

The Funeral of Mrs Drablow

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

1. What are Arthur's first impressions of the town? Why might these be important to reflect on later on in the novel?
2. What is the landlord's reaction to Arthur's comment that he is going to Mrs Drablow's funeral?
3. What is Arthur's response to the landlord's reaction? What reasons does he give, looking back, for his feelings?
4. What comments does Arthur make about his night's sleep at the inn? What reasons does he give for remembering it so well? Why do you think Hill includes all these details?
5. Arthur contrasts the busy atmosphere of the market and the surroundings of Crythin Gifford. Give some examples of the language used and explore the reason why Hill might do this.
6. Re-read the description of Mr Jerome (pp.46-47), summarise it, and make a note of anything about him which Arthur may realize has significance later on.
7. When Arthur first sees the woman in black what are his first impressions of her and what are his feelings towards her?
8. What might be the significance of the children lined up against the railings?
9. What happens to Mr Jerome when Arthur asks him the identity of the woman in black? Make detailed notes and consider the importance of his reaction.
10. Why does Hill include the conversation between Arthur and the farmer from the auction?