

Pictures

1. Look at the illustrations in Chapter 1 and answer the questions.

- 1) What are the relationships between these people?
- 2) What do you think their personalities are like?
- 3) In which century do the characters live?
- 4) In which country do they live?

Words

2. Match these words to their definitions.

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| 1) concerned | a) extremely happy |
| 2) down-to-earth | b) not shy about saying what you think |
| 3) intellectual | c) shocked |
| 4) ecstatic | d) slightly worried |
| 5) outspoken | e) good at making and doing things |
| 6) alarmed | f) good at thinking and studying |
| 7) heartbroken | g) realistic and uncomplicated |
| 8) practical | h) extremely sad |

3. Which of the words describe someone's personality? Which describe a temporary mood?

CHAPTER 1

Maggie and Tom

Dorcote Mill stood near a stone bridge on the river Floss, not far from the town of Saint Ogg's, where the tributary Ripple joined the big river. The Floss was a lively river, and the sounds of the rushing water, the mill wheel and the booming machinery were a constant accompaniment to life in the mill house.

Mr Tulliver, the owner of the mill, was a down-to-earth and outspoken man. He lived at the mill house with his wife and his nine-year-old daughter. His son Tom, who was thirteen, was away at school. Tom was not an intellectual boy, and he hadn't made much progress in his studies, but Mr Tulliver had ambitions for him. He wanted Tom to make a good career as a businessman instead of working in the mill in the usual way. He especially wanted him to be properly educated to be able to deal with the lawyers who had caused so much trouble in his own life. It was obvious that he needed more education than the local school could offer.

Maggie, Mr Tulliver's daughter, was also a worry to him, but for the opposite reason. She was far cleverer than her brother and spent all her time reading books and asking difficult questions. Mr Tulliver loved her dearly, but felt that it was a shame she wasn't a boy.



Everyone knew that too much learning could only lead to trouble for a girl. Mr Tulliver had deliberately chosen an unintellectual woman for his own wife. Mrs Tulliver's world revolved around practical,



Maggie and Tom

Check your comprehension

4. Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)?

- | | T | F |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1) Tom is more intellectual than his sister. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2) Mr Tulliver thinks that girls shouldn't study too much. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3) Maggie cares a lot about her appearance. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4) Maggie wants to stay with Tom when they are grown up. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5) It was Maggie's fault that Tom's rabbits died. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6) Tom didn't mind when Maggie told him about the rabbits. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7) Tom refused to take Maggie fishing. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Now correct the false ones.

Words

5. Find nouns in Chapter 1 that match these definitions.

- 1) a person who deals with legal matters
- 2) a teacher
- 3) someone who looks after another person's house
- 4) the space in a house under the roof
- 5) a method of transport that needs a horse
- 6) clothes that need washing

Characters

6. Which member of the Tulliver family is being described in each sentence?

- 1) domestic, not very clever, cares a lot about appearances

- 2) clever, affectionate, doesn't care about appearances

3) practical, not intellectual, can be cruel

4) simple, affectionate, concerned about both children

Language

7. Use the past perfect tense of the verbs below to complete the sentences.

forget bring choose have
recommend live see

- 1) Mr Tulliver _____ his wife because she wasn't intellectual.
- 2) Mr Tulliver _____ a lot of problems with lawyers in his life.
- 3) They decided to send Tom to the tutor that Mr Riley _____.
- 4) Maggie was ecstatic because Tom _____ a fishing line for her.
- 5) When I met her, she _____ in the same house for 50 years.
- 6) I remembered then that I _____ to close the window.
- 7) When we arrived in Africa, we _____ never _____ a lion before.

PAST PERFECT

Tom was angry because Maggie had forgotten to feed the rabbits.

Story summary

8. Choose the correct words in the summary of the story so far.

Mr Tulliver lived with his family at Dorlcote Mill, where he was the owner / a worker. He wanted his son Tom to become a miller / a businessman. His daughter Maggie was cleverer than Tom, but Mr and Mrs Tulliver were / weren't worried about her because she spent all her time reading books and she was / wasn't interested in her appearance. Maggie disliked / loved Tom and wanted them to be together forever, but when Tom returned from school he was angry / sad because Maggie had let his rabbits die. She was very annoyed / unhappy, but Tom soon forgot all about it, and they became friends again.