

Across the Causeway

Answer the following questions carefully and be prepared to share your ideas with others in your class.

1. As you read this chapter, note down any references to, and descriptions of, birds. Think about why Hill has included these and what effect the descriptions have.
2. Throughout this chapter are references to colour; make a note of each one to gain an overall impression of Eel Marsh House and its surroundings. What do you notice about the colours used?
3. As the chapter progresses Arthur goes through a series of extreme emotions; note down his changing feelings and what it is that prompts them – You might want to plot your ideas on a graph.
4. 'My head reeled at the sheer and startling beauty, the wide, bare openness of it. The sense of space, the vastness of the sky above and on either side made my heart race. I would have travelled a thousand miles to see this. I had never imagined such a place.' Why do you think Hill includes this and what significance might it hold?
5. Find Arthur's first sighting and impression of Eel Marsh House. Note down any words or phrases you find particularly striking and explore their possible significance.
6. Just as the light goes from the sun and Arthur is about to leave the burial ground, he sees the woman in black again. Why do you think Hill waits until this moment in the chapter for the woman in black to reappear? What effect does the woman have on Arthur this time?
7. As Arthur walks through the rooms in the house he describes them; make a list of the rooms and his descriptions of their appearance and contents.
8. At the end of the chapter, Arthur decides to make his own way back to Crythin Gifford. What do you think of the way Hill finishes, with the words, 'The causeway was still visible, the roads back were straight and I could not possibly lose myself. ...
... thinking, I closed up the windows and drew the blinds again and left Eel Marsh House to itself in the declining November light.'?