

# Tess of the d'Urbervilles

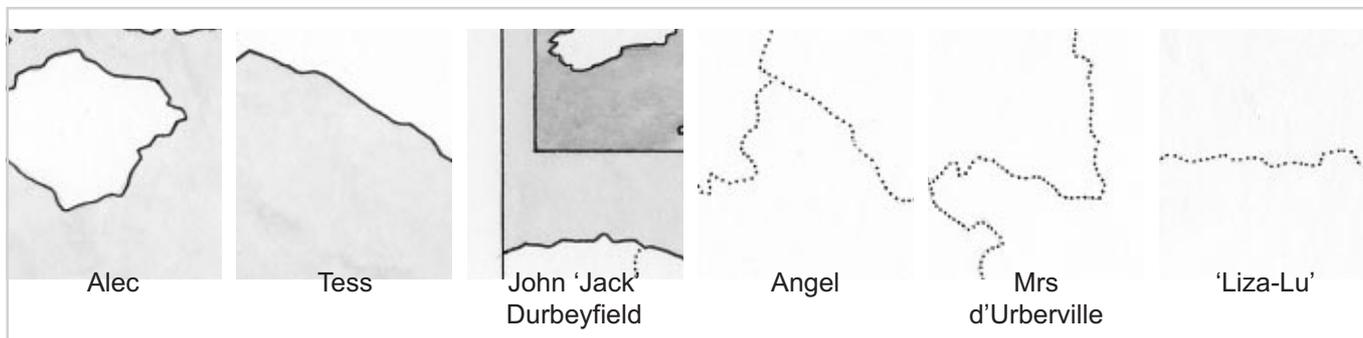
THOMAS HARDY

## A Before Reading

- 1 This story is about life in England in the 1800s. Life was very different then. There were different rules society lived by. How was life in your country different in the 1800s? What different rules existed then?
- 2 Look at the picture on page 25. What is happening? Where are they? Think of three adjectives to describe the man (Alec), and three adjectives to describe Tess (the girl). What is Alec thinking? What is Tess thinking?

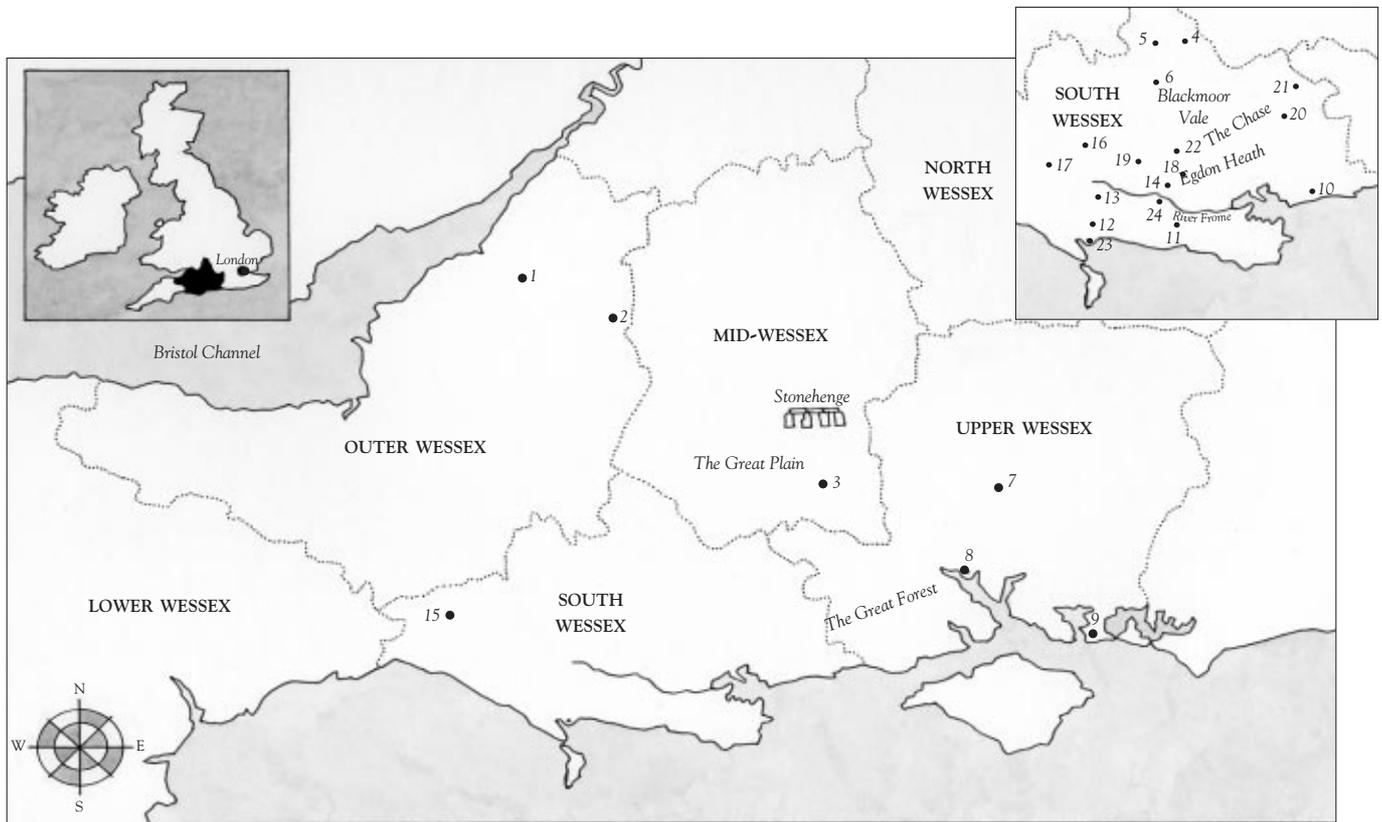
## B While Reading

- 3 Who am I? Read the descriptions below of some of the characters from the story. Read up to page 43. Match the descriptions with the pictures.



- 1 the son of a priest, has two brothers, wants to be a farmer
- 2 twelve years old, from a poor family
- 3 about twenty-four years old, dark brown eyes, uses bad language and is very selfish, son of a wealthy mother
- 4 the father of a large family, likes to drink beer
- 5 a blind old widow who lives in a large house with her son
- 6 very pretty, the oldest daughter of a poor, large family

4 Look at the map below. Mark the following places on the map while you are reading:



- where Tess's family live.
- where Tess met Alec and worked for his mother.
- where Tess worked on a dairy farm.
- where Angel's family lived.
- where Angel hit a man to protect Tess's reputation.
- where Tess and Angel had their honeymoon.
- the farm where Tess worked after Angel went to Brazil.
- where someone was murdered.
- where someone was hung.

**C After Reading**

- At the time this book was written, attitudes to sex before marriage were very different. It was shameful for a girl to have sex with a man before marriage. Gentlemen were also expected not to sleep with a woman until they were married. Does your society share these attitudes? How has your society changed since Hardy's time?
- You are the writer of the local newspaper. Write the story of Tess, her murder of Alec, the trial, and her hanging.
- Do you think Angel and Liza-Lu lived happily ever after? An epilogue is a short summary of what happens to the main characters after the story has finished. Write an epilogue for this story.