

Tess of the d'Urbervilles

Thomas Hardy

Why is the letter's position under the carpet more important than anything Tess wrote inside it?

TOTAL TIME

PASSAGE

30 minutes	The unread letter under the carpet
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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	Before the wedding
START	She stooped to the threshold of the doorway, where she had pushed in the note two or three days earlier in such excitement.
END	he obviously had never seen, owing to her having in her haste thrust it beneath the carpet as well as beneath the door.
PASSAGE ID	sec-tess-03

THE MOVE

Turn physical placement into dramatic irony

WHY THIS PASSAGE

Tess has already written what she needs Angel to know, but the letter slips beneath the carpet and never reaches him. Dramatic irony comes from the reader seeing a physical accident block communication while the characters continue acting as though silence means something else.

MARK

Underline Tess's attempt to deliver the letter. Circle the physical detail showing where it ends up. Star the consequence that follows because Angel never sees it.

NOTICE

- What information exists but fails to become shared knowledge?
- Why is the physical location of the letter more important than its eloquence?
- How does the reader's knowledge of the unread letter change the meaning of later misunderstanding?

THINK

Answer provisionally: Why is the letter's position under the carpet more important than anything Tess wrote inside it? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response to: Why is the letter's position under the carpet more important than anything Tess wrote inside 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	The letter's placement matters because communication fails physically, not rhetorically. Tess has already written what Angel needs to know; the unread letter means the characters act on absence of information the reader knows exists.
EVIDENCE	Use delivery attempt, the letter under the carpet, its later discovery still sealed, and resulting misunderstanding.
WATCH FOR	Do not analyze the content of the letter as if Angel received it. Dramatic irony depends on its failure to reach him.
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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Why is the letter's position under the carpet more important than anything Tess wrote inside it?

START ANCHOR	She stooped to the threshold of the doorway, where she had pushed in the note two or three days earlier in such excitement.
END ANCHOR	he obviously had never seen, owing to her having in her haste thrust it beneath the carpet as well as beneath the door.

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 Tess's attempt to deliver the letter. Circle the physical detail showing where it ends up. Star the consequence that follows because Angel never sees it.
2. NOTICE - What information exists but fails to become shared knowledge? Why is the physical location of the letter more important than its eloquence? How does the reader's knowledge of the unread letter change the meaning of later misunderstanding?
3. THINK - Answer provisionally: Why is the letter's position under the carpet more important than anything Tess wrote inside 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.