

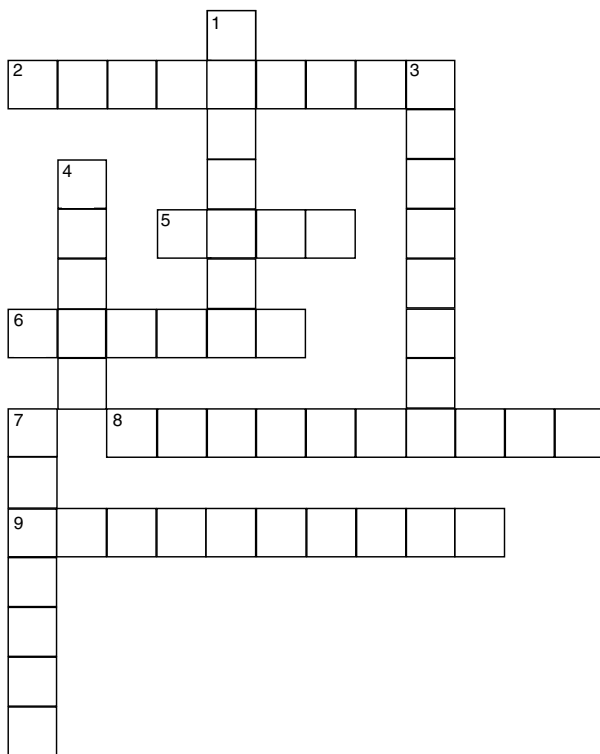
# Far from the Madding Crowd

THOMAS HARDY

**A Before Reading**

- 1 This story is set in the late 1800s in the English area called Wessex.
  - (a) What do you know about this period?
  - (b) What work did people do?
  - (c) How did they travel around?
  - (d) What kind of housing did they have?
  - (e) How did they spend their spare time?

2 Complete the crossword below.



**Across**

- 1 A word which describes somebody's personality – it can be strong or weak – is: \_\_\_\_\_.(page 8)
- 5 An amount of money that you owe to somebody or to a bank is called a: \_\_\_\_\_.(page 17)
- 6 In England, the land is divided into small areas called a: \_\_\_\_\_.(page 4)
- 8 A large piece of flat stone with words describing someone's life carved into it and placed over their grave is a: \_\_\_\_\_.(page 60)
- 9 To ride a horse by sitting with both your legs on the same side of the horse is to ride: \_\_\_\_\_.(page 6) (page 11)

**Down**

- 1 The cutting and gathering of a crop, for example a crop of hay, is to: \_\_\_\_\_.(page 7)
- 3 A large group of soldiers is called a: \_\_\_\_\_.(page 18)
- 4 A large vehicle which is used to carry heavy loads, has four wheels and is usually pulled by a horse is called a: \_\_\_\_\_.(page 8)
- 7 When you pay money to an insurance company, they will pay you money if your property is damaged; this means you are: \_\_\_\_\_.(page 17, 83)

**B While Reading**

3 These eight places are mentioned in the story. Complete the table by describing what happens at these places, and if any of the main characters live or work there.

Place	What happens there	Who lives or works there
Norcombe Hill		
Weatherbury		
Casterbridge		
Melchester		
Bath		
Lulwind Cove		
Budmouth		
Greenhill		

4 There are three men who all want to marry Bathsheba. Which of the men are these words describing?

'an older and richer man who owned a small farm in Weatherbury; all the girls of the village would love to marry him, but he's not interested in them'

'a quiet and sensible man who moves to Weatherbury; unmarried, a man of good character who worked on his farm during the week and went to church on Sundays'

'a man born into a good family in Weatherbury; his father had been a doctor before he died, and made sure his son received a solid education'

5 Here are eight sentences that summarise the main events of the story. Match the beginning of the sentences with the end of the sentence.

Bathsheba's aunt tells Gabriel that ...	... the weeks pass and spring arrives.
Fanny Robin disappears and ...	... collect her body from the workhouse.
Bathsheba sends a Valentine to Boldwood but ...	... had belonged to his mother and gives it to Bathsheba.
Boldwood begins to have strong feelings for Bathsheba as ...	...marry Fanny Robin.
Sergeant Troy pulls out a gold watch saying that it ...	...she soon realises this is a mistake.
Boldwood pays Sergeant Troy to	...have spoken about their love for each other.
Bathsheba hears of Fanny's death and orders a new wagon to ...	... Bathsheba asks her workers to look for her.
Bathsheba and Gabriel are content and understand each other now they ...	... there are more than ten men who want to marry her.

**C After Reading**

- 6 Bathsheba is a strong and independent woman for most of the story. How does her character change during the story?
- 7 If you were a Hollywood producer making a film of this story, which actors would you choose to play the main characters' roles and why?
- 8 At the end of the story Gabriel Oak thought about going to America, but then decided to stay in England.
  - (a) What would have happened to Bathsheba if he had gone to America?
  - (b) How would she have managed the farm?
  - (c) What would she have done about her feelings for Gabriel?
  - (d) Write a final paragraph for the story imagining Gabriel had left for America.

