

The Escape and Other Stories by W. Somerset Maugham

- 1 Seven names: Maugham, Roger Charing, Ruth, Louise, George, Tom, Edward Barnard
- 2 Student's own answer.
- 3 Student's own answer. Students could imagine that Roger thinks Maugham doesn't know about his plan to escape from Ruth. And about Ruth marrying someone else. So they could write a conversation in which Roger tells Maugham the content of the story. Or they could assume that Roger knows that Maugham knows everything. So they could invent a conversation in which Roger talks about his happiness at escaping from Ruth and about his plans for the future.
- 4 Possible answers: 'I won't live for many years. I won't trouble you for very long.'/ 'My heart is much worse. I won't last more than another month or two.'
'She can marry the young man. If it kills me, it kills me.'/ 'I knew I would die on your wedding-day. But I forgive you.'
- 5 (a) Student's own answer. Tom is a much nicer man than George. He is happy and enjoys life. Maybe this is why it is possible to be pleased that he has won. Also students can say whether they agree with Maugham and they hate the ant and like the grasshopper in the little story Maugham tells at the beginning of this story.
(b) Student's own answer. Students could get ideas from the story as starting points. Perhaps Tom is arrested and goes to prison. Perhaps George is left a lot of money in someone's will.
- 6 (a) Student's own answer. Bateman Hunter might think Edward Barnard has failed because he has not been successful in business and has not made a lot of money.
(b) Student's own answer. Edward Barnard might believe he has not failed because he has learnt how to live a happy life.
- 7 Likes:
Roger Charing* (**The Escape**), Tom Maitland, George Hobhouse, Iris* (**Louise**), George Ramsay*, Tom Ramsay (**The Ant and the Grasshopper**), Isabel Longstaffe, Bateman Hunter (**The Fall of Edward Barnard**).
Dislikes:
Ruth Barlow* (**The Escape**), Louise* (**Louise**), Edward Barnard, Arthur Jackson (**The Fall of Edward Barnard**).
People marked * are the ones Maugham expresses a clear opinion about in the stories. Suggestions are given for the other people – students can argue whether Maugham likes or dislikes them.
- 8 **The Escape**: Ruth Barlow, Roger Charing.
Louise: Louise.

The Ant and the Grasshopper: George Ramsay, 'I have worked all my life ... Tom has not done any work for the last twenty years.'

The Fall of Edward Barnard: Edward Barnard, 'There are more important things in life than money.' Bateman Hunter, 'I loved you from the first moment I met you.' Isabel Longstaffe, 'Edward has changed. He is not the same as he was two years ago.'