 4

Chapters XVII-XXIII

I. Vocabulary:

1. to start afresh
2. to acquire a reputation for something
3. to mix with all sorts of people want (n.)
4. to portray (v.)
5. to bear malice
6. to learn by experience
7. to discover talent
8. to be hackneyed
9. half-starved (adj.)
10. out of charity
11. to get hints into a character
12. to look upon somebody/something as ... to attract one against one's will
13. to be hard up

II. Questions and tasks:

1. Mrs. Strickland makes a success of her business, Had her husband been right when supposing that she would get over hardships'? What motives prompted Mrs., Strickland's offer to help husband?
2. Speak about Dirk Strove. What sort of painter was he? Why did people buy his pictures? What traits made Dirk an object of constant ridicule? How do you account for the fact that Strove, a brilliant art critic, was a bad painter?
3. Speak about Mrs. Strove. Dwell upon her attitude to her husband and his painting. Did she share her husband's views on art? Was she well educated'?
4. The narrator meets Strickland after an interval of five years. Why did Strickland change beyond recognition? What tactics did the narrator use during the dinner to make Strickland speak about himself?
5. The story of Strickland's life in Paris. Speak about the way carried his living. What made Strickland do different from other people? How did he

continue his education? Why did Strickland refuse to sell his pictures? Speak of the sacrifices he had made to be able to paint; did he look upon them as sacrifices?

6. What did people think of Strickland's pictures? Dwell on Stove's talk with the art dealer. How did the art dealer recognize merit? Why did Strove call his a philistine? Was the dealer's attitude to unknown painters typical? What social danger is there in such an attitude?

7. The home life of the Stove. What was attractive and poetic about it to the narrator?

8. Pay attention to the gradual change of the narrator's attitude to Mrs. Strickland on the one hand and Charles Strickland on the other. Was the narrator's growing antipathy for Mrs. Strickland connected with his being attracted by Strickland against his will?

9. Who was the first to say that Strickland had a genius? Was the opinion reliable? Why?

10. What new traits of Strickland's personality was the narrator truck by after 5 years absence? Had the narrator himself altered? What facts and episodes prove it? What made the narrator a better judge of people and circumstances?

Assignment 5

Chapters XXIII-XXX

I. Vocabulary:

1. outrageous (adj.)
2. to be determined on (+ noun or gerund)
a matter of life and death
3. abominable (adj.)
4. to turn somebody out
5. for some reason or other
6. to eat humble pie
7. to be at hand
8. to render somebody a service
9. to be contrary one's conception of somebody/something

10. to gratify a whim
11. to uproot a feeling from one's heart

II. Questions and topics for discussion:

1. Speak about Strickland's attitude to Strove. What made the Dutchman an object of Strickland's ridicule and contempt? How did Strove react to it? Which of them excites your compassion?
2. Strickland's illness. Comment upon the way each of two friends tried to help Strickland. What motives caused Strove's decision to take Strickland to the studio? What do you think of Strove's forgetting insult so soon?
3. Speak of Blanche's reaction to Strove's decision. How can her reaction be accounted for? What words of Strove's made her change her mind? Why do you think the words were so effective?
4. Speak about Strickland's behavior during his illness. Dwell upon the manner each of the "nurses" took to it. Pay special attention to the words they used in reference to it. Whose reaction do you find the most natural. Why?
5. Strickland turns Strove out of the studio. How does action characterize Strickland?
6. Blanche Strove leaves her husband. Comment upon the scene Strove made about it and the behavior of all those present. What do you think Blanche's action? Whom do you sympathize with?
7. What were Strove's further intentions? How did he explain his motives? Do you approve of Strove's behavior as a husband?
8. How does the author give the reader to understand that Blanche's won't be happy? How do you interpret the narrator's words that Strickland "was at once too great and too small her love"?
9. Observe the moments (in the chapter discussion) when the characters turn contrary to our previous conception of them (the hero is not equal to himself).
10. Comment upon the way the narrator describes the scene of the Strove's parting which he never witness in fact. Why does the narrator go in such details when depicting the imaginary scene? Is scene less vivid than those the whole novel?

Assignment 6

Chapters XXXI-XIIX

I. Vocabulary:

1. to excite ridicule
2. to waylay somebody
3. heart rending (adj.)
4. to blunder
5. to be disgusted with somebody
6. inscrutable (adj.)
7. to give somebody a clue to something
to be beside oneself
8. humiliating (adj.)
9. to count on somebody
10. to end disastrously
11. volubility (n.), voluble (adj.)
12. to put somebody/something out of one's mind outcast (n.)
13. to tread in one's father's steps
14. to rebel against something

II. Questions and topics for discussion:

1. Speak about Struve's line of conduct after parting with Blanche. What did the narrator think of Struve's behavior? Point out the words the narrator employed to describe his own attitude to Struve's tactic. How did Blanche react to Struve's attempts to speak to her? Why do you think she slapped her husband's face? What do you think of that act of hers'? What contradictory features of Struve's does the author specify?
2. Speak about the narrator's encounter with Strickland and Blanche? What made him draw the conclusion that Blanche was a woman of complicated character? Did Blanche excite the narrator?
3. Why Strove sure that Blanche and Strickland's connection was going to end disastrously'? Was the assurance based on intuition or reasoning with him? Who else was sure of the coming catastrophe? What preparations did Strove make to soften the coming blow for Blanche? Do you approve of his behavior? Did the narrator approve of it? How does it characterize him?
4. Blanche Struve's attempt at suicide. Speak about the way the people surrounding her reacted to it. Why did she commit suicide'? Do you think

she did it to arouse pity or terror in Strickland? Prove your point of view. What is the narrator's interpretation of her action? Would you call Strickland a murderer?

5. Speak about Struve's family. What traits of his did he owe to his upbringing? Strove really regret that he hadn't trodden in his father's steps? Why did he decide to go back home after Blanche's death? Is his decision connected with his newly-found philosophy of life? Did the narrator share his outlooks upon life?

6. Speak about Struve's last visit to his studio, Which scene makes the core of the episode? Dwell upon Strickland's picture and Struve's reaction to it. Explain the succession of feeling Strove was overcome by. Speak of the symbolic significance of the episode. How did Strickland's painting influence Struve's attitude towards Strickland? In what action of Struve's did it result?

7. Why do you think Strickland gave Strove the picture of Blanche?

8. What is the role of the chapters under discussion in revealing the character of Strickland? Speak about the moral aspect of his actions as you see it.

Assignment 7

Chapters XL-XLIV

I. Vocabulary:

1. to give somebody Roland for Oliver
2. obsession (n.)
3. to have a rage for domination
4. to be dependent on somebody/something, Compare: to be independent of somebody or something
5. to gain a true knowledge of something/somebody
6. disconcerting (adj.)
7. to allow a genius
8. to get a clue to something
9. to convey something to somebody
10. to expose oneself to something
11. to acquire proficiency in something
12. single-minded (adj.)

13. to remain aloof
14. odious (adj.)

II. Questions and topics for discussion:

1. Describe the narrator's moral indignation when he encountered Strickland after Blanche's death. How did Strickland manage to make the narrator feel a poseur? Why couldn't the narrator help liking Strickland's company? What sort of interest did the narrator take in Strickland?
2. How old Strickland regard the tragedy he had caused'? Did Strickland's explanation of the motives change the narrator's attitude towards him'? What made the author devise that scene?
3. Why do you think Strickland wanted the narrator to see his pictures? Describe the impression the picture made on the narrator. (Pay attention to the author's choice of words describing the narrator's impressions, make a list of them). In what way were Strickland's pictures out of the ordinary? Speak about the peculiarity of Strickland's technique. What was the author's idea of Strickland's aims in art and life seeing his pictures?
4. What contradictory features of Strickland's personality does the author specify? What makes him think that Strickland was a great man? Can chapter XLIII (53) be regarded as the author's attempt to justify Strickland? May Blanche's death be justified by Strickland's sacrificing everybody to pursue his?
5. Speak about Strickland's views on painting. What is striking about them?
6. Find places in the chapter under discussion that throw light upon the author's model of the universe, that' s, the author' s views on man and society people's communicability, the laws governing human soul, the moving force of the universe. In what way are the author's model of the universe and portrayal of Strickland connected?
7. Speak of the character of Blanche Strove and author's way of presenting it. Analyze the essence of the opposition Blanche-Dirk, Blanche - Strickland, Blanche - the narrator, which of the oppositions is if paramount importance? Is there any similarity between Blanche and Strickland? Does Blanche's characterization answer the formula: "The here is not equal to himself?" What are the major events that make Blanche unequal to the reader's previous conception of her? How would you specify the cause of

Blanche's tragedy? Is Blanche's character static or dynamic?

8. Speak about Strickland's moral conceptions as seen in the chapters you have read.

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