Different Cultures - Short Stories

1. Look again at ‘Veronica’ (pages 72-74) and ‘A Stench of Kerosene’ (pages 86-88).

In what ways do these short stories show how women’s behaviour is influenced by the traditions of their society? Give evidence from the texts to support your views.

2. Look again in the Edexcel Anthology at the characters of Paulus Eysendyck in “Country Lovers”, by Nadine Gordimer (p67-71), and Paulo Saverini’s widow in “Vendetta” by Guy de Maupassant (p89-91). What do we learn about the moral values and attitudes of the societies in which they lived?

3. Relationships can be destroyed by circumstances and laws. In Country Lovers and Veronica how do the writers show the forces that lead to destruction?


Both these stories present societies divided by racial segregation. Discuss how the effects of racism are presented in each story.

5. Compare the short stories “Vendetta” and the “Schoolteacher’s Guest”.

These stories both present societies whose attitude to justice is different from our own. Discuss how this affects the presentation of revenge in each story.

6. Secrets and secrecy are important themes in “The Schoolteacher’s Guest” and “Country Lovers”. Write about how secrets both unite and divide people in these stories.

7. Look again at Vendetta and ONE other story from the anthology which deals with matters of right and wrong. What do the writers show about the ways in which people in different societies deal with problems of right and wrong?