

The Creative Impulse and Other Stories

W. Somerset Maugham

A Before Reading

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

B After Reading Each Story

- 2 Student's own answer. The conversation needs to reflect their concern and vested interest in Mrs Albert Forrester forcing her husband to return home. They are all concerned that they should not be made to look ridiculous as the friends of a woman whose husband has run off with her cook. They could be discussing the possible outcomes and showing support for her. It is more likely to show them politely planning to leave her because they don't want to be laughed at.
- 3 Student's own answer.
Left headline: report should be fairly sympathetic to, and perhaps amused by Mortimer Ellis.
Right headline: report should be shocked by and condemn his behaviour. Details known: shabby little man/bigamist - had married eleven women/ was sent to prison for 5 years/ went to a seaside town in winter/ stayed in a room in an empty boarding-house/ made friends with an aging widow or spinster (between 35 and 50)/ met her on the sea-front/ proposed marriage after a fortnight/ married shortly afterwards/ persuaded her to give him her savings and then left her/ was an excellent husband/ they all wanted mercy to be shown to him - one said she would take him back/ proud of what he did/ said he made them happy because he treated them well and they wanted to be married.
- 4 Student's own answers. Main details:
a) Visiting Mrs Tower, her sister-in-law/ being invited for dinner/ enjoying the consternation caused, particularly to Mrs Tower by her introduction of her fiancé, Gilbert, who is 27 years younger than her.
b) At a large dinner-party/ being so different now - wearing noticeable clothes, having short hair and an eyeglass - the centre of attention, making people laugh and enjoying it/ Sir Reginald Frobisher being there.
c) Being amused by Mrs Tower's anger at her behaviour/ looking forward to being married to Sir Reginald/ commenting on Mrs Tower's inability to know the truth and therefore be amused by her.

C After Reading All the Stories

- 5 a) Jane
b) Mortimer Ellis
c) Mrs Albert Forrester
d) Miss Porchester
- 6 Student's own answer.
- 7 Student's own answers.