

## Differences in the text

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In the Textual Notes of the 1978 *Penguin Classics* version of the novel is a comprehensive list of all the textual differences that appeared in the novel between the original serialised version that appeared in the *Graphic* from 4<sup>th</sup> July to 26<sup>th</sup> December 1891 and the 1912 Macmillan *Wessex Novels* edition. The following is also noted:

In the *Graphic* version the scenes at Chaseborough and in the Chase are omitted, and Tess's explanation to her mother of her return home in Chapter 12 recounts how she was tricked into a fake marriage ceremony with Alec – an explanation which on its first appearance allows the aware reader to assume that she has had repeated sexual relations with him, though later Hardy has to evade the sexual implications of the false marriage, and let Tess's worries reside entirely in the possible moral or legal validity of the bogus contract.

... The christening and death of Sorrow – indeed his whole existence – are missing in the *Graphic* version, as is Tess's meeting with the painter of texts; and Angel finds a convenient wheelbarrow to convey the amorous milkmaids through the flood.

... The 'God' of 1912 is usually 'Providence' in the *Graphic*, where the 'President of the Immortals' has not yet appeared, and it is 'Time, the Arch-satirist' who has 'had his joke out with Tess'.

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Furthermore, in the *Graphic* serialisation Angel only asks Izz Huett 'jestingly' if she would like to go to Brazil and when she obviously takes the question seriously, 'he said no more on that matter, and then lapsed into silence'. Near the end of the story, when Angel discovers Tess in the boarding house with Alec, the version in the *Graphic* implies that they are together as companions and 'cousins' only and that their relationship is not sexual; there are references to Tess as 'Miss d'Urberville' and her taking the rooms alone although paid for by her cousin.

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### **In view of this information, discuss with a partner the following:**

1. Why do you think Hardy made these changes to the story, between it being serialised in a magazine and printed as a complete book? Consider each of the differences in turn and for each one give a detailed reason.
2. What difference do the changes make to the story, our sympathies and understanding of the various characters? Again, consider each revision in turn and give detailed explanations of your answers.