

Before-reading questions

- 1 *Reader's own answer.*
- 2 *Reader's own answer.*
- 3 *Reader's own answers.*
- 4 *Reader's own answers.*

During-reading questions

CHAPTER ONE

- 1 Because he saw her looking at herself in the mirror and smiling.
- 2 It is the time of year when the sheep have their lambs, and he wants to be near them to help them.
- 3 When the girl finds Gabriel asleep in the hut with the air holes closed, she throws milk over him to wake him.

CHAPTER TWO

- 1 Bathsheba tells him he should marry a woman with money, but she is angry when he agrees with her.
- 2 Gabriel's young dog runs after the sheep, and the frightened animals go over the edge of the quarry.
- 3 He has to sell his farm to pay for the sheep, so he has nothing left and must find a new job.

CHAPTER THREE

- 1 Her pulse is going very fast, like the hearts of sick lambs.
- 2 Because her clothes are dirty from all the housework.
- 3 Fanny has followed her boyfriend's regiment to Melchester.

CHAPTER FOUR

- 1 Her boyfriend, Sergeant Troy.
- 2 She sends it to him as a joke.
- 3 At first he is surprised, but later he can't stop thinking about Bathsheba.

CHAPTER FIVE

- 1 She goes to the wrong church. Troy is waiting at the other church.
- 2 He tells her that she hasn't acted well towards Mr Boldwood. It was wrong to send him the Valentine's card.
- 3 They get into a clover field, and become sick from eating the clover.

CHAPTER SIX

- 1 The sheep shearing
- 2 She asks him to play the flute while she sings.
- 3 Troy steps on her dress by mistake in the dark, and she is caught by his spur and cannot move.

CHAPTER SEVEN

- 1 He shows her sword exercises.
- 2 Because he doesn't trust Troy, and doesn't think he is good enough for Bathsheba.
- 3 Troy said that he entered the church by a door at the back, but Gabriel notices thick plants growing across the door. He knows that nobody has entered that way.

CHAPTER EIGHT

- 1 Troy has stolen Bathsheba from him, so he thinks that he has lost people's respect.
- 2 She is frightened that Boldwood will hurt Troy, so she wants to tell Troy not to come back to Weatherbury.
- 3 Because Cainy says that he saw Bathsheba and Troy together in Bath.

CHAPTER NINE

- 1 He wants to give money to Troy to marry Fanny, then he wants to give him more money to marry Bathsheba.
- 2 He reads in the newspaper that Troy and Bathsheba are already married.
- 3 He wants to tell him that there's going to be a bad storm, and they need to cover the ricks.

CHAPTER TEN

- 1 He says he will bring her more money, and find her somewhere to live.
- 2 She meets a dog, and puts her arms round its shoulders. The dog pulls her, so that she can walk forwards with very small steps.
- 3 She dies there that evening.

CHAPTER ELEVEN

- 1 He writes "Fanny Robin and child".
- 2 Because he thinks that Bathsheba will be hurt if she sees the words about the child.
- 3 She sees Fanny with a newborn baby, and realizes that Troy is the baby's father.

CHAPTER TWELVE

- 1 He buys a tombstone, and some plants and flowers. It rains that night, and the plants are washed away. The tombstone is covered with brown marks.
- 2 Because she believes that Troy is still alive.

CHAPTER THIRTEEN

- 1 He thinks that perhaps she won't be happy to see him, or she might think that he's dead.
- 2 He tries to tell her that he has seen Troy at the fair.
- 3 *Reader's own answer.*

CHAPTER FOURTEEN

- 1 Pennyways says this. He is talking about Troy's plan to go to Boldwood's Christmas party.
- 2 He leaves the house and walks to the prison in Casterbridge. He never comes out again.
- 3 She is very sad because she thinks that Gabriel doesn't want to stay with her any more.

After-reading questions

- 1 *Reader's own answers.*
- 2 *Reader's own answer.*

Model answer:

At the beginning of the story, Bathsheba is a beautiful young girl, but she is also very vain and doesn't care much about the feelings of other people. She is used to getting her own way, and does things without thinking about what will happen, like sending a Valentine to Boldwood as a joke. She does not realize that this is not only silly but dangerous. She refuses to listen to good advice and gets angry with people who offer it. She makes some bad mistakes, causing terrible problems for herself and others. Her biggest mistake is marrying Troy. However, as the story continues, she learns from her mistakes and becomes a softer, kinder person. She also learns what qualities are most important in a person, and this is why she marries Gabriel. She has also become stronger and learned many things from running her own farm.

- 3 *Reader's own answers.*

Model answers:

- a Bathsheba – Don't trust Troy and don't marry him. Be kind to Gabriel. Don't send a Valentine's card to Boldwood.
- b Boldwood – Don't wait for Bathsheba, she doesn't love you. Find another woman.
- c Gabriel – Don't sleep with the air holes closed in your hut. Don't leave your young dog with the sheep. Don't stay on Bathsheba's farm. Leave England and start a new life in California.
- d Troy – Marry Fanny, not Bathsheba. Stay in America. Don't come back to England. Don't try to see Bathsheba again. Don't go to Boldwood's Christmas party.

- 4 *Reader's own answer.*

Model answer:

Boldwood is ten years older than Gabriel,

and Troy is a couple of years younger. Troy is the most handsome of the three. Gabriel and Boldwood both know about sheep farming, but Troy has a very different kind of job as a soldier. Gabriel and Boldwood are much more serious kinds of men than Troy. Troy likes women, and has a lot of experience of them, and knows how to make them fall in love with him. But Gabriel and Boldwood have little or no experience of women, so for them, falling in love with Bathsheba is very serious.

5 *Reader's own answer.*

Model answer:

Gabriel takes excellent care of his sheep. When it is the time of year for the sheep to have their lambs, he stays near them in the shepherd's hut to help them. When lambs are born that are very weak, he carries them inside and puts them beside a warm fire until they move their legs. He knows how to care for sick sheep, and what to do if they eat clover. He is also very good at shearing sheep.

6 *Reader's own answers.*

Model answer:

Life on a farm in nineteenth-century England was hard work, but could also be a good job. It was very important to have a good farm manager who could organize the work well, and who you could trust and respect. Life on a farm could change very quickly because of bad weather and accidents – for example, if the sheep got sick and died, or if the ricks were destroyed by fire or a sudden storm. The farm workers had to be ready to deal with such things. But there were also good times, for example, the supper given by the farmer after sheep shearing, when the workers could relax and enjoy themselves.

7 *Reader's own answers.*

Exercises

CHAPTERS ONE AND TWO

- 1 1 false Gabriel's father had been a **shepherd**.
- 2 2 false Bathsheba's **aunt** was called Mrs Hurst.
- 3 3 false All of Gabriel's sheep fell into the **quarry**.
- 4 4 true
- 5 5 false On the way to Weatherbury, he saw a burning **rick**.
- 6 6 false When he met Bathsheba again, he was very **surprised**.

CHAPTERS THREE AND FOUR

- 2 1 Gabriel told the girl that he was the new **shepherd**.
- 2 2 The farm manager was stealing **corn** from Bathsheba.
- 3 3 Fanny had a job as a **servant**.
- 4 4 Troy was a **sergeant** in the army.
- 5 5 Bathsheba's **carriage** was pulled by horses.
- 6 6 The words on the large red **seal** said "MARRY ME."

CHAPTERS FIVE AND SIX

- 3 1 Boldwood **had not noticed** Bathsheba much before she sent him the Valentine's card.
- 2 2 "Until now, I never thought I **would** get married," said Boldwood.
- 3 3 When Bathsheba went to see Gabriel, he **was working** in his garden.
- 4 4 After the sheep **had eaten** the clover, they became very sick.
- 5 5 A long table **was placed** outside the house for supper.
- 6 6 "Your dress **has been caught** by my spur," said Troy.

CHAPTERS SEVEN AND EIGHT

- 4 1 Troy
- 2 2 Gabriel
- 3 3 Liddy

- 4 Boldwood
- 5 Bathsheba
- 6 Maryann

CHAPTERS NINE AND TEN

- 5 1 brandy
- 2 lightning
- 3 umbrella
- 4 races
- 5 bury
- 6 waggon
- 7 barracks

CHAPTERS ELEVEN AND TWELVE

- 6 1 Joseph told Coggan that he was taking Fanny to the church.
- 2 The parson told Gabriel that it was too late to bury her.
- 3 Liddy told Bathsheba that she could wait for Mr Troy.
- 4 Bathsheba told Troy that she had to leave.
- 5 Liddy told the men that Mrs Troy was ill in bed.
- 6 Bathsheba told Liddy that she didn't want to meet her husband.
- 7 Boldwood told Bathsheba that he could take her home.
- 8 Liddy told Boldwood that she would always stay with Mrs Troy.

CHAPTER THIRTEEN

- 7 1 c 2 g 3 e 4 a
- 5 h 6 b 7 d 8 f

CHAPTER FOURTEEN

- 8 1 c 2 a 3 c 4 b
- 5 a 6 b 7 c 8 b

Project work

Reader's own answers