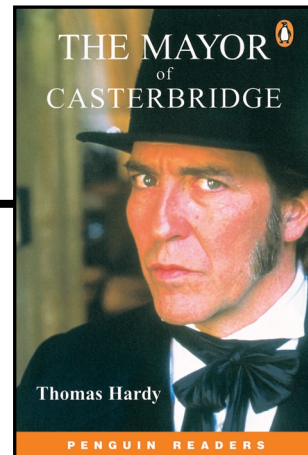


# Penguin Readers Factsheets

## Teacher's Notes

# The Mayor of Casterbridge

By Thomas Hardy



Level 5 – Upper Intermediate The Mayor of Casterbridge

## Summary

Michael Henchard is a simple farm worker. When we first meet him, aged 20, he has a family, no job and nowhere to live. He feels trapped by his wife and child and one night gets drunk at a fair and sells them to a stranger, a sailor called Newson.

He is horrified next morning by what he has done and swears not to touch alcohol for 20 years. We find him again, 18 years later, now a successful businessman and mayor of Casterbridge.

And then his past returns. His wife, Susan, and daughter, Elizabeth-Jane, arrive in Casterbridge. They believe Newson is dead, and Susan comes to find Henchard because she has no money. He marries her again and for a short time they live happily together. Farfrae, a young man with modern business ideas, arrives at the same time and becomes Henchard's farm manager. He and Elizabeth-Jane begin to fall in love. Susan dies however, and Henchard learns that Elizabeth-Jane is really Newson's daughter. His own daughter died soon after he sold her.

Henchard's relationship with Farfrae goes bad, and Farfrae sets up a rival business, which is soon more successful. A second woman from Henchard's past, Lucetta, comes to Casterbridge. Henchard now wants to marry her, but she and Farfrae fall in love. Henchard's business fails and he loses his house. Farfrae moves in. Henchard starts drinking again. The local people learn of Henchard and Lucetta's past and make fun of them in public. Lucetta dies of the shock.

Henchard and Elizabeth-Jane live happily but briefly together. Farfrae renews his interest in Elizabeth-Jane. Newson returns, not dead after all. Henchard sees that he will now lose his 'daughter' as well as everything else.

He leaves Casterbridge on foot. He is penniless and has lost his family – just as we see him at the beginning of the story. Elizabeth-Jane remains loyal to Henchard throughout, but he dies before she can find him.

## About Thomas Hardy

Thomas Hardy was born in 1840 in Dorset, a rural county in the south-west of England. His father was a stonemason and the family were not well-off. Hardy showed an early interest in books, however, and when he was 16, he began training as an architect in Dorchester. Six years later, he went to work in London, where he was able to compare city life with the customs and timeless ways of the country village where he grew up. He began writing in his spare time. In 1870, he met and fell in love with Emma Gifford, but they could not afford to marry. His fourth novel, *Far From the Madding Crowd*, published in 1874, was a big success. This allowed him to become a full-time writer and to marry.

Hardy went on to write several more novels, among them *The Mayor of Casterbridge*, published in 1886. He and Emma lived in

Dorset, but they spent part of every year in London, where they mixed with literary people and Hardy was much admired.

Although Hardy's books were very popular, when *Jude the Obscure* appeared in 1896, people hated it. They thought it was an attack on marriage, and they said it was shocking and immoral. Hardy turned to poetry and never wrote another novel. His poetry had always been more important to him than his fiction. He separated from his wife after he began an affair with his secretary, Florence Dugdale. Soon after Emma died in 1912, he and Florence married. He died in 1928.

Biographers disagree about Hardy's character. Some portray him as snobbish, mean and a woman-hater. Others believe he was a sensitive man who cared deeply about the human condition. All consider him to be among Britain's finest writers, both as a novelist and a poet.

## Background and themes

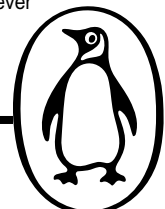
This story, according to Hardy, was inspired by three actual events: the sale of a wife by her husband which was reported in a local newspaper, the uncertain harvests (which ruin Henchard's business), and the visit of Prince Albert, husband of Queen Victoria, to Dorchester, the town on which Casterbridge is based, in July 1849.

The main theme of the book is Henchard's fight against two things: his own character and chance. As he fights with himself, his actions and decisions affect many other people's lives, usually badly. He often allows negative feelings to overwhelm him – at the beginning when things seem so bad he sells his wife. Later, after he has lost everything, he is consumed by bitterness. He is always honest in business, but not always kind; he is often impatient and quick to anger, but he is capable of great love and great loneliness. His complex character creates uncertainty in the reader – should we feel sorry for him or does he deserve everything that happens to him?

As his life turns in a great circle and Henchard appears to lose everything to Farfrae, he nevertheless continues to control events in Farfrae's life, for example causing the death of Lucetta. Elizabeth-Jane lets out a sigh of relief when Henchard dies, feeling the controlling power of his presence in her life finally dissolve.

Chance plays an important part throughout the story: the chance appearance of Newson in the tent when Henchard is trying to sell his wife; the rain that spoils Henchard's fair; the August weather that ruins Henchard's business; the chance meeting between Farfrae and Lucetta when they fall in love. Hardy believes that although Henchard is a powerful character, he is never fully in control of his life.

Alcohol also has a role here. Henchard's life improves from the moment he gives up drinking, as



# Penguin Readers Factsheets

## Teacher's Notes

he dedicates himself to work, builds a successful business and eventually becomes mayor. Things have already started to go badly wrong before he takes to drink again, but we still hope that he will rise up. Once he starts drinking, we know that all is lost. He loses his pride and his judgement.

Henchard and Farfrae represent contrasting ways of life in the country. Henchard is traditional and old-fashioned. For example, he measures corn by guesswork. Farfrae is young and modern, and full of new ideas. He introduces new machinery and scientific ways of measuring to the business.

Hardy was always fascinated by country customs and ways. He often includes strange country rituals like the skimmity-ride in his novels. They make useful plot devices and allow him to paint pictures of colourful but less important characters. He also uses them to reveal the conservative side of society, which can be very cruel to people who fall outside its strict rules of moral behaviour. Lucetta dies because of the skimmity joke, which is based on an affair with Henchard that never actually happened. She is punished for a half-truth about her past. This breaking of the moral code becomes a very important theme in Hardy's later novels, such as *Tess of the d'Urbervilles* and *Jude the Obscure*, stories that shocked the reading public and ended Hardy's novel writing career.

## Communicative activities

The following teacher-led activities cover the same sections of text as the exercises at the back of the reader, and supplement those exercises. Further supplementary exercises, covering shorter sections of the book, can be found on the photocopiable Student's Activities pages of this Factsheet. These are primarily for use with class readers, but with the exception of pair/groupwork questions, can also be used by students working alone in a self-access centre.

### ACTIVITIES BEFORE READING THE BOOK

Students work in groups. Each group chooses an important person in their local community, eg a factory owner, the mayor, the chief of police, a magistrate. They then decide on a terrible secret in the past of their character. They discuss the details of the secret without other students overhearing. The class then questions each group in turn to try and find out what the secret is. Groups have to answer as truthfully as they can.

### ACTIVITIES AFTER READING A SECTION

#### Chapters 1–2

Casterbridge was a very quiet town in Hardy's day. Communications with big cities like London and Portsmouth were slow and difficult. So when Farfrae arrives, a visitor from Scotland, it is a big event. Read aloud the first paragraph on page 15. Farfrae is in the bar at the Kind of Prussia. One student is Farfrae. Other students are customers. What do they ask him?

#### Chapters 3–5

Put students in small groups. Ask them to discuss how these sets of relationships change in this section of the book: Susan and Henchard; Henchard and Farfrae; Elizabeth-Jane and Farfrae; Elizabeth-Jane and Henchard. After their discussions, groups report back to the class.

#### Chapters 6–7

Invite students to read aloud the incident on page 45 between the two drivers. Discuss with students how this incident reflects the wider situation between Henchard and Farfrae. Record ideas on the board.

#### Chapters 8–10

Students compare events in the lives of Henchard and Farfrae by making a good/bad list for each of the two men. Divide the class into four groups. Each group takes and completes one section of the list. Groups report back to the class, writing their ideas in list form on the board. As a follow-up, students write a paragraph comparing the fortunes of the two men.

#### Chapters 11–14

Ask students to research and prepare a description of a custom from their part of the world and bring it to the next lesson. Compare customs, including the skimmity ride. Talk about their specific purpose and any wider functions these customs perform within communities.

### ACTIVITIES AFTER READING THE BOOK

Students work in pairs. Write the names of these characters on separate slips of paper and fold them up: Michael Henchard, Donald Farfrae, Susan Henchard, Richard Newson, Lucetta, Elizabeth-Jane, Joshua Jopp, the furnity woman, Abe Whittle, Nance Mockridge

Hand them out at random, one for each pair. Pairs write one or two sentences describing their character without mentioning his or her name and trying not to make the answer too obvious. Pairs read their descriptions aloud – the class guesses who the character is.

## Glossary

It will be useful for your students to know the following new words. They are practised in the 'Before You Read' sections of exercises at the back of the book. (Definitions are based on those in the Longman Active Study Dictionary.)

#### Chapters 1–2

**candle** (n) a stick of wax that you burn to produce a light

**cottage** (n) a small house, usually in the country

**fair** (n) the fair was a big, regular, outdoor event in a small country town at this time: people sold farm and garden produce, tools, things to eat and drink, and there were usually entertainers

**guinea** (n) old English money (a guinea was worth £1.05 which was a lot of money in its time)

**hay** (n) grass that is cut and dried and used to feed animals

**landlady** (n) a woman who runs a pub or small hotel

**mayor** (n) the person who is chosen to be head of the local council

**meanwhile** (adv) while something else is happening

**rum** (n) a clear alcoholic drink made from sugar; especially drunk by sailors

**sigh** (v) to breathe out loudly and slowly, showing you are tired, bored or annoyed

#### Chapters 3–5

**affection** (n) a feeling of tender love

**aware** (adj) knowing about or realizing something

**barn** (n) a farm building where hay and corn are sometimes animals are kept

**carriage** (n) a vehicle with wheels that is pulled by a horse

**donkey** (n) a grey or brown animal like a small horse, with long ears

**relief** (n) a feeling you have when you are no longer worried about something

**stepdaughter** (n) your husband or wife's daughter from a previous relationship

**safe** (n) a strong box with a big lock where you keep valuable things

#### Chapters 6–7

**case** (n) something that must be decided in a court of law

**forecast** (n) a description of what is likely to happen, especially the weather

**harvest** (n) the gathering in of the crops from the field

**survive** (v) to live through something difficult or dangerous

**wagon** (n) an open vehicle with wheels that is pulled by a horse or donkey

#### Chapters 8–10

**bankrupt** (adj) when you cannot pay your debts and therefore cannot continue your business

**bull** (n) a male cow, often large, strong and angry

**lane** (n) a narrow country road

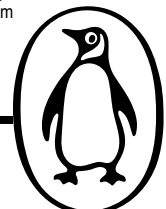
**magistrate** (n) person who hears and decides legal cases in a local court

#### Chapters 11–14

**grief** (n) a feeling of great sadness

**loft** (n) a room or space under the roof of a house or barn, often reached by a ladder

**trapdoor** (n) a door in a floor or ceiling, often into a loft, that you reach by a ladder from underneath

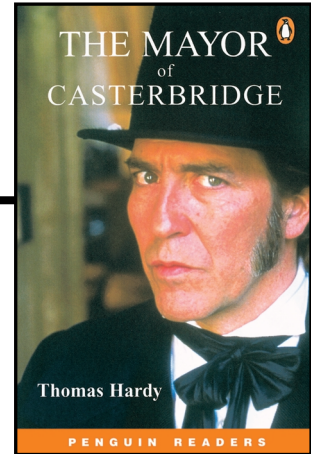


# Penguin Readers Factsheets

## Student's activities

# The Mayor of Casterbridge

## By Thomas Hardy



Level 5 – Upper Intermediate The Mayor of Casterbridge Photocopiable

These activities can be done alone or with one or more other students. Pair/group-only activities are marked.

### ACTIVITIES BEFORE READING THE BOOK

Read the introduction on pages v–vii. Make a chart of the events of Thomas Hardy's life. Use these dates:

1840 1871 1886 1895 1913 1914 1928

Example: 1840 Thomas Hardy is born in Dorset.

### ACTIVITIES WHILE READING THE BOOK

#### Chapter 1

- 1 Answer these questions.
  - (a) Why are the man and woman approaching Weydon-Priors unhappy?
  - (b) What does the old woman's secret smile mean?
  - (c) What does the man complain about when he gets drunk?
  - (d) What do the people in the tent know about the sailor?
  - (e) What reminds Michael the next morning of what he has done?
- 2 Susan leaves the fair with the sailor. What do they say to each other as they walk along the road? Talk to another student or write down some ideas.

#### Chapter 2

- 1 Who
  - (a) did Susan first meet at the fair outside Weydon-Priors 18 years earlier?
  - (b) did Susan last see in the same place?
  - (c) drowned at sea?
  - (d) does Susan recognize in the field filled with tents?
  - (e) returned to England when Elizabeth-Jane was 12?
  - (f) is the Mayor of Casterbridge?
- 2 Answer these questions.
  - (a) Why are the people of Casterbridge angry with the mayor?
  - (b) Did he do it on purpose?
  - (c) What did Donald Farfrae's note to Michael Henchard say?
  - (d) Why does Susan look worried when she sees their hotel room?
  - (e) Why is Farfrae planning to go to America?
  - (f) Why does Susan feel it was wrong for Elizabeth-Jane to serve in the hotel?
- 3 How do you think people in Casterbridge would react if they knew that the mayor had sold his wife 20 years before? Talk to other students.

#### Chapter 3

- 1 Answer these questions.
  - (a) Why is Henchard no longer interested in Joshua Jopp?
  - (b) Why is Henchard relieved when Elizabeth-Jane tells him her name?
  - (c) Why does Henchard call Susan 'simple-minded'?
  - (d) Farfrae isn't shocked when he hears about Henchard's past. What does this tell us about Farfrae's character?

- 2 How does Henchard feel
  - (a) when he learns that Susan has kept their past a secret?
  - (b) when he realizes that Susan has behaved kindly to him?
  - (c) when Elizabeth-Jane leaves his office?
  - (d) he takes Susan in his arms?
  - (e) towards Farfrae?
  - (f) when he explains his complicated situation to Farfrae?

#### Chapter 4

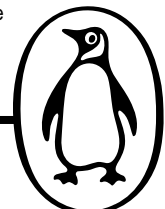
- 1 Work with another student. You are ordinary townspeople at Henchard and Susan's wedding. You are very surprised by the wedding. Talk about it.
- 2 Correct these sentences.
  - (a) Elizabeth-Jane has black hair.
  - (b) Elizabeth-Jane wants to change her name to Henchard.
  - (c) The note that Donald receives is in Elizabeth-Jane's handwriting.
  - (d) Abe Whittle comes to work without his jacket.
- 3 Answer these questions.
  - (a) Why does Henchard's attitude to Farfrae suddenly change?
  - (b) Why is Henchard's fair ruined?
  - (c) What reason do the townsmen give for Henchard's fair disaster?
  - (d) Why does Henchard order Elizabeth-Jane never to see Farfrae again?
  - (e) What secret does Susan tell her daughter when she is dying?

#### Chapter 5

- 1 Are these sentences true or false?
  - (a) Michael Henchard is Elizabeth-Jane's real father.
  - (b) Henchard's daughter died when she was a baby.
  - (c) Henchard is proud when he sees his daughter helping the servants.
  - (d) Elizabeth-Jane spends many hours each day educating herself.
  - (e) Henchard wants Farfrae to take Elizabeth-Jane away from him.
- 2 Discuss these questions with another student.
  - (a) Who is the 'woman in black'?
  - (b) The next chapter is called 'Love at First Sight'. Which two characters will fall in love at first sight?

#### Chapter 6

- 1 Who or what do the words in *italics* refer to?
  - (a) 'I'm sure *he* doesn't want to visit any place where he might see *me*.'
  - (b) '*I* am disappointed that *you* have not come before.'
  - (c) '*It* looks like a kind of agricultural piano.'
  - (d) '*You* refused to see *me*!'



# Penguin Readers Factsheets

## Student's activities

- (e) ... *she* began to observe her *employer* and *friend* more carefully.
- 2 Will the new planting machine be good for the people of Casterbridge or bad? Write arguments for and against new machinery. Compare your ideas with other students'.

### Chapter 7

- 1 Answer these questions.
- (a) At the beginning of the chapter, how have Farfrae's feelings for Elizabeth-Jane changed? Why?
- (b) How have Henchard's feelings for Lucetta changed? Why?
- 2 Henchard's business is ruined. Put these events in order to explain how.
- (a) Farfrae buys a lot of grain at very low prices.
- (b) Farfrae now sells his grain at a high profit.
- (c) Henchard and Jopp learn that heavy rain is forecast for August and there will be a bad harvest.
- (d) Henchard can't pay his debts. He has to sell property to pay back the bank.
- (e) It starts to rain, but it is too late for Henchard.
- (f) Nobody buys Henchard's grain.
- (g) The price of grain falls below the price that Henchard paid for his.
- (h) The wind changes and the sun comes out. There is a good harvest.
- (i) They buy as much grain as they can and fill Henchard's barns.
- 3 How does Henchard force Lucetta to agree to marry him?

### Chapter 8

- 1 Work with other students. You are townspeople, standing outside the courtroom after the furnity woman's case. Talk about the news.
- 2 Complete these sentences.
- (a) Lucetta leaves . . . . . for a few days after she hears the news from the courtroom.
- (b) It was a . . . . . to run away from the bull.
- (c) Henchard . . . . . the two women by catching the . . . . . which hung from the ring through the bull's nose.
- (d) Henchard had not noticed that his . . . . . was in danger as well as Lucetta.
- (e) Henchard doesn't want Lucetta to . . . . . him the money he needs.
- 3 What emotions does Henchard feel when he learns of Lucetta's marriage to Farfrae? Talk to another student.

### Chapter 9

- 1 Which of these adjectives apply to Henchard in this chapter?  
bankrupt foolish dishonest bitter satisfied  
more positive worried dangerous
- 2 What misunderstanding makes Henchard hate Farfrae even more? Talk to another student.

### Chapter 10

- 1 Who
- (a) was the woman in Jersey who helped Henchard when he was ill?
- (b) did Henchard meet at the Roman ruins two years earlier?
- (c) is Jopp angry with?
- (d) suggests a skimmity-ride?
- (e) do you think the man who pays for the skimmity-ride is?

### Chapter 11

- 1 Work with another student. You are standing in the crowd watching the royal visit. Have a conversation about what you see.
- 2 Henchard tries to deal with his hurt pride by fighting Farfrae. Why does he do this and why does he stop before he kills Farfrae? Write down some ideas.
- 3 What do you think the sounds Henchard can hear at the end of the chapter are? Talk to another student.

### Chapter 12

- 1 Answer these questions.
- (a) Why do Farfrae's men send him to Weatherbury and Mellstock?
- (b) Why does Elizabeth-Jane run to the window to close it?
- (c) How does Lucetta know that the model is meant to be her?
- (d) Why won't Farfrae go with Henchard?
- (e) What is the effect of the skimmity-ride on Lucetta?
- 2 What do you think Nance Mockridge and Mrs Cuxsom will say when they hear that Lucetta is dead? Talk to another student.

### Chapter 13

- 1 Answer these questions.
- (a) At the beginning of the chapter, who does Elizabeth-Jane think her father is?
- (b) Why does Henchard tell Newson that Elizabeth-Jane is dead?
- (c) What does Henchard see floating in the river?
- (d) Is Henchard happy about the growing relationship between his stepdaughter and Farfrae?
- (e) Why does Henchard finally leave Casterbridge?
- (f) At the end of the chapter, what does Elizabeth-Jane learn about her father?

### Chapter 14

- 1 Are these sentences true or false?
- (a) Richard Newson decides to stay in Casterbridge and live near his daughter.
- (b) Henchard had plenty of money with him when he left Casterbridge.
- (c) Henchard dies half an hour before Elizabeth-Jane and Farfrae get to him.
- (d) He was happy to have Abe Whittle's help before he died.
- (e) Elizabeth-Jane feels much happier after Henchard's death.
- 2 Abe Whittle speaks very fondly about Henchard, although, he says, 'he was often rough with me'. Does Hardy want us to think Henchard was a good man or a bad man, or that chance can turn a man either way?

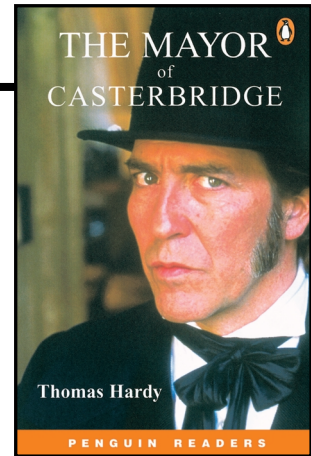
### ACTIVITIES AFTER READING THE BOOK

- 1 In what ways might Michael Henchard's life have been different if he had acted differently? Write down some ideas. Example: If Henchard had not kept Lucetta's letters, the townspeople would not have learned about their secrets. Then there would not have been a skimmity ride and Lucetta would not have died.
- 2 Choose Michael Henchard's fair, the royal visit or the skimmity-ride. Write a description of it.



# Penguin Readers Answer key

## The Mayor of Casterbridge



Level 5 – Upper Intermediate The Mayor of Casterbridge

### Answers to Book Activities

- 1 Open answers
- 2 a sigh  
b candle  
c mayor  
d rum  
e cottage  
f fair  
g guinea  
h landlady  
i hay  
j meanwhile
- 3 a He is looking for work and a place to live.  
b Because he wants to be free; because he wants to be able to earn much more money; and because he is drunk.  
c To promise in the presence of God that he will not drink alcohol for twenty years.  
d Because he is searching for his wife and child.
- 4 a ashamed, lonely  
b embarrassed, sensitive  
c simple-minded, afraid  
d excited, sensitive
- 5 Open answers
- 6 Open answers
- 7 a carriage, donkey  
b barn, safe  
c affection, stepdaughter  
d aware, relief
- 8 (i) People like Farfrae better than Henchard.  
(ii) Henchard and Farfrae both organize public celebrations on the same day - Henchard's is a failure and Farfrae's is a success.  
(iii) Farfrae opens a corn business just outside Casterbridge. His business does well.  
(iv) He can see that Elizabeth-Jane likes Farfrae.  
(v) People in the town think that Farfrae will soon be a more successful businessman than Henchard.
- 9 He learns from Susan's last letter that Elizabeth-Jane is not his real daughter; she is Newson's daughter. After he finds out the truth, Henchard is cold towards Elizabeth-Jane. He criticizes her pronunciation and handwriting, and shouts at her when she helps the servants.
- 10 Farfrae opens his business as far from town as possible and he refuses to do business with Henchard's customers.
- 11 Open answers
- 12 a A case is a legal disagreement between people and takes place in a courtroom.  
b A horse pulls a wagon.  
c If you live after an accident, you survive it.  
d A farmer harvests a crop when it is ready.  
e The weather forecast will tell you if it is going to be a rainy day.
- 13 a Lucetta writes this to Michael Henchard. His promise was to marry her.  
b Lucetta also writes this to Michael Henchard. It refers to Elizabeth-Jane living in her house.  
c Elizabeth-Jane is talking to herself. 'She' is Lucetta and 'the truth' is that she loves Donald Farfrae.  
d Henchard's man is talking to Henchard. He refers to Donald Farfrae.  
e Michael Henchard is talking to Elizabeth-Jane. Lucetta's promise to marry Henchard will leave Farfrae free for Elizabeth-Jane.
- 14 a Henchard avoids visiting Lucetta because he is annoyed that she was busy on his first visit.  
b Lucetta refuses to see Henchard because she finds Farfrae more attractive.  
c Elizabeth-Jane is unhappy because Lucetta doesn't want to marry Henchard.  
d His interest grows because of her wealth and independence.
- 15 Open answers
- 16 a False. A bankrupt person loses all their money and cannot pay their debts.  
b False. A bull is a big, powerful male cow.  
c True. A lane is a small country road.  
d False. A magistrate decides on court cases and works in a court.
- 17 a Elizabeth-Jane.  
b Henchard.  
c Henchard saves Elizabeth-Jane and Lucetta.  
d Henchard.  
e Lucetta can't help Henchard.  
f Farfrae does not listen to Elizabeth-Jane's warning.  
g Lucetta and Farfrae.  
h Elizabeth-Jane takes care of Henchard.  
The correct order is: g, c, e, a, b, h, d, f.
- 18 (i) Farfrae has married Lucetta, the woman Henchard loves.  
(ii) Farfrae buys Henchard's business.  
(iii) Farfrae and Lucetta live in Henchard's old house.  
(iv) Henchard, Farfrae's former master, now works for Farfrae as a hay cutter.  
(v) Farfrae is asked to be the new mayor of Casterbridge.
- 19–21 Open answers
- 22 a–iv  
b–iii  
c–i
- 23 The secret of happiness, according to Elizabeth-Jane, is finding beauty and pleasure in the smallest things.
- 24–29 Open answers

### Answers to Factsheet Activities

#### Communicative activities

Open answers, except

#### Chapters 6–7

The drivers represent their masters – they are travelling the same road (they are in the same business) in opposite directions (Farfrae's approach is modern, Henchard's is traditional). At first they will not give way to each other. Then Henchard's man backs off and loses his load, just as Henchard loses his business. Farfrae's man is in the right (like his master) and Henchard's man is in the wrong. Both women support Farfrae's man, just as both women love Farfrae.

#### Activities before reading the story

- 1840 Thomas Hardy is born in Dorset.  
1871 Hardy's first novel comes out. He meets and falls in love with Emma Gifford.  
1886 The Mayor of Casterbridge is published.  
1895 Hardy attacks marriage in his novel *Jude the Obscure*. He stops writing novels.  
1913 Emma dies. Hardy writes some of his greatest love poetry.  
1914 He marries his secretary, Florence Dugdale.  
1928 Hardy dies; his heart is buried in Emma's grave.

#### Activities while reading the story

##### Chapter 1

- 1 (a) Because they have no work and no home.  
(b) That she'll put some rum in his soup.  
(c) Getting married too young.  
(d) Nothing – they've never seen him before.  
(e) Susan's wedding ring.

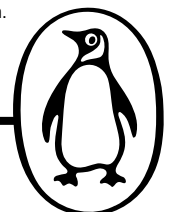
##### 2 Open answers

##### Chapter 2

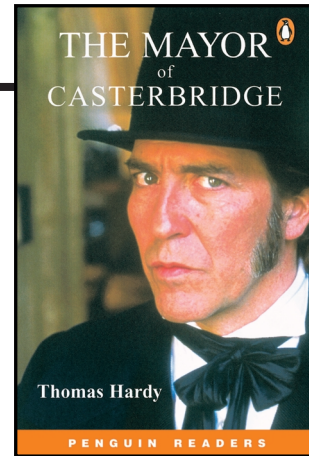
- 1 (a) Richard Newson  
(b) Michael Henchard  
(c) Richard Newson  
(d) the old woman who sold furrumy  
(e) Susan, Newson and Elizabeth-Jane  
(f) Michael Henchard
- 2 (a) Because he has sold them bad wheat.  
(b) No, it was an accident – he didn't know the wheat was bad.  
(c) It said that he had a new method of curing bad corn.  
(d) Because it looks expensive – they can't afford it.  
(e) Because there's more chance of developing his inventions there.  
(f) Because the mayor would not want his daughter to serve in a hotel.
- 3 (Possible answers.) They would be very shocked. He would lose his position as mayor.

##### Chapter 3

- 1 (a) Because he has employed Farfrae as his manager.  
(b) It means that Susan has not told people about his secret past.  
(c) Because she believed the business between Newson and Henchard was legal.  
(d) That he is a young man with modern ideas and that he is a kind and understanding man.



# Penguin Readers Answer key



Level 5 – Upper Intermediate The Mayor of Casterbridge

- 2 (Possible answers)
- (a) relieved
  - (b) grateful and guilty
  - (c) full of affection for her
  - (d) ashamed
  - (e) fatherly
  - (f) unhappy

## Chapter 4

- 1 Open answers
- 2 (a) light brown  
(b) doesn't want to  
(c) isn't  
(d) trousers
- 3 (a) Because they have an argument in public and Farfrae wins.  
(b) Because it rains.  
(c) He didn't ask Farfrae's advice.  
(d) Because Farfrae opens a corn and hay business in direct competition with Henchard.  
(e) That she arranged the meeting in the barn between Farfrae and Elizabeth-Jane.

## Chapter 5

- 1 (a) False – Richard Newson is her father.  
(b) True  
(c) False – he is angry.  
(d) True  
(e) True
- 2 Open answers

## Chapter 6

- 1 (a) Henchard, Elizabeth-Jane  
(b) Lucetta, Henchard  
(c) Farfrae's new planting machine  
(d) Lucetta, Henchard  
(e) Elizabeth-Jane, Lucetta, Farfrae

2 Open answers

## Chapter 7

- 1 (a) He was interested in her and now he ignores her. Because he is in love with Lucetta.  
(b) He felt pity for her and now he finds her exciting. Because before she was poor, but now she has wealth and independence.
- 2 The correct order is: c, i, h, g, f, a, d, e, b
- 3 He threatens to tell the whole town the secret of their past.

## Chapter 8

- 1 Open answers
- 2 (a) Casterbridge  
(b) mistake  
(c) saved/rescued, stick  
(d) stepdaughter  
(e) lend

3 Open answers

## Chapter 9

- 1 bankrupt, foolish, bitter, more positive, dangerous
- 2 Farfrae wants to arrange for Henchard to manage a small seed shop, but the town clerk tells him that Henchard hates him. Farfrae decides to leave the idea for a while. The story gets into the town that Farfrae opposed the idea.

## Chapter 10

- 1 (a) Lucetta  
(b) Susan  
(c) Lucetta  
(d) Nance Mockridge  
(e) Open answer

## Chapter 11

- 1 Open answers
- 2 (Possible answers)  
Henchard feels that Farfrae treated him badly in public during the royal visit and that Lucetta told lies about Farfrae's early days in Casterbridge. Alcohol exaggerates his feelings. Farfrae has beaten him in everything and has now taken his pride. The only way Henchard can beat Farfrae now is in a fight. He stops before he kills him because he once loved him so much and he probably still loves him.
- 3 Open answers

## Chapter 12

- 1 (a) They like him and they don't want him to see the skimmity-ride.  
(b) She doesn't want Lucetta to see it.  
(c) Because it's wearing her clothes and has got her green umbrella.  
(d) Because he thinks he wants to murder him.  
(e) It kills her.
- 2 Open answers.

## Chapter 13

- 1 (a) Michael Henchard.  
(b) Because he doesn't want to lose her.  
(c) He sees the skimmity model of him.  
(d) No, he isn't – it makes him quiet and moody.  
(e) Because he knows that Newson has come back to Casterbridge and he will lose Elizabeth-Jane.  
(f) She knows now that her real father is Richard Newson.

## Chapter 14

- 1 (a) False – he cannot stay away from the sea.  
(b) False – he was possibly penniless.  
(c) True  
(d) False – he didn't want any help.  
(e) True
- 2 Open answers

## Activities after reading the story

Open answers

