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УЧЕБНО-МЕТОДИЧЕСКАЯ РАЗРАБОТКА ПО ДОМАШНЕМУ ЧТЕНИЮ ПО ПРОИЗВЕДЕНИЮ

У.С. Моэм «Пироги и пиво»

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William Somerset Maugham (25 January 1874 – 16 December 1965) was a British playwright, novelist and <u>short story</u> 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 <u>Red Cross</u> and in the ambulance corps, before being recruited in 1916 into the British <u>Secret</u> <u>Intelligence Service</u>, for which he worked in Switzerland and Russia before the <u>Bolshevik Revolution</u> 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 <u>http://ru.wikipedia.org</u>)

ASSIGNMENT 1 CHAPTERS 1-3 (pp. 29-57)

I. Vocabulary list:

1.to dispense hospitality (p.30)
2.to cope with something (pp. 30)
3.to be on everybody's lips (p.30)
4.tribute (p.34)
5.to sit the Thames on fire (p. 34)
6.a humbug (p. 37)
7.innate (inborn) (p. 30)
8.to be the backbone of something (p.38)
9.to cherish a dream, a passion (p.39)
10.to meet trouble halfway (p. 42)
11.idiosyncrasy (p. 52)
12.to be fresh from school (p. 54)

II. Questions and Tasks:

- 1. Speak about the speculations of the narrator with reference to his having been invited to lunch with Roy.
- 2. Trace the narrator's irony about Alroy Kear's "rise in the world of literature".
- 3. Speak on the phenomenon of Roy's personality as it is put by the narrator (his appearance, manner, interests)
- 4. Comment upon Roy's attitude to people. Do yiu agree that he was "a snob, a time-server, a humbug"?
- 5. Give your commentary of the last paragraph of Chapter 1 (p.40), which summons up the narrator's opinion about Alroy Kear.
- 6. Describe the atmosphere of Roy's club. Why do you think the narrator called it "sedate"?
- 7. Comment upon Roy's manner of speaking. Why do you think the narrator could not but admire it?
- 8. What was the real reason for the lunch arranged by Roy. How did the name of Edward Driffield spring up in the conversation. Give the judgment of the narrator about him.
- 9. Speak about the narrator's reminiscences about the past. Why did he consider that people "had been worthier then..."?

10. Describe the narrator's first meeting with Driffield. Speak about the attitude of the local people of Blackstable towards the writer.

ASSIGNMENT 2 CHAPTERS 4-7 (pp. 57-85)

I. Vocabulary List:

- 1. to throw cold water on something (p.60)
- 2. to be taken aback (p. 62)
- 3. the acme of good taste (p. 62)
- 4. nonchalant (p. 68)
- 5. to avert one's eyes from something or somebody (p. 68)
- 6. the zest of life (p. 70)
- 7. to blush scarlet (p. 70)
- 8. to take to bed (p. 74)
- 9. to cut somebody dead (p. 75)
- 10. to hold one's head high (p.81)
- 11.to wait till doomsday (p. 84)

II. Questions and Tasks:

1. The letter of Mrs. Driffield to the narrator. Speak on the reaction towards it.

2. Speak about the Driffields as seen by the narrator.

3. How did the narrator happen to visit the Driffields again after so many years. Speak on the lunch at their house. Comment upon the ironical way of his describing the house, especially the writing room.

4. Speak on Rosie Gann. What did the young man like about her?

5. The narrator remembers the episodes from his youth connected with Edward Driffield and his lessons of riding the bicycle.

6.Comment upon the attitude of local people towards the Driffields. What was wrong about them that went against the morality of Blackstable?

7. What was the narrator's opinion about the mode of life of the people of Blackstable? Why did he consider it to be "a life full of pretences"?

8. Speak on the visit of Rosie Gann to Mary-Ann. What were the final judgements of Mary-Ann about Mrs. Driffield?

ASSIGNMENT 3 CHAPTERS 8-11 (pp. 86-107)

I. Vocabulary List:

- 1. to give somebody a tip (p. 88)
- 2. to know how to land lay (p. 92)
- 3. vicious (vice) (p. 94)
- 4. scrupulous (ly) (p. 95)
- 5. at the expense of something (p. 95)
- 6. to show off (p. 99)
- 7. deceit (p. 101)
- 8. prime (to be in one's prime) (p. 102)
- 9. mediocrity (p. 103)
- 10. to leave somebody cold (p. 103)
- 11. to captivate somebody by something (p. 107)
- 12. To ascribe greater merit to somebody (p. 107)

II. Questions and Tasks:

- 1. Speak about the torments of the young man concerning Mrs. Driffield. Prove that he was still very romantic and naive.
- 2. Speak on the visit of the boy to the Driffields. Was it the discovery of a perfectly new world for him, the words of freedom?
- 3. Comment upon the philistinism of the people Willie Asenden has grown up among. Was he one of them by his vies, the product of his class?
- 4. How did it happen that the boy had come to like the men he met at the Driffields?
- 5. A very sudden departure of the Driffields from Blackstable. What feelings did he evoke in those who used to know them?
- 6. Comment upon the narrator's rumination about Driffield's books, his style, his characters. What credits does he give to the writer?
- 7. What is the narrator's opinion of the beauty. Does he think to be a merit with reference to the writer's style?
- 8. Speak on the narrator's ironical speculations about why the author should be more esteemed the older they grow.

ASSIGNMENT 4 CHAPTERS 12-13 (pp. 108-127)

I. Vocabulary List:

- 1. to be keen on somebody (p. 111)
- 2. to have a sensation (p. 111)
- 3. to dwell on something (p. 113)
- 4. to be discouraged (p. 114)
- 5. vigor (vigorous)
- 6. to be like a dog in a manger (p. 118)
- 7. to be fed up with something/somebody (p. 119)
- 8. feud (p. 121)
- 9. enigmatic enigma) (p. 124)
- 10. in a daydream (p. 125)

II. Questions and Tasks:

- 1. Speak about the real motives of Alroy Kear's visit to the narrator's house. What did he want to hear from him and why wasn't Roy interested in what the narrator told him about his long rides with the Driffields?
- 2. Roy speaks about the difficulties he had to face and overcome in order to write the proper book about E. Driffield. Why did the narrator remark trhst it was "" a very tall order ?
- 3. What did Roy expect the narrator to remember about Driffielf? Comment upon the phrase he said: "It would be rather like a dog in a manger keep to yourself a whole lot of material that you have no intention of using".
- 4. Give your opinion of the narrator's manner to portray his character. (Mrs. Hudson). What did he value the people?
- 5. What made the narrator visit the lodging house he used to lie at his youth? Speak on the nostalgia he felt for that time.
- 6. The narrator meets the Driffields again. Trace the changes that have taken place in the young man, his behavior, his attitude to people, Mrs. Driffield. Was there still much of the boy from Blackstable in him?

ASSIGNMENT 5 CHAPTERS 14-16 (pp. 127-149)

I. Vocabulary List:

- 1. the crown of something (p. 129)
- 2. prejudice (p. 132)
- 3. to become the part of posterity (p. 132)
- 4. to show promise (p. 132)
- 5. to see which way the cat will jump (p. 132)
- 6. to liken somebody to somebody (p. 133)
- 7. a stand-by (p. 137)
- 8. to sit to somebody (p. 138)
- 9. to be apt for something (p. 140)
- 10. scrupulous (scrupulously) (p. 141)

II. Questions and Tasks:

- 1. What sort of people did the narrator meet at the Driffields? Speak of his plan to reconstruct "the profession of literature"?
- 2. Why do you think the narrator is so particular to describe Mrs. Barton Irafford? Can we call her a lion-hunter? Speak on her tribute to the recognition of E. Driffield,
- 3. Describe the most permanent visitors at the house of the Driffields, the "stand-bys", as the narrator called them.
- 4. What do you think about the narrator's new look at Rosie Drifield? Was it more than natural interest of a man to a woman?
- 5. Speak on the narrator's taking Rosie out and his growing affection for her. What did he find mysterious and appealing about the woman?
- 6. Was it inevitable for the narrator and Rosie to become intimate? Did the young man have any moral scruples with reference to E. Driffield?

ASSIGNMENT 6 CHAPTERS 17-21 (pp. 149-170)

I. Vocabulary List:

- 1. in a quizzical way (p. 150)
- 2. to be vexed (p. 151)
- 3. to go stiff (p. 152)
- 4. to grow aloof (p. 155)

- 5. to play to the gallery (p. 157)
- 6. malicious (malice) (p. 159)
- 7. the vicissitudes of life (p. 160)
- 8. to face the fact (p. 161)
- 9. to raise money (p. 165)
- 10. to do justice to somebody (p. 167)
- 11. to relieve one's fillings by doing something (p. 169)
- 12. to have an inkling (p. 170)

II. Questions and Tasks:

- 1. Give the story of fur caps. What did the narrator understand at last about Rosie Driffield?
- 2. The new book by E. Driffield. Why was it universally condemned by the critics? What was the narrator/s opinion about the book?
- 3. Mrs. Driffield's ran away from her husband. Speak on how Driffield and others took it.
- 4. The narrator's trip to Blackstable. What was the aim of his mission? What did he find out their about Rosie and Lord George?
- 5. Speak on Mrs. Trafford's efforts to make Driffield a celebrity.
- 6. Comment upon the nature of Mrs. Barton Trafford's attitude to Driffield. Can you say that she was disinterested devoting the most of her time to E. Driffield?
- 7. E. Driffield gets married again. What was the reaction of Mrs. Barton Trafford to that event?

ASSIGNMENT 7 CHAPTERS 23-26 (pp. 170-196)

I. Vocabulary List:

- 1. to arose an echo in one's memory (p. 172)
- 2. a ghost (p. 73)
- 3. to live in penury (p. 14)
- 4. i-made (p. 174)
- 5. to set an example to somebody (p. 175)
- 6. brand new (p. 178)
- 7. to put oneself in other people's shoes (p. 184)
- 8. to rack one's brain (p. 185)

- 9. to have plenty of go (p. 188)
- 10. the best money can buy (p. 187)

II. Questions and Tasks:

- 1. Speak on narrator's coming back to Blackstable. How did he find the place? Did the local people remember E. Driffield?
- 2. Why did the meeting with a former schoolmate give Willie Ashenden a shock? Don't we realize how old we are sometimes?
- 3. The narrator's visit to Amy Driffield. What was it about the woman's manners, her speech, behavior that evoked his amazement and irony? Did she and Roy want to smooth the personality of Driffield?
- 4. Speak on the narrator/s feelings caused by the old photographs of the Driffields. What memories did they bring back?
- 5. Why do you think the narrator was not afraid to give justice to Rosie and contradict Mrs. Driffield?
- 6. Describe the narrator's last meeting with Rosie in America. What tragic event in her life did he get to know about there? Why did he keep it a secret that Rosie was alive?
- 7. Comment upon the narrator's words: "He is the only free man when he meditated upon the writer's life". (p. 195)

ASSIGNMENT 8

- 1. Comment upon the symbolic meaning of the novel by W.S. Maugham "Cakes and Ale or the Skeleton in the Cupboard".
- 2. The place and the role of the narrator in the events described in the book "Cakes and Ale".
- 3. Speak on the collective image of the writer and the critic as they are presented by W.S. Maugham.
- 4. Blaskstable as the real philistines.
- 5. The process of estrangement of Willie Ashendon from the world pf philistines.
- 6. The role of Rosie Driffield in the narrator/s getting free from his philistine conventions.
- 7. The revenge of life over art as it is shown in the novel "Cakes and Ale".

Topics for compositions

- 1. The symbolic meaning of the novel by W.S. Maugham "Cakes and Ale".
- 2. The position of the narrator with reference to the events described in the book "Cakes and Ale".
- 3. The world of philistines against the world of letters in the novel "Cakes and Ale" by W.S. Maugham.
- 4. Edward Driffield and his place in "the world of letters".
- 5. Rosie Driffield the embodiment of real life and love in the novel "Cakes and Ale" by W.S. Maugham.

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