

Name: _____ Date: _____

Section A: Reading Comprehension

Read about Daphne du Maurier.

Happiness is not a possession to be prized, it is a quality of thought, a state of mind.

Daphne du Maurier
Rebecca



DAPHNE DU MAURIER

Daphne du Maurier is one of the most successful and prolific authors of the 20th century, with a writing career that spanned more than 40 years. She wrote in a variety of genres and styles; however, she is most known for her **Gothic** stories that combine elements of horror and darkness with strong emotion. Several of these stories, including *Rebecca* and *The Birds*, were later adapted into movies.



Have you ever felt pressured to live up to your parents' or siblings' reputation? Imagine how Daphne du Maurier must have felt; she was born in 1907, and she arrived as part of an extremely famous and creative family. Her grandfather, George du Maurier, was an artist and the author of several novels, including *Trilby*, *The Martians*, and *Peter Ibbetson*. Her father, Gerald, was a well-known actor and theater manager. Du Maurier's complicated relationship with him influenced much of her life and writing.

After enjoying a privileged childhood that included private education, sailing and traveling around the world, du Maurier settled into the family home in Fowey, England, and began writing. It was during this period that she also developed an obsession for a large manor house in the area named Menabilly. She was sure the house held secrets, and it later became the inspiration for Manderley House in her famous novel, *Rebecca*. This Gothic romance is the story of a newly married young woman who feels haunted by the ghost of her husband's first wife. The main character, Mrs de Winter, is also terrorized and psychologically tortured by the evil housekeeper, Mrs. Danvers, until she nearly commits suicide.

However, it was her first novel that had the biggest impact on her personal life. *The Loving Spirit*, published in 1931, actually triggered the relationship between du Maurier and her future husband, Major Frederick 'Boy' Browning. He read the novel and became determined to meet the author. Eventually, they were introduced and a few months later were engaged. A few months after that, they were married. They had three children together and remained married until Browning's death in 1965.

During World War II, though, Browning was stationed in France and du Maurier focused on her second love: Menabilly. She leased the house while Browning was still in France, in spite of the fact that it was almost completely dilapidated. Then, in spite of the fact that she didn't own it, she threw herself into completely renovating the building. Her efforts paid off; she and her family lived in Menabilly until the late 1960s. She wrote most of her books in the house and said it whispered its secrets to her at night.

Soon after her husband's death in 1965, du Maurier moved to Kilmarth, where she wrote her last two novels, *The House on The Strand* and *Rule Britannia*. She died in Cornwall in 1989.

1) Check the following sentences. CHOOSE True (T) or False (F).

- A. None of Daphne's stories have been adapted into movies.
- B. The author found inspiration to write in her own personal life experiences.
- C. Du Maurier's relatives were famous artists too.
- D. Daphne and Frederick got divorced before his death in 1965.
- E. Daphne was obsessed with a manor house in France.

MANHATTAN – SCHOOL OF LANGUAGES

5TH ADULTS – FINAL EXAM – DECEMBER 2020

Section B - Use of English.

1) Read the sentences about Rebecca. Choose the correct option.

- _____ you _____ yet, madam, what you will wear?
a. Did/ decide b. Have/decided c. Do/you
- _____ don't you copy the clothes from one of the pictures in the hall?
a. How b. What c. Why
- He pulled me close while _____ my eyes.
a. Searches b. Searching c. Searched
- _____ she had met you, she would have walked off into the garden with you.
a. If b. When c. As
- I _____ never trouble you again. I swear.
a. Must b. Had c. Would
- I felt helpless. There was nothing I _____ do.
a. Can't b. Must c. Could

2) Put the verbs in brackets into the correct tense:

When du Maurier (be) a young woman, her family bought a country home in Cornwall, in the south-west of England. Du Maurier (fall) in love with Cornwall's wild seas and isolated coves. She realized that she (find) her spiritual home, and later she set many of her books there. Du Maurier was fiercely independent and embarrassed by her indulgent upbringing, and was (determine) to support herself. In 1927 she (write) her first novel *The Loving Spirit* in Cornwall. When it was published, it brought her fame. It also brought her a husband. Major Frederick Arthur Montague Browning, a war hero, was 34 years old when he sailed in to Fowey harbour in Cornwall in October 1931 (find) the author of the book he so much admired. A year later, they (marry). They had a quiet wedding in Cornwall, after which they sailed off and moored for the night in Frenchman's Creek, which du Maurier later used as the title of one of her novels. They had two daughters and one son. Daphne du Maurier and her husband found it difficult (share) each other's lives. They spent a lot of time apart during and after the war, while her husband (work) for Prince Phillip at Buckingham Palace in London. Also, du Maurier (always/dislike) formal socialising and preferred a natural outdoor life. Despite her writing success, du Maurier (remain) humble and self-conscious about her books.

3) Use the key word to write the second sentence so that it means the same as the first sentence.

a. Maxim arrived at the airport two hours ago. **FOR**

b. He had a really old computer before. **TO**

c. Why don't you join a photography club? **IF**

d. You are tired because you keep staying up late. **WOULDN'T**

e. The cake was so good they bought another one. **SUCH**

f. Her English won't improve if she doesn't practice. **UNLESS**

g. My parent moved to New Zealand five years ago. **SINCE**

h. I regret not speaking to Rebecca sooner. **WISH**

Section C: Writing

1) Choose **ONE** of the topics below and write a composition of about 200 words.

- a) **Review.** Rebecca – Imagine you are a famous literary critic writing for an important magazine. Write a review about Rebecca by Daphne du Maurier. Take into account the plot of the story, characters and personal opinion about it.
- b) **Letter.** You are Rebecca. Write a letter to Maxim the day before your death. Apologize to him and explain the situation.

Section D: Listening



1) Listen to Manderley's weather forecast. Mark the sentences **T** (true) or **F** (false).

1. It will start raining at lunchtime today in the east.

2. The weather in the north-west will be worse than in the south.

3. There will be thunder in Leeds tonight.

4. Most of England will be hot this week.

5. Wet weather will move from the north to the south at the weekend.

6. It will stay hot when the rain comes.