

# Agnes Grey

## Anne Brontë

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  - 1 Agnes's father lost most of his money when a ship carrying goods sank.
  - 2 Agnes's parents had to sell the family pony and dismiss one of the servants. They had to be very careful with their money, and this made Agnes's father very sad and ill.
  - 3 Agnes suggested that she could earn some money by getting a job as a governess. Agnes's mother and sister did not think this was a good idea at first.
  - 4 Agnes felt nervous when she shared her idea because she did not know what her family would think of her plan. She also felt nervous the night before she left for her new job because she did not know what her new life would be like and whether she had made the right decision or not. She felt worried when she saw how upset her parents were when they lost a lot of money. She felt excited because she was about to start a new job and experience new things.
  
- 2
  - 1 Her hopes do not compare with reality. Mrs Bloomfield is not kind to Agnes and is not generous. Agnes described her as 'cold, serious and even a little frightening – the very opposite of the kind, gentle woman I had hoped she would be'. Agnes does not get on very well with the children, who are badly behaved and difficult to teach. Agnes said that she 'had no control over them – they did exactly what they wanted to'.
  - 2 The man was Mr Bloomfield, the father of Tom and Mary Ann. She thought that he spoke very formally to his children and that he was not polite to her.
  - 3 Mrs Murray spoke angrily to her husband because he had complained about the food and had told his wife that she was not even capable of organizing a meal.
  - 4 Student's own answers
  
- 3
  - 1 She decides to focus on being patient and strict.
  - 2 Agnes had heard Mr Bloomfield talking to his wife. Mrs Bloomfield asked her husband if he thought the children were safe with Miss Grey. From this, Agnes understood that they did not trust her or think she was a good governess.
  - 3 Tom found a nest full of young birds. He wanted to take the birds out of the nest and pull their legs off.
  - 4 Mrs Bloomfield said that the children had made very little progress, and that Miss Grey was not patient, nor strict enough.
  - 5 Agnes was upset and disappointed because she had been focusing exactly on being strict and patient, but now had lost her first job. She also felt confident that her next job would be a better experience.
  
- 4
  - 1 Horton Lodge was further away from home than Wellwood House (seventy miles). The Murray children were older than the Bloomfield children. The salary was double the salary she had received at Wellwood House.
  - 2 Miss Rosalie Murray was about sixteen years old and was tall, slim and beautiful with blue eyes and long blonde hair. She was cold and unfriendly to start with but became more friendly. She was only interested in fashion and men. Miss Matilda Murray was a strong-looking fourteen-year-old girl. She was a tomboy, was not a good student and was only interested in dogs and riding horses.

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- 1 Agnes's sister Mary sent her a letter.
  - 2 In the letter, Mary told Agnes that she was going to marry Mr Richardson, a local vicar.
  - 3 Rosalie considered it important that a husband should be rich, good-looking and have a big, pleasant house.
  - 4 Rosalie said she hated both these men. She said that Mr Hatfield was the most intelligent of the men she was interested in, and she thought he was acceptable because he was a vicar. She thought Sir Thomas Ashby was very rich, but ugly and wicked. She thought he would be fun and she would like to be his wife because it would mean that she could live at Ashby Park – a large and impressive country estate.
- 6
- 1 Rosalie thought that the new curate was ugly and that he wore unfashionable clothes. She thought he was acceptable but she was disappointed that he had not come to talk to her.
  - 2 Agnes thought that he was not unattractive. He read from the Bible well and he seemed interesting and sincere.
  - 3 Mr Hatfield probably helped the Murray ladies get into the carriage and not Agnes because he was focused on people from high society and not people he may have thought of as poor and uninteresting, such as a governess like Agnes.
  - 4 Nancy Brown was a widow who lived in one of the cottages on the Horton Lodge estate. Agnes went to visit her and read to her because she had heard that she was ill and could not see very well.
  - 5 Nancy told Agnes that Mr Weston was a patient, thoughtful, generous man. She said that he often came to see her, talk to her and read to her. She also told Agnes that he visited the other cottagers and sometimes spent his own money on coal and food for them.
  - 6 Agnes meant that she was pleased that Mr Weston had come to Horton because he was so different to all the other people she knew in Horton. Everyone else was silly and only interested in parties and getting married. Mr Weston, however, seemed more interested in helping people.
- 7
- 1 Nancy was sad and worried because her pet cat had been missing for a couple of days. Mr Weston arrived carrying Nancy's cat. He had found the cat for her, which made her happy again.
  - 2 She means that usually rain is an unpleasant thing, but on this occasion the rain was a good thing because it meant that Mr Weston had to stay and talk to Agnes and Nancy until the rain had stopped.
  - 3 Agnes pretended to look at flowers because she did not want to walk next to Rosalie and Matilda and be ignored by them. Neither did she want to walk behind them on her own.
  - 4 Mr Weston told Agnes that his mother and father had died and that he lived alone in two rented rooms in the village of Horton. He also told her that he was happy because he knew that he could be useful and helpful to people in need.
  - 5 She was probably thinking that she would like to be that woman and share Mr Weston's life with him.
- 8
- 1 Rosalie had probably asked Agnes to finish the drawing so that she could go to the fields alone to meet Mr Hatfield.
  - 2 At first, Matilda liked the dog and played with it. But then she got tired of having to look after it. Then she disliked the dog and said that it was badly behaved. She wanted to sell Snap. Because Agnes fed Snap and took him for walks she got to know him and became fond of him.

- 3 Mr Hatfield had just asked Rosalie to marry him and she had refused his marriage proposal. She told Agnes that she was shocked by the proposal, but she seemed excited and pleased that she could prove her mother to be wrong.
- 4 Rosalie promised Mr Hatfield that she would tell no one about his proposal of marriage. However, she broke the promise immediately by telling Agnes. She also planned to tell her mother.
- 9
- 1 Rosalie had a change of heart. Because Mr Hatfield was no longer interested in her, Rosalie suddenly became interested in Mr Weston, who she had not been interested in before.
- 2 'Why would he [Mr Weston] be interested in what I liked to read and in what I [Agnes] thought and felt?'
- 3 Because Mr Weston liked Agnes very much and might want to marry her.
- 4 Agnes felt like crying because Rosalie had started to show interest in Mr Weston. She was upset because she liked Mr Weston herself, and because she was worried that Rosalie would hurt Mr Weston.
- 5 Mr Weston covered Agnes with his umbrella and helped her get into the carriage. He then smiled at her in a way which seemed to show that he cared about her.
- 10
- 1 Rosalie told Agnes that Sir Thomas Ashby had proposed to her at the ball. She was going to get married on 1<sup>st</sup> June and would become Lady Ashby.
- 2 Agnes heard that Mr Weston was going to leave Horton and get a job in another place. She was also told that Snap, the dog, was going to be taken away from her and given to someone else in the village. Finally, she received news from her sister, Mary, that their father's health was getting worse.
- 3 Agnes thought that she would never see Mr Weston again, and she was worried that her father would die.
- 11
- 1 Rosalie's marriage to Sir Thomas Ashby was being celebrated. Agnes was also celebrating the fact that she had bumped into Mr Weston and that he had been thoughtful towards her.
- 2 Agnes became sad because she received news that her father was seriously ill. She went home to see him, but he had died before she arrived there.
- 3 Mr Weston had his doubts about Rosalie's happiness in her marriage because he had heard bad things about Sir Thomas Ashby. He did not think the marriage was a good idea. He thought Rosalie was cheerful and interesting, but sometimes very thoughtless.
- 12
- 1 Mr Weston admitted that he had been confused by Rosalie's behaviour. He also said that she was a bit silly and loved to talk about herself. He was now able to see that she may have been dishonest.
- 2 She was hoping that she would see Mr Weston again and she was probably hoping that he would ask her to marry him.
- 3 Agnes felt sad because her father had died and the family home had to be sold. She felt disappointed that she had not seen more of Mr Weston in the last few weeks at Horton. Mr Weston's question, 'I wonder what things might make you want to stay?', made Agnes feel embarrassed because there was only one thing that would keep her in Horton, and that was Mr Weston himself. Agnes then felt happy because she had seen and spoken to Mr Weston. Following this she felt hopeful that she would see him again, but she didn't, and this made her feel sad. Finally, she was filled with hope again when Mr Weston came to say goodbye to her.

- 13**
- 1 She started to feel ill because she had been feeling sad and disappointed. She felt so miserable that she did not feel hungry and started to feel weak and ill.
  - 2 She started to feel better when she decided to stop thinking about Mr Weston and start to go for walks and eat well.
  - 3 Suggested answer:  
*Dear Miss Grey,*  
  
*I hope you are well. Ashby Park is beautiful but very dull. When your holidays begin please come and stay with me as a friend. You will be able to see my wonderful new home and all the beautiful things I bought on honeymoon. You will also be able to meet my baby daughter and my new French dog.*  
  
*Your friend,*  
  
*Lady Rosalie Ashby*
- 14**
- 1 Rosalie seemed much thinner and looked tired and sad. She did not seem interested in her baby. She also complained about the behaviour of her new husband and said that her mother-in-law was horrible.
  - 2 She asked Rosalie what she knew about Mr Weston. She asked when he had left Horton and where he had moved to.
  - 3 She was shocked because Sir Thomas Ashby didn't say anything to them, and because Rosalie said that she hated her husband.
  - 4 Agnes told Rosalie to keep calm and to be polite to her husband. She also advised her to try not to think about him and to keep herself busy by reading and spending time with her new daughter. She told her to do what was right and not to hate anybody. In particular, she told her not to make an enemy of her mother-in-law.
- 15**
- 1 Mr Weston said that he had never managed to find out where Agnes lived, and also that he had come to the beach many times, morning and evening, and had walked around Scarborough looking for her school. This shows that he has spent time trying to find her. He had also rescued the dog that used to belong to Agnes and had accepted a job very near where she lived. He also asked if he could come and visit Agnes and meet her mother.
  - 2 She was probably very happy and excited because she had seen Mr Weston and Snap again. She might have been hoping that Mr Weston had come to Scarborough especially to see her. She also may have been hoping that he wanted to meet her mother because he was planning to propose to her.
- 16**
- 1 Mr Weston went inside the house to speak to Agnes's mother. He explained to her that he was planning to propose to Agnes and she said that she would be happy for the couple to marry. He also suggested to Agnes's mother that she could come and live with them, but she refused.
  - 2 Student's own answers