

Tess of the d'Urbervilles

Thomas Hardy

Why does Tess believe Angel's confession creates the conditions for forgiveness, and what exposes that belief as mistaken?

TOTAL TIME

PASSAGE

30 minutes	Two confessions are treated as 'the same' until they are not
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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	Phase the Fifth · Confession
START	“O, Angel—I am almost glad—because now you can forgive me! I have not made my confession. I have a confession, too—remember, I said so.”
END	“Indeed I cannot.”
PASSAGE ID	sec-tess-02

THE MOVE

Test a claim of equivalence against unequal reactions

WHY THIS PASSAGE

Angel's own confession seems to Tess to establish a principle of mutual human imperfection. She expects equivalence: if he can be forgiven, so can she. His refusal reveals that the moral standard is not being applied symmetrically.

MARK

Underline Angel's confession and Tess's response to it. Circle Tess's words that treat the two confessions as comparable. Star the moment Angel refuses the equivalence.

NOTICE

- What rule about forgiveness does Tess think Angel's confession has created?
- Why does she expect the same rule to apply to her?
- What does Angel's different reaction reveal about the assumptions beneath his idea of purity?

THINK

Answer provisionally: Why does Tess believe Angel's confession creates the conditions for forgiveness, and what exposes that belief as mistaken? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response to: Why does Tess believe Angel's confession creates the conditions for forgiveness, and what exposes that belief as mistaken? 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	Tess believes Angel's confession creates a reciprocal standard: human imperfection should make mutual forgiveness possible. His response reveals that he does not apply the same moral category to her past that he expects her to apply to his.
EVIDENCE	Use Angel's confession, Tess's relief/expectation of equivalence, her confession, and his unequal reaction.
WATCH FOR	Do not answer simply that Angel is hypocritical. Explain the failed claim of equivalence and the assumptions that make it fail.
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.

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Why does Tess believe Angel's confession creates the conditions for forgiveness, and what exposes that belief as mistaken?

START ANCHOR

“O, Angel—I am almost glad—because now you can forgive me! I have not made my confession. I have a confession, too—remember, I said so.”

END ANCHOR

“Indeed I cannot.” 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 Angel's confession and Tess's response to it. Circle Tess's words that treat the two confessions as comparable. Star the moment Angel refuses the equivalence.
2. **NOTICE** - What rule about forgiveness does Tess think Angel's confession has created? Why does she expect the same rule to apply to her? What does Angel's different reaction reveal about the assumptions beneath his idea of purity?
3. **THINK** - Answer provisionally: Why does Tess believe Angel's confession creates the conditions for forgiveness, and what exposes that belief as mistaken?
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.