

Proposition de correction

I - COMPREHENSION

1. In what historical period does the story take place? Make a sentence and justify with three elements from the text.

The story takes place during World War II.

- "After I graduated from Bryn Mawr in '43" (l. 1)

- "recent Japanese activity in the Pacific" (l. 49)

- "his jeremiads about FDR" (l. 50)

2. What do the following places represent for the narrator? Make a sentence for each item.

a) Bryn Mawr

Bryn Mawr is the name of the university where the narrator studies.

b) Philadelphia

Philadelphia is the city where the narrator would live if she married Horace Cowett.

c) New York

New York is the city where the narrator wishes she could live and where she's been offered a job.

d) Hartford

Hartford might be the narrator's hometown and the city where her parents live.

3. Say in your own words what the reader learns about the narrator? (name, age, marital status, present occupation, future prospects - **about 40 words**)

The narrator's called Sara. She is 22 years old. She's single but was apparently supposed to get married to one Horace Cowett. She's currently a university student and wishes to become a journalist in New York.

4. Who are the other characters? Say how they are related to one another.

a) characters present

The characters present are Sara's parents.

b) characters mentioned

The characters mentioned are Horace Cowett, Sara's boyfriend, and Eric, Sara's brother.

5. Sum up the situation in your own words. (**about 50 words**)

Sara and her parents are having a tense conversation about her future. She's resolute to leave her hometown to work as a journalist and settle in New York whereas her parents want her to get married to a boy they like and live either in Hartcourt or in Philadelphia.

6. Say in your own words what the reader learns about Horace Cowett's education, hobby, personal and professional plans for the future. (**about 40 words**)

Horace Cowett is a well-educated boy, who studies law and who occasionally dabbles in poetry. He probably contemplates working as a lawyer in Philadelphia.

7. Answer in your own words:

a) How does the narrator feel about Horace Cowett, and why? (**about 20 words**)

Horace is probably Sara's highschool sweetheart but she is not in love with him because he doesn't share her desire for change.

b) Compare the narrator's parents' opinion about Horace Cowett to that of the narrator.
(20 words)

Sara's parents think Horace has all the qualities required to be a great husband whereas Sara reckons there's nothing exciting about him.

8. Say in your own words what New York represents for the narrator's parents. **(about 15 words)**

For Sara's parents New York is the city of vice, temptation, where money rules and where a bachelorette faces permanent jeopardy.

9. Pick out four sentences showing that the narrator is determined to reach her goals.

- "nobody was going to stop me from going to New York" (l. 9)
- "You have no legal right to tell me what I can or cannot do." (l. 31)
- "I will not be pushed into a life I don't want" (l. 38)
- "you are stopping me from taking control of my own destiny." (l; 40-41)

10. Say whether the following statements are true or false. Justify by quoting from the text.

a) The narrator's father is authoritative.

True. "I am not having any daughter of mine living by herself in that venal, indecent city,' my father pronounced." (l. 16-17)

b) The narrator's mother sides with her daughter.

False. 'Father's still right,' my mother said. (l. 21)

c) The narrator did not expect her parents to react the way they did.

False. "Nor did I expect them to." (l. 45)

d) The narrator is proud of her job offer.

True "Life only accepts ten trainees a year. It's an incredibly prestigious offer.' (l. 20)

11. Answer in your own words:

a) What compromise does the father suggest? **(30 words)**

If Sara is genuinely determined to work as a journalist, her father could help her find a job in a local newspaper instead of going to New York.

b) What does it reveal about his vision of women? **(30 words)**

Sara's father clearly thinks women should be protected, even against their will, that they somehow owe something to their parents and shouldn't settle too far away from their family.

12. Explain in your own words what the consequences of the narrator's final decision will be.

(30 words)

Her decision will sever the bond with her parents. She will no longer be their daughter and it won't be worth calling them or asking them for help or advice.

13. Translate into French from line 52 (Sara, dear...) to line 55 (...something there...).

"Sara, ma chérie, je n'aime vraiment pas me disputer avec toi.

Bien que nous soyons déçus que tu n'épouses pas Horace,
que tu refuses d'épouser Horace,

nous respectons ta décision.

Et si c'est vraiment le journalisme qui t'attire,

j'ai plusieurs contacts au *Hartford Courant*.

Je ne pense pas qu'il serait très difficile de t'y trouver quelque chose