

SHORT STORY 5

The magistrate's daughter
By Alan Paton**About Alan Paton (1903 – 1989)**

Alan Paton was born in 1903 in Pietermaritzburg and died at his home outside Durban in 1989. A man of varied talents, Paton made his mark on what he called this “strange and beautiful country” in three areas: as an eminent educationalist, a world - renowned author, and a committed politician and balanced political commentator.

Paton started his career as a high school teacher and then became principal of Diepkloof Reformatory. When he left the world of education in 1948, he was torn between his desire to serve his country through politics and his passion to be a writer.

Paton made his name in the literary world with **Cry, the beloved country** (1948). His writings which include philosophical essays, biographies, poetry and short stories, his insight into, and his Christian compassion for, humankind in general and the peoples of South Africa in particular.

On the political front, Paton was a tireless and courageous critic of apartheid, first of all through his writings, and then as an active politician as one of the founders and later the leader of the Liberal Party, which was aimed at offering a nonracial alternative to apartheid.

Paton was showered with praise and recognition, receiving more than 30 doctorates, including doctorates from Yale and Harvard. When he died, tributes poured in from all over the globe, describing him as “a great human being, who combined, in a remarkable way, qualities of compassion, generosity and understanding.

Background to the magistrate's daughter

This story hardly needs an introduction. It deals with issues we all experience at school and in life. In his typical way, Paton does not overstate his case, but leaves us to work out what the implications of the story are. This story is unusual as it could take place anywhere in the world and is not narrowly South African in flavour. However, it has a special relevance to South African.

The magistrate's daughter.

She was very cold and very beautiful, and wholly apart from us. That was not only because her father was the magistrate of our village, but also because neither she nor her brother went to the village school. They were at school in the city, and wore blazers of expensive grey flannel, with badges of obscure device, very different from the crossed gun and spade of our own. And the plain English legend! ‘Fight and Work’.

When she came home for the holidays, she walked up and down the village street like a princess. She had grey eyes and a pale, clear face, with hollows in her cheeks which gave to her a look of ethereality. Archie Garland fell in love with her at first sight. He was the captain of the school, in cricket and football and tennis, and was a tall and handsome boy. His father was the village blacksmith.

Archie was the school hero. All the boys looked up to him, and all the girls adored him, partly because he had never singled one of them out. He told no one of his passion, but walked up and down the village street. She was heartbreakingly proud, and the hollows in her cheeks were unbelievably distinguished and beautiful. He lived for these encounters. He would see her from far off, and would not take his eyes off her until he was about twenty yards from her, and then he would look rigidly ahead, and would not have known if she looked at him or not.

He saw her the first Sunday too, with her important father and impressive mother, and her younger brother in a smart dark Sunday suit. About them was this aura of unattainability, and she spoke only to the rector and the Ansons and the Crew –Thompsons, rich farmers of the district, and to their sons and daughters, who went to those schools with the grey – flannel blazers and the badges of obscure device. And Archie thought her more ethereal and beautiful.

“They’re a nice – looking family, said Mrs. Garland.

“They’re a stuck – up lot,” said Archie’s sister Mary, “and as for that Hermoine, she needs a dash off paint.”

“And what might you mean by that?” asked Mr.Garland.

“I mean, Dad, she needs colouring up.” Mary put on a snobbish voice, “She looks so Frightfully Frightfully delicate, don’t you know?”

Hermoine! That was her name! And what a name for her! It was the first time he had ever heard it, so it wasn’t a name for many. And she did not look delicate, she just had the indescribable parlor which set her off from all others, even from her own father and mother and brother. He thought of her a great deal, much more than would have been expected from one of his sanity and practicality of mind, which more than one of his teachers had commended in the end – of- term reports. They would have been astonished had they known that this dependable captain of the school, this matter – of – fact son of his father, this unquestioned ruler of five hundred souls, dreamed of saving the magistrate’s daughter from fire and water and fates worse than death.

One holiday afternoon Archie arranged some cricket at the school, and the magistrate’s son came and stood at the fence and watched them. Archie walked over to him and said,

Do you want a game?”

“Yes, please. But I’m not very good.”

He wasn't very good, but he played those stylish shots that they learn at the grey-flannel schools. It was a pleasure to watch him, then suddenly he was bowled.

"Your strokes are good." Archie told him. "But you want to put more punch into them. You're Parker, aren't you? What's your other name?"

"David. My dad's the magistrate."

"I'm Archie Garland. If you want to practice tomorrow. I'll bowl for you at the nets. Nine o'clock."

The next morning Archie showed David Parker how to put more punch into his shots, and after practice they went to Turnbull's and drank cokes. But there was no sign in the street of the magistrate's daughter.

"Do you play tennis?" asked David.

"Yes."

"I won't be good enough for you, but we can play at our place this afternoon."

So Archie went to the magistrate's place that afternoon. Although he was captain of the school and ruled five hundred souls, he opened the magistrate's gate with a distinct beating of the heart. The house was called "the Residency" and by this name the magistrate's houses in all the villages were distinguished from all the others. The house was not otherwise distinguished, but for Archie it was not only bathed in an aura of power and authority, it was also the home of the magistrate's daughter. Before he could reach the house, he was called by David from the tennis court. The balls were brand – new, something that happened at school only when there was a big game. A servant brought out tea and scones, but there was no sign of the magistrate's daughter. He therefore lavished his devotion on her brother, and taught him how to put more punch into his strokes.

After that he was every day with David Parker, either playing cricket at the school or tennis at the Residency. The servant came always with the tea and scones, but there was never a sign of the magistrate's daughter. Never did she come to watch the tennis, and the only time he ever saw her was in the village street and that was only from that distance of less than twenty yards.

Then came one afternoon when David Parker did not ask him to tennis. Archie thought he would go down to the station to see the Harrisons, and take the path which ran past the Residency, and then he thought he would not, because he was the captain of the school and not a first form boy. But in the end he did. They were playing tennis there, The Ansons and the Crew – Thompsons, and suddenly he was ashamed of himself for having come, and would have turned back if it had not been too late. Luckily he was hidden from the court by a hedge, and of course as he passed he looked rigidly ahead.

He spent the afternoon with Geoff Harrison. More than once he thought of his foolishness, and his ears would burn, and once he surprised himself by suddenly drawing in his breath, so that Geoff Harrison said to him, 'Archie, what's the matter?' and he said with good presence of mind, "Something I'd forgotten.'

He went back home by the railway track, and gave himself over to jealousy. He was good enough to play with David Parker, who could never have won a game if it hadn't been given to him, but he wasn't good enough to play with the Ansons and the Crew – Thompsons and the magistrate's daughter, even though, so far as he knew, he was as good a player as any of them. When he gave himself over to jealousy the results were painful, because he thought only of those grey – flannel blazers and those heraldic badges, and the aristocratic pallor of her face. But the thing that made him most ashamed was that he found himself remembering that his father was the blacksmith, which was something he had never thought of in that way before. He would like to have returned to his normal life, but unfortunately he was in love.

In any event on the next day his jealousy was suddenly whipped away. David Parker asked him to come and play tennis with his sister and a friend who was coming to stay. His excitement he concealed from everybody. He brushed up his blazer with extra care. There was nothing to be done about the gun and the spade, but he could not help wishing that they could become a dragon spewing fire, or mailed arm and fist showing courage and death and aristocracy.

"Are you playing singles again with that stuck – up kid?" asked Mary.

"No, I'm playing doubles."

"His sister sat up as if stung by electricity.

"With Hermione?" she asked.

"Yes."

"You never told us you'd met her."

Archie turned on her the gaze of a thoroughly righteous soul.

"I haven't." he said

'So now you're going to. How frightfully frightfully naive! And how jolly for you, dear boy."

"Somebody's eyes are green," said Mrs. Garland.

Mary ignored her mother and looked at her brother with disdain

"No wonder you spent all that time cleaning up your blazer." She stood up and made an elegant exit, flicking imaginary specks of dust from her dress.

"Au revoir, all," she said, in what she meant to be the manner of a great lady.

He had never looked at Hermione directly, and her face was not quite the same as he had imagined. But it was ethereally beautiful, and her parlor was as indescribable as ever. She called him Archie without fuss, and introduced him to her friend Elaine. Hermione was the strongest player, so Archie and Elaine played against the magistrate's son and daughter. He was able to play harder than usual, but could not help winning all the sets. After four o'clock the servant brought the tea, and this time Mrs. Parker came down to pour it out. It was a strange afternoon, he could hardly describe it. He got on easily with

David and his partner Elaine admired his play in genuine and generous fashion. But Mrs. Parker was like an empress, and Hermione like an empress's daughter. He said goodbye to them, and thanked them for the tennis, but they did not thank him for coming to play with them, or hope that he would come back.

The jealousy was on him again, because Hermione and Elaine had spoken of the dance that was to be given by the Crew – Thompsons. They spoke of strangers, Hugh and Darrell and Anthony, and of how well Hugh danced. The thought of the magistrate's daughter in the arms of this Hugh filled him with pain in some place, a kind of ache which had somehow made its way through from the mind to the body.

"Well, is she beautiful?" his sister asked. When he did not answer, she asked, "Can she play?"

"She plays all right," he said.

"Is she stuck – up?" And when he made no reply, she said "It's time to stop mooning. about, brother, you're a big boy and you're growing up."

He played once more with Heroine and Elaine, and Elaine was glad to see him. She asked him if it was true that he was captain of cricket and football and tennis, all three, and seemed to think it was something to be proud of, even though it was a country school. He warmed towards her because she made him feel more at ease. He called Hermione by her name for the first time, and when Mrs. Parker came down to pour out the tea he thought her less forbidding than she had been before.

At church on Sunday there was no change. David Parker said hullo to him but Mr. and Mrs. Parker and Hermione and Elaine were busy speaking to the Ansons and the Crew – ThomPsons; in any case Mr. Garland was not much given to gossip after church.

"I can't see that she's beautiful," said Mary. "Looks as though her cheeks might fall in at any moment."

"She's a nice looking girl," said Mrs. Garland.

"Do you think she's beautiful?" Mary asked Archie.

"I don't go round thinking whether girls are beautiful or not beautiful."

"Oh, don't you now? You can't bluff me, Archie Garland."

"There's one thing you should learn, miss,," Said Mr. Garland, "and that's not to talk so much about people."

"They're a stuck – up lot, Dad, and you know it."

"This village has been like that ever since I can remember." Said Mr. Garland." It's almost as though every magistrate leaves a list of the best people behind for the next magistrate. Your mother and I have never been on the list, and we've never wanted to be. But we don't waste our breath talking about those who are."

Archie did not know whether to be pleased or otherwise when David Parker asked to see the blacksmith's shop. He could not help wondering if Hermione and Elaine and the Ansons and the Crew – Thompsons had discussed the fact that his father was the village blacksmith, and he could not help wondering just in what manner they had discussed it.

But his good sound sense came to his rescue, and he took David into the shop and handed him over to his father, and whether Honest John was pleased or amused or took it as a matter of course to have the magistrate's son in his shop, no one would ever know.

"Thank you very much, sir," said Davis Parker after he had seen everything. "It was very good of you to spare me your time. It was very interesting."

"It's a dying trade." Honest John told the boy. "I would have started a motor business, but Archie wanted to be a doctor. It's natural to want to go up in the world."

At teatime at the house Mary was at her worst, holding her teacup with her fingers sprayed out affectedly, and speaking with great refinement, Archie would have been angry except that David seemed quite unaware of any mockery.

"Not a bad kid," said Mary after he had gone. "Are you going to ask him to our end – of holiday dance?"

Archie hesitated, but his mother said. "I think we must ask him son. You can't go about with him the whole holiday, and then not ask him to our dance. And we shall have to ask Hermione and her friend as well. I'll write to Mrs. Parker tonight" "I hope we can come," said David Parker to his friend.

And Archie hoped they could come too, and dance in the big Garland lounge, and see one of the nicest houses in the village. The thought of dancing with Hermione, of touching her, was in itself of the nature of ecstasy. And he wanted her to see him amongst his friends, and see how they looked up to him, and he hoped that this might make her less remote and unattainable.

Dear Mrs. Garland

It is very kind of you to invite my daughter Hermione and her brother and her friend to your end – of –holiday dance. I have discussed it with my husband, and we much regret that we cannot accept your invitation. He is very strict in his outlook and believes that as the magistrate who has to dispense justice in the district he must not run the risk of cultivating personal relationships which might one day influence him in the performance of his duties.

I hope your dance will be very successful.

Yours sincerely

Elizabeth Parker

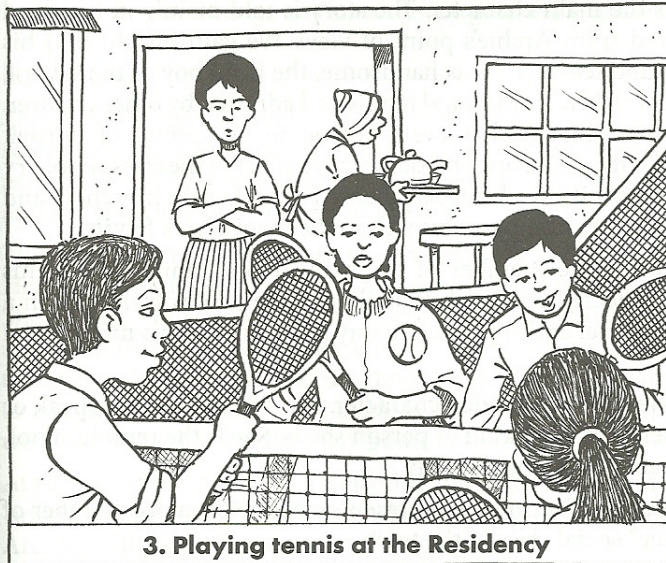
"So that's that." said Mrs. Garland to her daughter. "And listen, there's to be no hurting of Archie about this. He'll be hurt enough as it is. This is one time when you mustn't go round fooling."

"Yes, Mother," she burst out. "How I hate them! How hateful they are! Aren't the Ansons and the crew – Thompsons in the district too?"

“It’s no use hating them. We’re going to have the best dance ever, and this girl will go back to school, and Archie can forget all about her.”

And that was the end of the holiday friendship and the cricket and the tennis. Archie did not see his friend again. And he himself felt too hurt and shamed to go into the village street. But on the last day but one of the holiday, on the day of the dance itself, there were a dozen jobs to do, and it was while doing one of them that he saw her coming up the village street. He turned abruptly into Fox’s lane, so that he need not see her pale and cruel face.

Summary in pictures



The Magistrate's Daughter

Alan Paton

Glossary

flannel - a type of cloth

device - design

ethereality - as if from another, spirit world

blacksmith - someone who works with metal

aura - atmosphere

unattainability - cannot be reached

pallor - delicate paleness

lavished - generously and extravagantly gave

heraldic - relating to coats of arms

spewing - spitting

mailed - covered in armour

aristocracy - wealthy, land-owning people from the upper social class

disdain - as if he was not worthy of her respect

au revoir - (French) goodbye

empress - a woman ruler of an empire

mooning - behaving in a dreamy way

forbidding - intimidating

affectedly - in a way designed to impress people

Summary

Archie is head boy of a school in a small town. He is also captain of various school sports teams. He is the son of the town's blacksmith. He has a crush on Hermione, the magistrate's daughter. She and her brother go to a fancy boarding school and do not mix with the local children. During the holidays, Archie admires her from a distance.

One holiday afternoon, Hermione's brother, David, joins the local cricket game and Archie becomes friendly with him. David invites Archie to play tennis at his house. Archie starts playing tennis there regularly but never sees Hermione. One afternoon he plays tennis there with Hermione and her friend. Hermione hardly speaks to him. David comes to Archie's home and Archie's father shows him around his blacksmith's shop.

At the end of the holiday, Archie's mother writes a letter inviting the magistrate's children to an end-of-holiday dance. She gets a letter from the mother saying the magistrate does not want his children to mix with those of the village as this might affect his work as a magistrate. Archie is hurt and ashamed and does not see his friend David again.

Explanation and analysis

Background and setting

- **Small-town South Africa**

The story is set in a small town in South Africa about sixty years ago and explores the class distinctions and snobbery within the white community of this town.

The story is told mainly in the third person and from Archie's point of view. We get insight into Archie's thoughts and feelings.

Themes

- **Snobbery**
- **Social-class differences**

The main theme is the snobbery that exists within the white community of a small town and how it can distort human relationships. The story explores the ways in which this snobbery affects the main character, Archie. He is an attractive and talented boy. Yet he is reduced to feeling ashamed and inadequate by the magistrate's family. He is ashamed of his local school and its uniform, comparing it with the fancy schools attended by the magistrate's children and the children of rich farmers in the district. He is most ashamed when he compares the status in the town of his father with that of the magistrate. This all comes into play when he develops a crush on Hermione, the magistrate's daughter.

Another theme that is linked to this is that of the genuineness and humanity of "ordinary" people in contrast to the coldness and false pride of people from the "upper class".

Other members of Archie's family are not affected in the way that he is. They are not ashamed of who they are. Their genuineness, warmth and friendliness are shown through their informal conversations and is in contrast to the coldness and formality shown by the magistrate's wife and daughter.

Character

- **Archie:** accomplished, popular
- **David:** friendly, not affected by class snobbery
- **Hermione:** remote, aloof, snobbish

Archie is the main character. The story is told mainly in the third person and from Archie's point of view. We gain insight into his thoughts and feelings. He is handsome, the head boy of the school, captain of cricket, football and tennis and admired by other children in the town. That he has every reason to feel proud of himself emphasises the distorting and destructive effect of the class snobbery in the community. Archie feels ashamed of his family, his school and himself when he compares himself to the magistrate's family.

David is the one member of the magistrate's family who seems not to be affected by the class snobbery. He relates to Archie in a friendly, natural and appreciative way in contrast to his mother and sister.

Hermione is not a rounded character. We do not hear her speak or get any sense of what kind of person she is. She is the remote, aloof, haughty and unattainable "lady".

Mrs Parker, like Hermione, represents a snobbish, aloof member of the "upper" social class in the town.

Key quote

... the thing that made him most ashamed was that he found himself remembering that his father was a blacksmith ...

Key quote

She was very cold and very beautiful, and wholly apart from us.

Key quote

He turned abruptly into Fax's Lane, so that he need not see her pale and cruel face.

Archie's father and mother are unaffected by the snobbery of the magistrate's family. They take it in their stride and ignore it. His mother says at the end: "It's no use hating them." Mary is affected by the snobbery but her response is one of anger at their false superiority rather than one of shame.

Plot

The problem posed is Archie's love for the aloof, unattainable Hermione. This creates a tension in the story. She intimidates him and makes him feel ashamed of himself and, seeing himself through her eyes, of his lowly status in the town.

The first climax is when Archie is finally invited to 'The Residency' to play tennis with Hermione and her family. Hermione does not communicate with him on that occasion.

The climax and resolution of Archie's problem occurs at the end of the story when Mrs Parker refuses his mother's invitation to the magistrate's children to attend the Garland's end-of-year dance. Archie is "hurt and shamed" but comes to understand that Hermione and her mother are cold and cruel people.

Symbols

- Two places in the story are symbolic: '**The Residency**' and **Archie's father's blacksmith shop**. Although 'The Residency' is no different in appearance from other middle-class houses in the town, for Archie it was "bathed in an aura of power and authority".
- The **school uniforms** of Archie's local school and of the schools that the magistrate's children attend are symbolic. The magistrate's children's blazer badges are elaborately designed. Archie's blazer badge has an ordinary gun and a spade.

Language

The narrator tells the story from a first-person point of view and seems to be part of the story: "She was ... wholly apart from us." We assume he or she is or was part of the community of the small town and is telling one of its stories of the town.

The writer/narrator uses formal, old-fashioned words to describe Hermione to suggest how she appeared to Archie in her remoteness. She has an "indescribable pallor" and "unbelievably distinguished and beautiful" hollows in her cheeks. These descriptions work in two ways: she is unreal and unattainable, and therefore irresistible to Archie. To the readers she is not real as a person, particularly as we do not hear her speak at any point in the story.

At the end of the story, the description of her face has changed from "indescribable pallor" to "her pale and cruel face". This suggests that Archie finally sees her for what she is.

Key quote

The jealousy was on him again, because Hermione and Elaine had spoken of the dance that was to be given by the Crewe-Thompsons.



Key quote

"It's almost as though every magistrate leaves a list of the best people behind for the next magistrate. Your mother and I have never been on that list."

Key quote

... he wanted her to see him among his friends, and see how they looked up to him, and he hoped this might make her less remote and unattainable.

Exam preparation

Sample contextual question

This question contains TWO extracts. Answer the questions on both extracts.

Extract 1

Read the extract from “*In any event on the next day his jealousy was suddenly wiped away.*” to “*the manner of a great lady.*” and answer these questions:

1. “*His excitement he concealed from everybody.*”
Why did Archie hide his excitement? (2)
(Try to imagine how you would feel if you were Archie.)
- 2.1 Quote words from the extract that tell us Archie was ashamed of his school uniform. (2)
- 2.2 Why was he ashamed of his school uniform? (2)
3. Write down a word that Mary uses that means the same as “proud”. (1)
4. “*His sister sat up as if stung by electricity.*”
Identify the figure of speech in this sentence and say what is being compared. (3)
5. “*... the gaze of a thoroughly righteous soul.*”
Write down only the letter of the correct answer: Archie looked at his sister:
 - a. as if he was morally correct
 - b. as if he was angry with her
 - c. with amusement
 - d. as if he was very unhappy. (1)
- 6.1 Write down one word or phrase from the extract that shows that Mary was mocking the magistrate’s family. (1)
- 6.2 Why was she mocking them? (2)
7. “*Somebody’s eyes are green.*”
What is meant by this and who is the “somebody” it refers to? (2)
8. “*... looked at her brother with disdain.*”
Write down only the letter of the correct answer to the following question:
Mary looked at Archie:
 - a. as if she felt sorry for him;
 - b. with affection;
 - c. as if he was not worthy of her respect;
 - d. with hatred (1)

[17]

AND

Extract 2

Read the extract from “*I hope we can come, said David Parker*” to “*he need not see her pale and cruel face.*” and answer these questions:

- 9.1 Why did Mrs Garland decide to invite David Parker and his sister to the dance? (2)
- 9.2 Give two reasons why Archie hoped that they would be able to attend the dance. (2)

10. Write down the word in the first paragraph that means “difficult to reach”. (1)
- 11.1 Briefly, in your own words, give the main reason Mrs Parker gave for declining Mrs Garland’s invitation for her children to attend the dance. (3)
- 11.2 What does Mary say is wrong with Mrs Parker’s reason for declining the invitation? (*Read Mary’s response to the letter carefully.*) (3)
12. “...He’ll be hurt enough as it is.”
Why would Archie be hurt because Mrs Parker declined the invitation? (2)
- 13.1 How does Mary feel about the Parker family? (2)
- 13.2 Give a reason or quote from the extract in support of your answer. (1)
(*Read Mary’s response to her mother. How would you feel if you were Mary?*)
14. “Archie did not see his friend again.” Who had been Archie’s friend in the holidays? (1)
15. Write down the word from the last sentence of the extract that tells us Archie had realised by the end of the story what the magistrate’s daughter was really like. (1)
(*Go back to the beginning of the story to see the words the writer/narrator uses to describe Hermione as Archie saw her then. Refer also to the notes on ‘Language.’*)

[18]

Total marks: 35

Sample essay question

Write the following essay as well as the two paragraphs:

Structured essay

- A The story explores the ways in which snobbery in a small town can affect how a teenage boy sees himself. Discuss how Archie felt about himself when he fell in love with the magistrate’s daughter. Refer to incidents in the story in your discussion. (Length 100–120 words) [15]

jot down all the things that Archie thought made the magistrate’s daughter and her brother superior to him. Note incidents in the story where you see the magistrate’s daughter and/or family treating Archie in a cold and haughty way.

AND

Paragraph questions

- B Describe the friendship between Archie Garland and David Parker. Include how they came to be friendly and how the friendship ended. (Length 80–100 words) [10]

Before you begin writing, reread the story, in particular the first part which describes how Archie and David first formed a friendship, and the last paragraph of the story. Note all the incidents in the story in which they interacted with each other.

AND

- C Describe the circumstances of Mrs Garland’s invitation to the magistrate’s children to the dance. Mention why Mrs Garland invited them and Mrs Parker’s reasons for declining the invitation. [10]

Summarise Mrs Parker’s reasons for refusing the invitation.

Total marks: 35

MEMORANDUM

The Magistrate's Daughter

(page 140)

Contextual question

Extract 1

1. He did not want them to know✓ he was in love with the magistrate's daughter.✓ (2)
- 2.1 "...nothing to be done✓ about the gun and the spade."✓ (2)
- 2.2 The badge on his uniform was plain and boring.✓ The badges on the school uniforms of the fancy schools were grander and more complicated.✓ (2)
3. stuck-up✓ (1)
4. simile✓ The way in which Archie's sister suddenly sat up✓ and someone who has had an electric shock.✓ (3)
5. a✓ (1)
- 6.1 "Fraughtfully" (or "naice" or "jolly for you, dear boy")✓ (1)
- 6.2 She did not like✓ their false superiority✓ (or their effect✓ on Archie✓) (2)
7. She means that Mary✓ is jealous.✓ (2)
8. c✓ (1)

[17]

Extract 2

- 9.1 Because Archie had been David's friend for the holidays.✓ If they asked David they should ask his sister too.✓ (2)
- 9.2 He wanted them to see their nice house.✓ He imagined dancing with and touching Hermione.✓ He wanted Hermione to see him amongst his friends and how they respected him.✓ (Any two) (2)
10. unattainable✓ (1)

- 11.1 She says that the magistrate himself/ does not want his children to develop personal relationships with children in the district/ as this might affect his work.✓ (3)
- 11.2 Mary points out/ that the magistrate's family socialises with the wealthier families/ and they also live in the district.✓ (3)
12. It will make him feel even more inferior/ and humiliated.✓ (2)
- 13.1 very strong dislike/ and resentment/ (2)
- 13.2 "How I hate them! How hateful they are!"✓ (1)
14. David Parker (the magistrate's son)✓ (1)
15. "cruel"✓ (1)
- [18]

Total marks: 35

Essay question

A Structured essay

Archie has every reason to feel proud of himself. He is an attractive and talented boy. He is handsome, head boy of the school and captain of cricket, football and tennis. He is admired by all the children in the town's white community.

Yet when he falls in love with the magistrate's daughter, he is reduced to feeling ashamed and inadequate because of what he sees as the superiority of the magistrate's family. He is ashamed of his local school and its uniform. He compares his school with the fancy schools attended by the magistrate's children. He is most ashamed that his father is only a blacksmith, compared to the status of the magistrate.

He feels his inadequacy particularly keenly when Hermione ignores him in public. When the magistrate's son invites him to play tennis at 'The Residency' and Hermione is part of the game, she hardly speaks to him.

The final humiliation is when the magistrate's wife declines the invitation to the magistrate's children to attend a dance at Archie's house. [15]

Paragraph questions

B

David and Archie first became friendly when Archie invited him to join a cricket game. He then offered to coach David in cricket. David started to invite him regularly to 'The Residency' to play tennis. This included an invitation one afternoon to play doubles with Hermione and her friend. They continued to be friends during the holidays. One day David asked Archie if he could see his father's blacksmith's shop. Archie arranged for a tour. The friendship came to an end when Mrs Parker refused Mrs Garland's invitation to an end-of-holiday dance at

the Garlands' house. Archie did not see David again after this. [10]

C

Mrs Garland suggested inviting David to their end-of-holiday dance because he had been Archie's friend for the whole school holiday. She said if they invited David they should also invite his sister and her friend. Mrs Parker, the magistrate's wife, wrote a reply. In it she said that she had discussed the matter with her husband. The magistrate had said that he did not want his children to develop personal relationships with children in the district as this might affect his work as magistrate. This reasoning does not really make sense because the magistrate's children were mixing with the children of wealthy families in the district. This meant that she did not want her children mixing with children of the village and of the local school. She obviously thought they were inferior to her children. [10]

Total marks: 35

Taken from Oxford Exam Success

Storyline:

Archie Garland, tall and handsome, is the head prefect and hero of the village school. He falls in love with Hermione Parker when he sees her walking down the village street "like a princess". Hermione and her brother David are the children of the magistrate. They attend an expensive school in the city. Archie admires Hermione from afar, but his sister, Mary, says they are "a stuck-up lot".

During the school holidays, Archie arranges a cricket game at school and invites David, who is watching at the fence, to join in. Archie then accepts David's invitation to play tennis at his home, "The Residency". They play tennis or cricket nearly every day after that, but Archie never meets Hermione. One afternoon Archie strolls past "The Residency" and sees Hermione and David playing tennis with the Ansons and Crewe-Thompsons who attend the same city school. Archie feels jealous and is ashamed to find himself thinking about his father's profession of blacksmith. These feelings soon disappear when David invites Archie to join him, Hermione and her friend, Elaine, for a tennis doubles game. Hermione is **aloof**, but Elaine is friendly and admiring. However, his jealousy resurfaces because he overhears the two girls discussing a forthcoming dance, hosted by the Crewe-Thompsons. At David's request, Archie takes him to visit the blacksmith's shop where he learns that Archie hopes to become a doctor. Urged on by Mary and his mother, Archie agrees to let Mrs Garland invite the Parkers and Elaine to their "end-of-holiday" dance.

The climax of the story is Mrs Parker's letter of refusal, explaining that her husband doesn't encourage friendships with anyone he might one day have to pass judgement on in his court room. The next time Archie sees Hermione in the street he turns away from her "pale and cruel face".

Setting:

- A small village during school holidays
- "The Residency" – home of the magistrate's family
- The Garland home – "one of the nicest houses in the village"

Themes:

- Teenage love / **Infatuation**
- Class distinction
- Prejudice
- Discrimination

Narrative technique:

- Third person narrator (limited) – is a member of the community; only shares Archie's thoughts and feelings
- Using unusual word order occasionally, unusual "posh" names, and giving detailed description of the private school blazer all help to establish attitudes of superiority, separateness, and power
- Subtle irony – the Garlands are more polite and "nicer" than the Parkers, if Archie becomes a doctor his status will be equal to the Parkers'

Characters:

- Archie Garland – head prefect, captain in cricket, football and tennis, is school's "hero", handsome and talented, village blacksmith's son (middle class), infatuated with Hermione
- Hermione Parker – magistrate's daughter (upper class), is **unattainable** and superior
- David Parker – Hermione's brother, friendly and polite, possibly lonely, learns from Archie
- Mary Garland – Archie's sister, blunt, **scathing** of the Parkers' superiority, protective of Archie's feelings, sees through hypocrisy of Mrs Parker's reply
- Elaine – Hermione's friend, impressed by Archie's achievements, doesn't have a superior attitude
- Ansons and Crewe-Thompsons – rich farming families in the district; children attend same private school as David, Hermione and Elaine
- Mr and Mrs Garland – down-to-earth, well-mannered, middle class

Contextual questions

1. Look at the first line of the story: "She was very cold and very beautiful and wholly apart from us."
 - a) Name the person referred to as "she". (1)
 - b) Who is narrating the story? (1)
 - c) Explain the meaning of the words "very cold" and "wholly apart from us". (2)
2. Carefully read the second and third paragraphs of the story from "When she came home ..." to "... if she had looked at him or not."
 - a) Is this statement TRUE or FALSE? Give reasons for your answer. Archie is really in love. (3)
 - b) Quote three consecutive words from Paragraph 2 that support the idea that Hermione is "wholly apart from us". (1)
 - c) In your own words, describe what makes Archie the "school hero". (4)
3. The name Hermione was not well known when Paton wrote this story. Suggest two reasons why he gives the magistrate's daughter this unusual name. (2)
4. Explain Archie's motives for offering to practise cricket with David. (2)
5. When Archie tells Mary that he is going to play doubles with Hermione, she says, "How Frightfully Frightfully naice! And how jolly for you, dear boy."
 - a) Why are the words "Frightfully" and "naice" written this way? (3)
 - b) Choose the correct answer.
Mary's tone of voice is:
 - A friendly. (1)
 - B ironic. (3)
 - C sarcastic. (3)
 - D humorous. (1)
 - c) Explain your choice in Question 5b. (3)
6. Reread Mr Garland's response to Mary's criticism that the Parkers are stuck-up: "This village has been like that ... those who are." What does Mr Garland mean when he says that the village has been "like that" ever since he can remember? (2)
7.
 - a) By what name is Mr Garland known in the village? (1)
 - b) Taking Mr Garland's nickname into account, what is ironic about the Parkers' reason for refusing to let their children attend the Garlands' party? (3)
8. Is it fair to describe Hermione as having a "cruel face" at the end of the story? Justify your answer. (4)


ABC Word check:

aloof: unfriendly and keeps her distance (1)


infatuation: intense but short-lived love for someone (1)

unattainable: out of reach (2)

scathing: severely critical or scornful

 Tip:

Consecutive words follow one another. (4)

 Did you know?

The name Hermione has become familiar because of the character in the *Harry Potter* series of books and films. Previously the name Hermione was seldom used. (3)

Essay questions and other activities

1. Prejudice, discrimination and class distinction are themes of this story. Does the author want the reader to approve or disapprove of the kind of discrimination and prejudice displayed in this story? Explain your answer in an essay of 250–300 words. (35)
2. Whose child would you prefer to be – the Garlands' or the Parkers'? In a paragraph of 80–100 words, say whose child you would prefer to be and explain your choice. (10)

MEMORANDUM

The magistrate's daughter – Alan Paton (page 62)

Contextual questions

1. a) Hermione ✓ (1)
 b) The story is narrated by someone in the community ✓ / by someone in the village. ✓ (1)
 c) The words "very cold" mean that she showed no emotion ✓ / she was unfriendly. ✓ The words "wholly apart from us" mean that she was different from everybody else. ✓ / The words "wholly apart from us" mean that they would not mix socially. ✓ (2)
2. a) False, ✓ he doesn't know Hermione, ✓ so he can't really feel such a deep emotion for someone he has never met. ✓ (3)
 b) "like a princess" ✓ / "look of ethereality" ✓ (1)
 c) Archie is a talented sportsman ✓ and the boys admire him for that. ✓ He seemingly has never favoured one girl above another. ✓ / He seemingly treats all the girls the same ✓ so the girls would have no reason to be jealous of each other. ✓ (4)
3. By giving her a name that Archie has never heard, Paton creates the sense that she is above Archie's social class ✓ / that she is out of reach for him, ✓ but also that she is a snob. ✓ (2)
4. Archie could be genuinely interested in helping David improve his batting strokes, ✓ but it is more likely that he hopes his association with David will lead to his meeting Hermione. ✓ (2)
5. a) The words are written this way to indicate the posh accent ✓ that Mary is assuming ✓ and the capital F shows that she is emphasising the first syllable of the word. ✓ (3)
 b) C (sarcastic.) ✓ (1)
 c) She is sarcastic because she is not impressed ✓ by Hermione's attitude of superiority ✓ and wishes to make fun of her. ✓ (3)
6. People from the upper class have never mixed with people from the middle class in the village. ✓ ✓ / There has always been a distinction between people of different classes or groups in the village. ✓ ✓ (2)
7. a) Honest John ✓ (1)

- b) The Parkers refuse to let their children associate with people outside of their social sphere ✓ for fear they might one day commit a crime and the magistrate will have to pass judgement on them. ✓ It is ironic that they refuse an invitation from someone who has the reputation of being honest. ✓ (3)
8. Yes, ✓ she has been unfriendly and superior ✓ / she has made no effort to get to know Archie ✓ who by all accounts is handsome, popular and talented. ✓ Her treatment of Archie has been rather cruel. ✓ OR
 No, ✓ she is merely behaving in the way she has been brought up. ✓ Her parents will not allow her to socialise with people whom they believe are from a lower class. ✓ She cannot be blamed for obeying her parents. ✓ (4)

Essay questions and other activities

Question 1

- The author wants us to disapprove.
- Mary's sarcasm shows the author's criticism of the Parkers' behaviour.
- The Garlands are likeable and down-to-earth.
- The Garlands support their children and try to teach them to be non-judgemental.
- Mrs Parker's letter, although pretending to be friendly, is in fact cold and distant.
- Mrs Parker's reasons for not allowing the children to mix cannot be supported – crime is committed by people from all social classes.
- This idea is supported by Mary's comment that the Ansons and Crewe-Thompsons are also part of the community.
- Elaine and David are described in friendlier terms and they do not treat Archie with the same aloofness that Hermione and her parents do – this shows that not all upper class people are snobs.
- At the end, the reader feels sorry for Archie and angry with the Parkers.
- The description of Hermione's face as cruel at the end of the story, emphasises that this behaviour is nasty. (35)

Question 2

(Give your own opinion, but with justification.)

The Garlands' child:

- The Garlands do not dictate who can be their children's friends.

- The father is respected in the village (Honest John).
- They live in one of the “nicest houses in the village”.
- The children are talented and achievers.
- The parents display better values and upbringing than the Parkers.

The Parkers’ child:

- The children attend private schools.
- They mix with rich people.
- The Parkers are upper class.
- Everyone knows who they are.
- The children have power / feel powerful because of their father’s influence. (10)