

# Tess of the D'Urbervilles by Thomas Hardy

Read the following pages of text through carefully; they are the first paragraph of the novel.

On an evening in the latter part of May a middle-aged man was walking homeward from Shaston to the village of Marlott, in the adjoining Vale of Blakemore or Blakemoor. The pair of legs that carried him were rickety, and there was a bias in his gait which inclined him somewhat to the left of a straight line.

He occasionally gave a smart nod, as if in confirmation of some opinion, though he was not thinking of anything in particular. An empty egg-basket was slung upon his arm, the nap of his hat was ruffled, a patch being quite worn away at its brim where his thumb came in taking it off.

Presently he was met by an elderly parson astride on a gray mare, who, as he rode, hummed a wandering tune.

Answer the following questions to see how carefully you read the text.

1. In which month is the opening of the novel set?
2. Is the man: young; middle aged; old?
3. The man is not walking in a straight line; how is his walking described?
4. What does he do as he walks?

5. What is slung upon his arm?
6. What is wrong with his hat?
7. Who does he meet?
8. Is the other man walking?
9. If not, what is the colour of what he is on?
10. What is the other man doing as he goes along?