

POSSIBLE ESSAY QUESTIONS ON RETURN OF THE NATIVE

On page 139 Fairway comments, "I should never have knowed this gentleman if I had met him anywhere off his own heath: he is altered so much." How does Hardy present the change in Clym through the novel?

What do you consider to be the importance of Christian Cantle in Return of the Native?

Explore the ways in which Hardy presents love and marriage.

Explore the ways in which Hardy uses Christian beliefs in Return of the Native.

Remind yourself of the section of the novel in which Thomasin and Mrs Yeobright visit Wildeve after the failed wedding ceremony. What do you think is the importance of this section in the novel as a whole?

Explore the ways in which Hardy uses nature in the novel.

One of the central ideas in the novel is that traditional customs are being destroyed by industrialisation and 'new' ideas. How do you respond to this idea and the way Hardy presents it?