

Selected Stories

D. H. LAWRENCE

A Before Reading

- 1 These stories are set in the early twentieth century in England, just after the First World War. Life was very different then compared to now. Are the following statements about this time true or false?
 - (a) Only men were allowed to vote at this time in England.
 - (b) It was alright for women to go out with many different men.
 - (c) People often talked about difficult and controversial things.
 - (d) It was not right for women to have sex before marriage.

- 2 D. H. Lawrence was an important writer. He thought it was important to discuss everything, even things that people thought were too difficult to talk about. He thought that people should live their lives completely. He thought women should be able to live how they wished. His writing upset a lot of people.
 - (a) What do you think he wrote about that upset so many people?
 - (b) What do you think is meant by 'living completely'?
 - (c) What stopped women from living how they wished?
 - (d) How do you think they wished to live?

- 3 How were things different in your country at this time compared to now?

B While Reading

Read each of the four short stories, and answer the questions below.

- 4 *The Virgin and the Gipsy*. Put the following events into the order in which they happened.

	A	A young gipsy man visits the rectory where the girls live. He is selling pots and other things.
	B	Someone asks Yvette to marry him.
1	C	Lucille and Yvette's mother runs away with another man who is not their father.
	D	Yvette meets two new friends whom her father does not approve of.
	E	A terrible flood destroys most of the rectory.
	F	The two sisters get angry with their grandmother.
	G	The sisters have their fortunes told by a gipsy woman.
	H	Yvette spends a night with a gipsy.
	I	Lucille and Yvette grow up in a small English village in a house next to a river.

5 *The Lovely Lady*. Match the first half of the sentence on the left with the second half on the right.

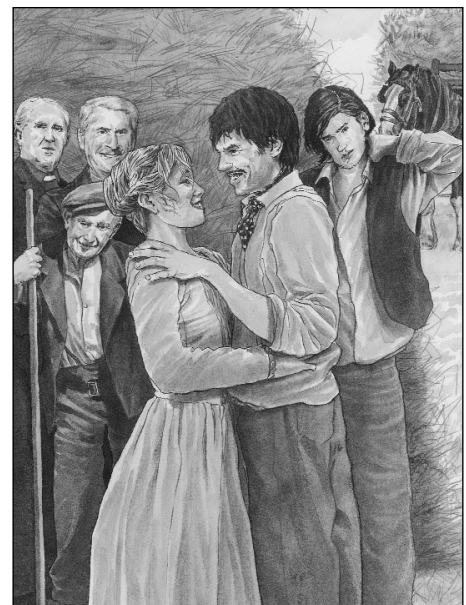
Pauline Attenborough was seventy-two years old but	didn't know Ciss was listening.
Pauline's son was a lawyer but	scared Pauline so much she became angry and cruel, and died.
Ciss loved Robert but	didn't earn much money.
Pauline spoke to herself but	looked much younger.
Ciss pretended to be the ghost of Henry because she was angry, but	it was only because she was angry, and perhaps going a little crazy.
Pauline told Robert to marry Ciss but	didn't think he felt the same way.

6 *The Rocking Horse Winner*. The main characters from the story are: Paul, Hester, Paul's father, Uncle Oscar, Bassett, the rocking horse, the house. Which of these character(s) did the following things?

- (a) Who was lucky?
- (b) Who was unlucky?
- (c) Who wanted money?
- (d) Who was interested in horse racing?
- (e) Who heard strange whispers from the house?
- (f) Who won a lot of money?
- (g) Who became sick from worrying so much?
- (h) Who told Paul the winning horses' names?

7 *Love Among the Haystacks*. Look at the picture below from page 67. There are two brothers, their father, a neighbourhood vicar, his young governess, and a farm helper.

- (a) Who do you think is who in the picture?
- (b) What are they doing?
- (c) What do you think happens in this story?
- (d) Write your own short story about the people in this picture.
- (e) Read the story from the book. Was your story similar or different? In what ways?



C After Reading

- 8** Look up the word 'controversial' in your dictionary. D. H. Lawrence got into trouble for writing about controversial things in the early 1900s. In each of the four stories, what do you think were the controversial issues he wrote about?
What do you think might have upset his readers in these times?
- 9** Which was your favourite story? Why? Which was your least favourite story? Why?
- 10** Choose a character from any of the stories. Write five things about their personality that were good. Write five things about their personality that were bad.