

BLISS

by Katherine Mansfield

Answer the following questions:

1. Bertha Young is the main character of Bliss. How old was she? What did she look like? How did she usually feel?
2. What event was Bertha preparing for? What did she arrange for the event? Why did she buy purple grapes?
3. Who did Bertha see upstairs? How did Bertha feel about the woman? What did Bertha ask the woman to let her do?
4. Who called Bertha? What for?
5. Who were coming that night? Describe the guests.
6. Where had Bertha met Miss Fulton? Why did Bertha like her?
7. According to Bertha, how did her husband feel about Miss Fulton? What did he think about her?
8. Why did Bertha think “she had everything”?
9. Who arrived first? What was the man’s job? What was the woman wearing? What happened on the train?
10. Eddie Warren arrived next. What did he look like? What was his job? What happened on the way to Bertha’s house?

11. When Bertha's husband arrived, where did he go? What did people think of him? Did Bertha agree?
12. Who was the last guest to arrive? Bertha felt she and her friend were very close. In what way? What else does Bertha say about her?
13. After dinner, Bertha and Miss Fulton shared a moment. What did they do? How did Bertha feel about it?
14. During coffee, Bertha's husband Harry offered cigarettes to Miss Fulton. What did Bertha think about their interaction? How did she feel about it?
15. At the end of the night, the guests started leaving one by one. What happened when Miss Fulton was leaving? What was Bertha doing at that moment? What did she see?
16. Do you think Bertha suspected her husband was having an affair? Why? / Why not?
17. "Ignorance is bliss" is a very popular proverb. What do you think it means? How does it apply to the story *Bliss*?