

In Our Neighborhood

Alice Dunbar-Nelson

How does Dunbar-Nelson make a whole neighborhood function like a narrator?

TOTAL TIME	TUMBLETA PASSAGE LOCATION
30 minutes	Neighborhood party preparations - communal observation

TEACHER SETUP

Open the work in the Enhanced Reader and cue the span using the START and END anchors below.

START	The Harts were going to give a party.
END	indispensable to every decent, self-respecting party.
PASSAGE ID	sec-dunbar-neighborhood-01

THE MOVE

Analyze how collective observation builds setting and social pressure.

WHY THIS PASSAGE

News travels through windows, stoops, children, borrowed chairs, and watching neighbors. The community does not merely surround the action; it interprets it.

MARK

Underline details showing people watching. Circle details showing information spreading. Box a detail where the neighborhood’s judgment shapes the scene.

NOTICE

- Who actually “knows” what is happening?
- How do small domestic details create social scale?
- What is gained by making the community observant rather than neutral?

THINK

Answer provisionally: How does Dunbar-Nelson make a whole neighborhood function like a narrator? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response. 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 say why.

STRONG ANSWER

Dunbar-Nelson builds a communal point of view out of many small watchers. The neighborhood becomes a social intelligence that gives ordinary preparations meaning and pressure.

EVIDENCE

Use one observation detail and one sign of communal interpretation.

WATCH FOR

Do not call the setting “busy” and stop. Explain how the community participates in meaning-making.

SOLO

Read independently.

SUPPORTED

Narration + highlighting.

LISTENING

Listen; same evidence task.

STUDENT PAGE · GRADE 11 · LESSON 343

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How does Dunbar-Nelson make a whole neighborhood function like a narrator?

WORK	In Our Neighborhood
TUMBLETA PASSAGE LOCATION	Neighborhood party preparations - communal observation

Your teacher will open or cue the work in the Enhanced Reader. Use the location and verbatim anchors below to confirm the assigned span.

START

The Harts were going to give a party.

END

indispensable to every decent, self-respecting party.

READ / LISTEN TO THE ASSIGNED PASSAGE SOLO: read independently. SUPPORTED: use narration and highlighting. LISTENING: listen to the assigned passage. The question and evidence task stay the same.

1. **MARK** Underline details showing people watching. Circle details showing information spreading. Box a detail where the neighborhood's judgment shapes the scene.
2. **NOTICE** Who actually "knows" what is happening? How do small domestic details create social scale? What is gained by making the community observant rather than neutral?
3. **THINK** Answer provisionally: How does Dunbar-Nelson make a whole neighborhood function like a narrator?
4. **WRITE** Write a short response using at least two pieces of evidence from this passage.
5. **CLOSE** Name the single detail that most changed or sharpened your interpretation, and say why.