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2020

Academic ESL World History Unit 4. E. Gaskell, North and South Part 2.

Karin Lundberg

CUNY Hostos Community College

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North and South Part 2.

Chapters VI – XV

1. **Chapter VI.** Skim through the chapter. Take notes as you read. What are some of the feelings and thoughts described in the chapter?

2. Chapter VII, Section 45.

Read section 45 carefully underline language that describes the atmosphere and environment in Milton List the words (do not copy sentences) below and add your own comment.

Language that describes the scene.	Your comment

3. Section 47. Margaret meets Mr. Thornton

Read the quote carefully. Underline words that describe Margaret. Use your own words to summarize how the author describes Margaret in her encounter with Mr. Thornton? If you use language from the text, you must use quotation marks.

Min. 7 sentences.

“Margaret opened the door and went in with the straight, fearless, dignified presence habitual to her. She felt no awkwardness; she had too much the habits of society for that. Here was a person come on business to her father; and, as he was one who had shown himself obliging, she was disposed to treat him with a full measure of civility. Mr. Thornton was a good deal more surprised and discomfited than she. Instead of a

quiet, middle-aged clergyman, a young lady came forward with frank dignity, —a young lady of a different type to most of those he was in the habit of seeing. Her dress was very plain: a close straw bonnet of the best material and shape, trimmed with white ribbon; a large Indian shawl, which hung about her in long heavy folds, and which she wore as an empress wears her drapery. He did not understand who she was, as he caught the simple, straight, unabashed look, which showed that his being there was of no concern to the beautiful countenance, and called up no flush of surprise to the pale ivory of the complexion. He had heard that Mr. Hale had a daughter, but he had imagined that she was a little girl.”

4. Chapter VIII, Section 50.

Reflective Journal

“At night when Margaret realised this, she felt inclined to sit down in a stupor of despair. The heavy smoky air hung about her bedroom, which occupied the long narrow projection at the back of the house. The window, placed at the side of the oblong, looked at the blank wall of a similar projection, not above ten feet distant. It loomed through the fog like a great barrier to hope. Inside the room everything was in confusion. All their efforts had been directed to make her mother’s room comfortable. Margaret sat down on a box, the direction card upon which struck her as having been written at Helstone—beautiful, beloved Helstone! “

Have you ever felt homesick? How did you feel? What did you miss? How did you overcome your homesickness?

5. Read Section 54 -57

Here a new environment and new characters are introduced.

Who are they and how are they described? Fill out the chart below.

Character/ environment	Description

6. Based on your observations so far, “map out” and describe the social contrasts you believe the author is pointing out at the beginning of the plot. Think of characters, environment and living conditions. Use at least one sentence for each point you are describing.

Power, wealth, authority	Working class, poverty, lack of power

Chapter IX and X

7. In chapter IX you find a juxtaposition of the Hale and Thornton families and their opposite impressions of each other.

Go over the chapter and write down keywords that represent their opinions of each other.

Hale’s opinion of the Thornton family	Thornton’s opinion of the Hale family

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8. List your impression and match the characters based on your reading.

The South / Helstone	Characters	The North/Milton	Characters

Chapter X.

9. As you continue reading you become more and more aware of the contrasts of the novel the plot is built around. The main theme “North and South” refers to the stark differences between the industrial regions in the North of England (Milton) and the rural, aristocratic South (Helstone). You can also see this as a contrast between the old and the modern age. The old age represents rural life and land ownership whereas the modern age stands for cumulation of wealth (money), manufacturing and new technologies. Mr. Thornton represents this new age in all its dimensions. Margaret is a daughter from the South. She wants to maintain cultural and moral values. Her father as a clergyman (priest) represents education and the moral conscience. However, Mr. Hale sees that this new age requires different thinking. He understands that modern industry and the new type of power through factories and manufacturing demand changes in society, and that the old ways of living are not a match for this new world. In this chapter, the dialogues between Mr. Thornton, Mr. Hale and Margaret express these contrasts.
 - a. Read the chapter and underline important key words. Take notes. Skip words or sentences that seem too hard to understand. Just try to “hold on” to the words that give you the clue to an understanding of the main ideas. Try to zoom in on some of the most important segments of the text. What do these parts of the text represent? Take notes.

- b. Look at your notes. Which main ideas in the chapter can be divided into the main categories that divide North and South: Moral values, education, culture, modern technology and industry and capital? Pick key words from the text and add the section numbers.

Section nr.	North	South

- c. Pick **two quotes from the text**: One that represents the South (Margaret, Mr. Hale) and one that represents the North (Thornton). a) Paraphrase the quote – write the same text by using YOUR words. b) reflect on the quote.

P. #	Quote	Paraphrase	My comment

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- d. Summarize the differences between the North and South in your own words. Write at least 7 sentences.

Chapter XI

Chapter XI: Skim through chapter XI and scan it for additional information regarding the North and South conflict as expressed through Margaret and the Thornton's. Take notes.

Chapter XII

10. Fanny and Mrs. Thornton visit the Hale family.

In this chapter, you can observe the tensions and competition between Fanny, Mrs. Thornton, and the Hale family. List three quotes that represent these tensions. Explain the quotes.

Quote	Explanation

Chapter XIII -XV

(Skim through chapter XIV. Underline text segments you think are important for the progress of the plot.)

11. In chapters XIII and XIV we can follow how the themes and conflicts presented in the setting are escalating.

What is the focus in chapter XIII? In the box below, write down main key words from memory. Which side and aspect for the plot does this chapter represent?

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12. Go over your notes from previous chapters. Describe the different themes of conflicts and issues and how they escalate in chapter XIII and XV. Write in full sentences.

Theme – characters who represent the theme	Development/ Escalation

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Chapter XV.

13. Section 88

List the adjectives that describe Mrs. Thornton in section 88.

Adjectives

14. What is Mrs. Thornton like? Summarize your impression based on the adjectives using your own words. Min. 5 sentences.

15. Section 89

“I have no doubt that classics are very desirable for people who have leisure. But I confess, it was against my judgment that my son renewed his study of them. The time and place in which he lives, seem to me to require all his energy and attention. Classics may do very well for men who loiter away their lives in the country or in colleges; but Milton men ought to have their thoughts

and powers absorbed in the work of to-day. At least, that is my opinion.” This last clause she gave out with “the pride that apes humility.”

“But, surely, if the mind is too long directed to one object only, it will get stiff and rigid, and unable to take in many interests,” said Margaret.

“I do not quite understand what you mean by a mind getting stiff and rigid. Nor do I admire those whirligig characters that are full of this thing to-day, to be utterly forgetful of it in their new interest to-morrow. Having many interests does not suit the life of a Milton manufacturer. It is or ought to be enough for him to have one great desire, and to bring all the purposes of his life to bear on the fulfilment of that.”

In this segment you find two different viewpoints about the purpose of study. List the two different positions below.

Ideas about books and education	Margaret and Mr. Hale	Mrs. Thornton
What is the value of education and studying of literature?		

16. Section 95-97.

Masters and Men

In these text passages, a very intense discussion ensues between Margaret and Mr. Thornton. They both have different arguments for how masters should behave toward their workmen. Should workmen be enlightened and educated, or remain simple tools in the system? List at list three quotes for each argument here.

Mr. Thornton	Margaret