

A Cup of Tea

Katherine Mansfield

How does Mansfield use Rosemary’s generosity to expose the self-image behind it?

TOTAL TIME	TUMBLETA PASSAGE LOCATION
30 minutes	Short story - Rosemary brings Miss Smith home, then reverses course

TEACHER SETUP

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

START	I picked her up in Curzon Street. Really. She's a real pick-up.
END	She's absolutely lovely.
PASSAGE ID	sec-mansfield-cuptea-01

THE MOVE

Analyze how a character’s charitable act becomes a test of motive when circumstances change.

WHY THIS PASSAGE

Rosemary initially treats helping Miss Smith almost as an exciting story about herself. When jealousy enters, generosity collapses, revealing how much the act depended on self-conception.

MARK

Underline Rosemary’s language about helping. Circle details showing performance, imagination, or self-regard. Box the moment jealousy changes her behavior.

NOTICE

- What attracts Rosemary to the situation besides compassion?
- How does Philip’s reaction change the test?
- Which action most clearly separates motive from appearance?

THINK

Answer provisionally: How does Mansfield use Rosemary's generosity to expose the self-image behind it? 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

Mansfield makes charity a character test. Rosemary can imagine herself as generous while the gesture flatters her identity; jealousy reveals that the self-image is less stable than the principle she performs.

EVIDENCE

Use one detail from Rosemary's initial generosity and one from the reversal.

WATCH FOR

Do not label Rosemary "fake" and stop. Explain how the story tests motive.

SOLO

Read independently.

SUPPORTED

Narration + highlighting.

LISTENING

Listen; same evidence task.

STUDENT PAGE · GRADE 12 · LESSON 354

A Cup of Tea

Katherine Mansfield

How does Mansfield use Rosemary's generosity to expose the self-image behind it?

WORK	A Cup of Tea
TUMBLETA PASSAGE LOCATION	Short story - Rosemary brings Miss Smith home, then reverses course

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

I picked her up in Curzon Street. Really. She's a real pick-up.

END

She's absolutely lovely.

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 Rosemary's language about helping. Circle details showing performance, imagination, or self-regard. Box the moment jealousy changes her behavior.
2. **NOTICE** What attracts Rosemary to the situation besides compassion? How does Philip's reaction change the text? Which action most clearly separates motive from appearance?
3. **THINK** Answer provisionally: How does Mansfield use Rosemary's generosity to expose the self-image behind it?
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.