

Heart of Darkness

Joseph Conrad

Why does the restraint of the starving crew become more mysterious to Marlow the more he thinks about it?

CONTENT NOTE · Colonial violence and racist/imperialist language.

TOTAL TIME

PASSAGE

30 minutes	Marlow confronts the cannibals' restraint
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FIND THE ANCHOR TEXT

Use the Anchor Text Table of Contents in the Enhanced Reader to open the START anchor. Then use the dropdown to select the END anchor.

SECTION / LOCATION Part II

START For the rest, the only thing to eat—though it didn't look eatable in the least—I saw in their possession was a few lumps of some stuff like half-cooked dough, of a dirty lavender colour END But there was the fact facing me—the fact dazzling, to be seen, like the foam on the depths of the sea

PASSAGE ID	sec-hod-02
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THE MOVE

Revise a judgment when behavior contradicts expectation

WHY THIS PASSAGE

Marlow expects starving men described as 'cannibals' to behave according to his own fearful stereotype, yet they show remarkable restraint. The more he considers the contradiction, the less his original category explains what he sees.

MARK

Underline Marlow's expectations about the crew before he reflects on their behavior. Circle each piece of evidence showing restraint. Put a question mark beside the point where his old explanation stops working.

NOTICE

- What does Marlow expect hunger and the label 'cannibal' to predict?
- What behavior contradicts that expectation?
- Why does the contradiction make the men harder for Marlow to explain rather than simply easier to admire?

THINK

Answer provisionally: Why does the restraint of the starving crew become more mysterious to Marlow the more he thinks about it? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response to: Why does the restraint of the starving crew become more mysterious to Marlow the more he thinks about it? Use at least two details from the assigned passage and explain how they support your interpretation.

CLOSE

Name the single detail that most changed or sharpened your interpretation, and explain why.

STRONG ANSWER	Marlow expects starving men labeled 'cannibals' to behave violently, yet they show restraint he cannot explain through his stereotype. The contradiction forces him to recognize that his category tells him less about them than he assumed.
EVIDENCE	Use evidence of the crew's hunger and then specific examples of restraint. Strong answers show how the behavior contradicts Marlow's expectation.
WATCH FOR	Do not make the answer simply 'they are better people than Marlow thought.' Focus on why the contradiction destabilizes his explanatory framework.
SOLO	Read the exact passage independently.
SUPPORTED	Use narration and sentence highlighting while reading the same passage.
LISTENING	Listen to the exact passage; visual following is optional. Same question and evidence demand.

STUDENT PAGE · SAME PASSAGE, SAME THINKING

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START ANCHOR	For the rest, the only thing to eat—though it didn't look eatable in the least—I saw in their possession was a few lumps of some stuff like half-cooked dough, of a dirty lavender colour
END ANCHOR	But there was the fact facing me—the fact dazzling, to be seen, like the foam on the depths of the sea

Use the Anchor Text Table of Contents in the Enhanced Reader to open the START anchor. Then use the dropdown to select the END anchor.

OPEN THE MARKED PASSAGE IN TUMBLELIT

SOLO: read independently. SUPPORTED: use narration + highlighting. LISTENING: listen to the exact passage. The question and evidence task stay the same.

1. **MARK** - Underline Marlow's expectations about the crew before he reflects on their behavior. Circle each piece of evidence showing restraint. Put a question mark beside the point where his old explanation stops working.
2. **NOTICE** - What does Marlow expect hunger and the label 'cannibal' to predict? What behavior contradicts that expectation? Why does the contradiction make the men harder for Marlow to explain rather than simply easier to admire?
3. **THINK** - Answer provisionally: Why does the restraint of the starving crew become more mysterious to Marlow the more he thinks about it?
4. **WRITE** - Write a short response using at least two pieces of evidence from this passage.

Use evidence from the assigned passage. Show what you noticed and how the text supports your interpretation.