Selected Stories by D. H. Lawrence

A Note About the Author and These Stories

David Herbert Lawrence was born on 11th September, 1885, in Eastwood, Nottinghamshire, a county[1] in the north of England. His father was a miner[2] and his mother had been a teacher. The Lawrences were poor and their marriage was not happy. They often quarrelled[3]. They had five children and David Herbert Lawrence was their fourth child.

D. H. Lawrence was a weak child and he was often ill, but he was also intelligent and sensitive[4]. His relationship[5] with his mother was very close. Lawrence's mother loved him very deeply and she wanted him to succeed. She did not want him to be a miner, like his father. So she made sure that he went to school. Lawrence won a scholarship[6] in 1898 and attended Nottingham High School. But when he was fifteen, he had to leave school and take a job. At this time, he met Jessie Chambers, the daughter of a farmer. In 1906, Lawrence won a scholarship to Nottingham University College and began his studies to be a teacher.

In 1911, Lawrence's mother died and his first book, *The White Peacock*, was published. In the same year, Lawrence ended his relationship with Jessie Chambers and got engaged[7] to Louie Burrows. But he also became seriously ill. He had tuberculosis, a disease of the lungs. Lawrence could not continue his career as a teacher. He began to write. He wanted to earn money by writing books and poetry.

Lawrence met Frieda Weekley in 1912. She was married to a professor who had taught Lawrence at Nottingham University. Frieda was German and six years older than Lawrence, and she had three children. Lawrence and Frieda fell deeply in love and they ran away together.

Lawrence and Frieda never had much money and their passionate[8] relationship was difficult. They often quarrelled. But their lives together gave Lawrence many ideas for his books. He wrote travel books about the places that they visited. And he wrote short stories and novels about the relationships between lovers, parents and children, wives and husbands. His stories shocked many people.

Lawrence's health was bad so he was unable to fight in the First World War (1914–18). He spent this time in England and became friends with many famous and clever people.

Frieda got her divorce in 1914 and she married Lawrence on 13th July, 1914. By this time, Lawrence had written *The Trespasser* (1913), and his first big novel, *Sons and Lovers* (1913). His next novel, *The Rainbow* (1915), brought him trouble with the law. All copies of the book were taken by the police. People were shocked because the story talked about sex in strong, plain language.

In 1916, Lawrence finished writing his novel, *Women in Love*, but no one would publish it. At last, a publisher in New York published the book in 1920, and it was published in London in 1921. From 1922, Frieda and Lawrence travelled to many countries. They went to Sri Lanka, Australia, the United States and Mexico. While he was in Australia, Lawrence wrote *Kangaroo*, which was published in 1923. And in the same year, *Studies in Classic American Literanure* was published.

Lawrence was always worried about money and his health became worse. At this time, his relationship with Frieda also became more difficult. While he was in Mexico, he began to write *The Plumed Serpent* and he also wrote many short stories and poems. In 1923, Frieda returned to Europe alone. Frieda and Lawrence wrote many letters to each other and finally, Lawrence returned to England. But he was very unhappy and early the next year, they went to live at Kiowa Ranch in New Mexico, in the United States.

In 1925, Lawrence became seriously ill. The tuberculosis was killing him. The Lawrences went to live in Italy, where Lawrence began to paint pictures. He finished writing his last

novel, *Lady Chatterley's Lover*, in Florence. The book brought him the worst trouble of his career. It told the story of a rich, married woman who has a sexual relationship with a man who works for her husband. *Lady Chatterley's Lover* was published privately in Florence in 1928, by a friend of Lawrence's. But thirty years passed before the whole novel was published in the United States and Britain. Penguin Books, the publishers, had to have a trial in a court before they could print the book.

In June 1929, Frieda took Lawrence to doctors in Germany and France. But they could not make him well. He died in Vence, France, on 2nd March, 1930. He was forty-four years old.

D. H. Lawrence was one of the most important British authors of the twentieth century. He wanted all important things to be discussed freely. And he believed that people should live their lives completely. He thought that women should be free to live how they wished. He upset many people, but he also made them think about their own relationships and beliefs.

Many of Lawrence's short stories were collected together and appeared in three volumes in 1955. He wrote *Love Among the Haystacks* in 1911 and rewrote it in 1913. *The Virgin and the Gipsy* and *The Rocking Horse Winner* were both written in 1926. *The Lovely Lady* was written in 1927. His travel books are: *Twilight in Italy* (1916), *Sea and Sardinia* (1921), *Mornings in Mexico* (1927) and *Etruscan Places* (1932).

1. Read the Note about the Author and the plays and answer the questions.

1.What was speacial about Lawrence when he was a child? _____

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2.Why could he study at The High School and at Unversity? _____

3. How much did Frieda influence him?

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4. What did he write about in his novels, stories and poems? _____

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5. What did people think of his stories?.

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6. His novel: "The Rainbow" brought him problems with the law. Why? _____

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LIVEWORKSHEETS

7. What was he worried about all through his life? _____

8. He had more problems with other books becuse what wanted was to ...

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LIVEWORKSHEETS