

Reading Record

You may think that 'Reading Records' are only for younger students, or for those studying at a lower level than you but they are just as, if not more, important for your study. As you read, it is vitally important that you make a note of important points or quotations that you may want to refer to later when writing an essay or revising for an exam. It is only by keeping track of points that you will be able to reflect later on how important various ideas (such as themes, motifs and symbols) are or to see how frequently characters appear or to remember where particular descriptions can be found. This record has been started for you but you may need to change the page numbers (this reader has used Penguin Classics, published 1978) and you will certainly need to add ideas of your own to those given here.

Phase the First – The Maiden

Chapter I

John Durbeyfield, Tess's father, meets Parson Tringham who tells him he is descended from the once noble d'Urberville family.

p.45 – Parson Tringham tells Durbeyfield it is actually a useless piece of information as the d'Urbervilles as a county family are extinct.

p.47 – Durbeyfield, who obviously has little money to spare, orders a boy to fetch him a carriage to take him home in order that he can pass on the news to his wife.

Chapter II

p.51 – We are introduced to Tess who is out 'club walking'. She is embarrassed at the spectacle her father makes as he is driven home.

p.52 – We see Angel, and his brothers, for the first time. Angel stops to participate in the dancing whilst his brothers go on.

p.54 – As Angel leaves the dancing he notices Tess but he has not danced with her and does not have time now.

Chapter III

p.57 – We are introduced to Tess's mother, Joan Durbeyfield.

p.58 – Tess's mother is excited by the news about her husband's ancestors and by the time she tells Tess the story has changed so that apparently 'great things' will come of the link.

p.60 – Joan insists she will collect her husband from the inn and we see that Tess, as the oldest child, is often responsible, not only for the younger children, but also for her mother and father.

Chapter IV

p.64-65 – When Joan arrives at the inn she tells her husband that she will send Tess to a rich woman at Trantridge who has the last name d'Urberville as she is sure she must be related and 'likely enough 'twould lead to some noble gentleman marrying her'.

p.70 – Tess tells Abraham we live on a blighted star.

p.71-73 – Prince, the horse, is killed after Tess falls asleep whilst driving the beehives to market.

p.73 – Whilst her father buries Prince all the children, except Tess, cry. 'Her face was dry and pale, as though she regarded herself in the light of a murderess.'

Phase the First – The Maiden
Chapter V
Chapter VI
Chapter VII
Chapter VIII
Chapter IX
Chapter X
Chapter XI