

Chapter 1 : Jude the Obscure Part 3, Chapter 1 Summary & Analysis from LitCharts | The creators of Spar

Overall Analysis and Themes. Jude the Obscure focuses on the life of a country stonemason, Jude, and his love for his cousin Sue, a schoolteacher. From the beginning Jude knows that marriage is an ill-fated venture in his family, and he believes that his love for Sue curses him doubly, because they are both members of a cursed clan.

He struggles patiently to realize his dream of a university education but is thwarted by a cruel fate and rigid, conservative social order. As a child, he was always fascinated with Christminster representing Oxford. He sees it is a "city of light," where "the tree of knowledge grows"; it is like "a castle manned by scholarship and religion. Sue adopts a different standpoint. She does not share his romantic ideals and viciously attacks Christminster as an "ignorant place, full of fetishists and ghost seers" Part III, Chapter 4 and a "nest of common schoolmasters" with a "timid obsequiousness to tradition" Part V, Chapter 8. Jude is not wanted at Christminster, and often Hardy describes the gloom of the university city in unfavorable terms: In Part VI, Chapter 2 the "gloom, bigotry and decay" of the place are stressed. Hardy criticizes social and educational structures which are so rigid and orthodox that someone like Jude, bright, hard-working, but lacking in means, is permanently expelled from the academic scene. Hardy wants to emphasize that Jude will always remain an outsider, denied access to improvement, not because of lack of ability, but because of his social class. The end of the book underlines this isolation with the bitter a picture of Jude on his death bed while the revelry of Remembrance Day occurs outside. However, much of this is not always fairly presented. Jude the Obscure was published in at a time when great expansion and liberalization was taking place in the universities. Ruskin College at Oxford had opened its doors to working class people. Both Oxford and Cambridge began to shed their exclusiveness and started to look outward. Cambridge led the way with University Extension lectures, and Biblical College Oxford started a similar program in The fact that part of these reforms were well under way is recognized by Jude himself Part VI, Chapter 10 , when he hopes that its doors will be more open to poor students like himself. Marriage and Relations between the Sexes In the second part of the book, Jude abandons his idea of entering Christminster and the focus shifts to Sue. The Themes of love, marriage, freedom and sexual relations replace the earlier theme of education and idealism. Hardy is inclined to view marriage with cynicism, and there are many disparaging comments about the contractual nature of marriage. Hardy was conscious that women were not treated equally in society and that the laws of nature were often heavily weighed against women. He treats the subject with sympathy and understanding. He also illustrates that marriage could victimize both men and women. There are no happy marriages or contented couples seen in the book. Jude, when married to Arabella, feels trapped in a hopeless situation. Marriage is compared to being "caught in a gin, which would cripple him if not her also for the rest of a lifetime. Intellectually, he recognizes that there is something in her "quite antipathetic to that side of him which had been occupied with literary study and the magnificent Christminster dream. It had been no vestal virgin who chose that missile for opening her attack on him" Part I, Chapter 6. A few chapters later, the reader is told, "he knew too well in the secret center of his brain that Arabella was not worth a great deal as a specimen of womankind" Part I, Chapter 9. But he has married the wrong woman, and the marriage is bound to be a disaster. Jude suspects that Sue has married Phillotson as a reaction to his own marriage, a kind of retaliation, a way of "asserting her own independence from him. After the ceremony there is a "frightened look in her eyes," as if she has only just become aware of the rashness of her decision. Sue is the loudest critic of matrimony in the novel. She makes sarcastic comments on the custom of giving away the bride, "like a she-ass or she-goat or any other domestic animal" Part III, Chapter 7. When her marriage is in trouble, she criticizes the institution, explaining the difficulty she experiences fitting into the conventional mold society demands. Hardy makes it clear, however, that it is the man here who is victimized in this marriage: Phillotson is far from being a cruel, tyrannical husband. Though a conservative in matrimonial matters, he is an extremely patient and "liberal" husband. Hardy himself points out her emotional inconsistency, and there are several indications that she is not really cut out for marriage. She calls marriage a "sordid contract" and a "hopelessly vulgar" institution, and she fears that an "iron contract should extinguish" all tenderness between them. The bulk of

her views on marriage are given in Parts V and VI. She feels that the contractual nature of the agreement will kill all spontaneity and romance: She sees it in terms of a sacrifice of the bride: Her guilt and the determination to mortify the flesh lead her to embrace the traditional view of the indissolubility of marriage. But neither the church nor civil law decrees that marriage is a punishment. As Jude points out, this marriage will be a "fanatic prostitution. Sue and Jude also became the subject of cruel gossip at Aldbrickham; the neighbors cold-shoulder them, Little Father Time is taunted at school, Jude loses his job, and the family is forced into a nomadic existence. Society is vindictive and intolerant of those who deviate from its codes.

Chapter 2 : SparkNotes: Jude the Obscure: Overall Analysis and Themes

Thomas Hardy's Jude the Obscure: In Hardy's Jude the Obscure, Hardy shows his views on religion and commitment to the Church which were said to have declined in the latter years of his life. (Ingham, xxvii) Throughout the book Hardy displays his feeling that religion is something that people use in order to satisfy themselves by giving.

Fictional region of England in which Thomas Hardy set most of his major novels. The countryside in many ways resembles that of southwestern England—rolling hills, babbling brooks, quaint villages, and rustic rural folk. Jude is initiated into adulthood in Marygreen; he learns a work ethic and experiences the temptation of fleshly desires. Here he marries Arabella and gives up his dreams of pursuing an education. This town is set in opposition to the university town of Christminster, which Jude views as an enlightened place of learning. Christminster represents a typical university institution of the nineteenth century. It professes Christian values of humility and generosity yet excludes applicants based on class and gender. Jude moves to Christminster after his failed marriage to Arabella. However, Christminster will not accept him because he is a stonemason and therefore part of the working class. Even though Jude is intelligent and has studied independently, his application is rejected. Thus the city represents the belittling attitude of the Victorian upper classes toward the lower classes. Here, too, Jude meets his cousin, Sue Bridehead. This town is modeled on Oxford with its many colleges and exclusive intellectual atmosphere. Hardy identifies particular places in Christminster as real places in Oxford: The meeting place of Jude and Sue is the cross in the pavement on Broad Street the cross marks the place where Protestant bishops were burned to death during the reign of Queen Mary ; Cardinal College is modeled on Christ Church College; St. Silas is inspired by St. Village to which Jude follows Sue after his failed attempt at Christminster. Here Sue and Jude finally recognize their love for each another and its dangers. When Phillotson and Sue settle in this city in southern Wessex, where they teach together, she realizes that she has betrayed herself and can no longer stay with Phillotson. Sue and Jude reunite, and breaking all conventions for marriage standards, Phillotson reluctantly gives his blessing for their future. Jude and Sue move to Aldbrickham to escape criticism and pose as a married couple, while Jude works repairing and creating ornamental Gothic architectural works. When the vestry discovers that they are not married, they are ostracized from the community. In a run-down house, symbolic of their demise, the son kills his younger siblings and himself in what he thinks is an act of mercy. The horror of this act is symbolized in the derelict conditions to which Sue and Jude have been reduced. Fashioned after Reading, Berkshire, Aldbrickham represents a typical Victorian village with its rigid prescriptions for social behavior.

Chapter 3 : Jude The Obscure (Audiobook) by Thomas Hardy | blog.quintoapp.com

Thomas Hardy and Jude the Obscure Part I. The novels of Thomas Hardy are known for their tragic heroes and heroines and their grave, socially critical tone. Norton states that "Hardy's novels show the forces of nature outside and inside individuals combining to shape human destiny".

He decides to become a low-ranking clergyman and try to do some good in the world and to his soul. Jude is slightly cheered by this decision. He gets a letter from Sue, who tells him that she is going to enter a Training College in the town of Melchester. Jude knows there is also a Theological College there, so he decides to move to Melchester too. This seems like a good plan for Jude and a chance to improve his station in an achievable way, but his fate will lead him down a more tragic path. Hardy arranges the parts of the novel around the different towns Jude and Sue live, as they seek to find their place in a world that does not accept them. Active Themes Jude postpones his move for a few weeks, waiting for the days to grow longer after the first of the year, as he will have to find stonemasonry work in Melchester. Jude gladly does so. He arrives in Melchester and sees that the cathedral there is undergoing restoration, a good sign for his job prospects. Sue has tried to suppress her intellect and independent nature and submit to the strict, religious Training School, but this has clearly made her unhappy. Though Jude already loves Sue, Sue begins by seeing Jude as a kind of protector and confidant, as she recognizes the affinity between their natures. Active Themes Jude finds Sue and they greet each other. She looks more prim and disciplined than before, but still beautiful. Jude takes her to dinner and she tells him about the strictness of the Training College, which she finds abrasive. She mentions that Phillotson might find her a teaching job after she graduates. Sue at first dismisses this, saying Phillotson is too old, but then she confesses that she had promised to marry Phillotson in two years and then teach jointly with him at a school in a larger town. She agrees to marry Phillotson mostly to further her own career "instead of acting as a traditional housewife, she wants to keep teaching alongside her husband. Like Jude before Arabella, Sue is ignorant regarding sexuality and the tragic possibilities of a bad marriage. Active Themes Jude is upset but he tries to congratulate Sue. She recognizes his distress and tries to downplay the marriage. Jude begins finding piecemeal work and then is employed to work at repairing the Cathedral, whose stonework is being completely overhauled. He reads books of theology in his spare time, preparing himself for his new career. When he needs relief he reads modern, nonreligious authors though. Retrieved November 11,

Chapter 4 : The best novels: No 29 " Jude the Obscure by Thomas Hardy () | Books | The Guardian

Jude the Obscure study guide contains a biography of Thomas Hardy, literature essays, a complete e-text, quiz questions, major themes, characters, and a full summary and analysis. About Jude the Obscure.

Young Jude is hungry for learning and yearns to go to Christminster, too, but he has to help his great-grandaunt, Drusilla Fawley, in her bakery. At Christminster, Phillotson does not forget his former pupil. He sends Jude some classical grammars, which the boy studies eagerly. Anticipating a career as a religious scholar, Jude apprentices himself at the age of nineteen to a stonemason engaged in the restoration of medieval churches in a nearby town. The young man is swept off his feet and tricked into marriage, but he soon realizes that he married a vulgar country girl with whom he has nothing in common. Embittered, he tries unsuccessfully to commit suicide; when he begins to drink, Arabella leaves him. Once he is free again, Jude decides to carry out his original intention. He goes to Christminster, where he takes work as a stonemason. He hears that his cousin, Sue Bridehead, lives in Christminster, but he does not seek her out because his aunt warned him against her and because he was already a married man. Eventually, he meets her and is charmed. She is an artist employed in an ecclesiastical warehouse. Jude connects with Phillotson, who is again a simple schoolteacher. The teacher soon loses his heart to his bright and intellectually independent young helper, and Jude is hurt by evidence of intimacy between the two. Disappointed in love and ambition, he turns to drink and is dismissed by his employer. He goes back to Marygreen. At Marygreen, Jude is persuaded by a minister to enter the church as a licentiate. Jude works at stonemasonry in Melchester to be near Sue, even though she tells him she promised to marry Phillotson after completing her schooling. Dismissed from college after an innocent escapade with Jude, Sue influences him away from the church with her unorthodox beliefs. Shortly afterward, she marries Phillotson. Jude is despondent and returns to Christminster, where he comes The entire section is 1, words.

Chapter 5 : Jude the Obscure Summary - blog.quintoapp.com

LitCharts assigns a color and icon to each theme in Jude the Obscure, which you can use to track the themes throughout the work. Cosby, Matt. "Jude the Obscure Part 3, Chapter 1." LitCharts. LitCharts LLC, 24 Jul Web. 4 Nov Cosby, Matt. "Jude the Obscure Part 3, Chapter 1." LitCharts.

The marriage is a failure, and Arabella leaves Jude and later emigrates to Australia, where she enters into a bigamous marriage. By this time, Jude has abandoned his classical studies. After Arabella leaves him, Jude moves to Christminster and supports himself as a mason while studying alone, hoping to be able to enter the university later. There, he meets and falls in love with his free-spirited cousin, Sue Bridehead. But, shortly after this, Jude introduces Sue to his former schoolteacher, Mr. Phillotson, whom she eventually is persuaded to marry, despite being some twenty years her senior. However, she soon regrets this, because in addition to being in love with Jude, she is horrified by the notion of sex with her husband. Sue soon asks Phillotson for permission to leave him for Jude, which he grants, once he realizes how unwilling she is in fulfilling her marital duties to him. Because of this scandal, the fact Phillotson willingly allows his wife to leave for another man, Phillotson has to give up his career as a schoolmaster. Sue and Jude spend some time living together without any sexual relationship. Soon after, Arabella reappears and this complicates matters. Arabella and Jude divorce and she legally marries her bigamous husband, and Sue also is divorced. He is named Jude and nicknamed "Little Father Time" because of his intense seriousness and lack of humour. Jude eventually convinces Sue to sleep with him and, over the years, they have two children together and expect a third. But Jude and Sue are socially ostracised for living together unmarried, especially after the children are born. He leaves behind a note that simply reads, "Done because we are too menny. Although horrified at the thought of resuming her marriage with Phillotson, she becomes convinced that, for religious reasons, she should never have left him. This results in Sue leaving Jude once again for Phillotson, and she punishes herself by allowing herself sex with her husband. Jude is devastated and remarries Arabella after she plies him with alcohol to once again trick him into marriage. After one final, desperate visit to Sue in freezing weather, Jude becomes seriously ill and dies within the year in Christminster, thwarted in his ambition to achieve fame in his studies as well as in his love. It is revealed that Sue has grown "staid and worn" with Phillotson. The events of Jude the Obscure occur over a year period, but no dates are specifically given in the novel. It would seem that his burdens exceeded his sheer ability to survive, much less to triumph. Themes[edit] The novel explores several social problems in Victorian England, especially those relating to the institutions of marriage, the Church, and education. Although the central characters represent both perspectives, the novel as a whole is firmly critical of Christianity and social institutions in general. Jude, from his origins in Marygreen, always found religion to be the end game of an otherwise troublesome and uninteresting life. Organized religion, as Hardy argues, is a system which actively complicates and obstructs the ambitions of our protagonists. If one were to step back from these tangible institutions, the more encompassing themes of faith and doubt play an equally important role in the novel; both of these, in fact, are similar in that they are catalysts for action. Whenever a character proclaims faith in something, that something is pursued. Similarly, when a character doubts something, that is pursued. In the book, doubt can be viewed as a transfer of faith; whenever a character is doubting, they are simply deciding to put their faith in something else. Because the book has no universal standard of morality or value system, there is no black and white. Whatever the character believes in is what they pursue, whether or not it conflicts with the beliefs of another character. In the final part of the novel, because of a change in her beliefs, Sue discovers that she is committed only to Mr. Because she puts faith in something else, in this case religion and therefore marriage, she takes action in a completely different direction than before. Although Jude wishes to attend the university at Christminster, he cannot afford the cost involved in studying for a degree, and he lacks the rigorous training necessary to qualify for a fellowship. He is therefore prevented from gaining economic mobility and getting out of the working class. This theme of unattainable education was personal for Hardy since he, like Jude, had not been able to afford to study for a degree at Oxford or Cambridge, in spite of his early interest in scholarship and the classics. Through this extreme change in the

character of Sue, Hardy shows Christianity as an extraordinarily powerful social force that is capable of causing a seemingly independent-minded woman like Sue to be self-immolating and sexually repressed. Since Hardy was always highly critical of organised religion, as Emma became more and more religious, their differing views led to a great deal of tension in their marriage, and this tension was a major factor leading to their increased alienation from one another. The novel has two incidents of cruelty to animals. In slaughtering the pig which Jude and Arabella had diligently fattened, it was necessary to obtain a better quality of meat that the animal be "well bled, and to do that pig must die slowly. Jude was compelled to kill a trapped rabbit by "breaking its neck to end its suffering. In , the book was published in London under its present title, *Jude the Obscure* dated In his Preface to the first edition, Hardy provides details of the conception and writing history of the novel, claiming that certain details were inspired by the death of a woman most likely his cousin, Tryphena Sparks in *Reviews*[edit] Called "*Jude the Obscene*" by at least one reviewer, [11] *Jude the Obscure* received a harsh reception from some scandalized critics. Among the critics was Walsham How , Bishop of Wakefield ; Hardy later claimed that the bishop had burned a copy. Sisson describes this "hypothesis" as "superficial and absurd". Lawrence , an admirer of Hardy, was puzzled by the character of Sue Bridehead, and attempted to analyse her conflicted sexuality in his *A Study of Thomas Hardy* At least one recent scholar has postulated that Jude borrowed heavily from an earlier novel, *The Wages of Sin* by Lucas Malet. Cultural references[edit] Elements of the ITV drama *Broadchurch* are drawn from the life and works of Thomas Hardy, and one character says in a police interview that he had read the book *Jude the Obscure*. It began on 8 June Penguin edition, , p.

Chapter 6 : Thomas Hardy and a Literary Analysis of Jude the Obscure | A Brave Heart

Jude the Obscure Homework Help Questions. How can we talk about the theme of marriage in Jude the Obscure by Thomas Hardy? Marriage is the central issue in this novel.

Summary Analysis Jude and Sue find lodgings in the Beersheba district, and Jude finds some stonemasonry work. They spend much of their time sitting silently together, both in anguish. Jude indulges some Victorian sexism in putting Sue back on a pedestal, claiming all the agency in their fate for himself. Active Themes Sue is fixated on the idea that they are being punished, and she decides that she still rightfully belongs to Phillotson, as she and Jude never really married. The tragic close now begins to fall into place. Active Themes Sue says she wishes she could take back all her unorthodox views and formidable intellect. Jude is upset by this, and he asks Sue to marry him if that will satisfy her new fear of the law. She says that she has started going to church in secret, and she thinks she must leave Jude and return to Phillotson. Jude realizes that he and Sue are switching places in terms of religious belief. Sue turns to religion like Jude turns to alcohol, in a spirit of depression and shame. Active Themes A few days later Arabella visits the couple. Arabella tells Jude that her father has returned from Australia and she is living with him now. She departs after a respectable amount of time. Jude and Sue both got legal divorces from their spouses, but it is now clear that they can never escape their bad first marriages. Meanwhile Sue has disappeared, and Jude goes to look for her at the church, though it is nighttime. He finds Sue there sobbing and prostrating herself. Little Father Time did act as a symbol of bad marriage and foolish decisions Jude and Arabella killing true love and brilliant idealism Jude and Sue. Sue becomes obsessed with the idea of punishment and strict religious rules, as she needs some order in her world after all the horror and perhaps to punish herself for her previous ideas by now believing their opposite. Active Themes Related Quotes with Explanations Jude responds by lamenting that the once brilliant, wise Sue has so degraded herself, and he tells her that she is making him hate religion. She says she does love him, but she started out merely desiring to be loved by him. She begs Jude to leave her, as she is now convinced that she must return to Phillotson. Sue now admits that even their pure love began for her as jealousy and vanity. Jude still speaks in Biblical language and now compares both himself and Sue to Christ "when Jesus was crucified, the veil of the temple was torn in two. Sue clearly still loves Jude and has no feelings for Phillotson, but she has now chosen law over emotion. Retrieved November 11,

Chapter 7 : Thomas Hardy's Jude the Obscure: Summary & Analysis SchoolWorkHelper

Need help with Part 6, Chapter 3 in Thomas Hardy's Jude the Obscure? Check out our revolutionary side-by-side summary and analysis.

So Hardy followed his advice and he did not try further to publish it. He subsequently destroyed the manuscript, but used some of the ideas in his later work. Wessex had been the name of an early Saxon kingdom, in approximately the same part of England. Far from the Madding Crowd was successful enough for Hardy to give up architectural work and pursue a literary career. Over the next twenty-five years Hardy produced ten more novels. Then in , they moved for the last time, to Max Gate , a house outside Dorchester designed by Hardy and built by his brother. Its subtitle, A Pure Woman: Faithfully Presented, was intended to raise the eyebrows of the Victorian middle classes. Jude the Obscure , published in , met with an even stronger negative response from the Victorian public because of its controversial treatment of sex, religion and marriage. Some booksellers sold the novel in brown paper bags, and the Bishop of Wakefield , Walsham How , is reputed to have burnt his copy. The reader is forced to reconsider the conventions set up by society for the relationships between women and men. Nineteenth-century society had conventions, which were enforced. In a novel structured around contrasts, the main opposition is between Swithin St Cleeve and Lady Viviette Constantine, who are presented as binary figures in a series of ways: Far From the Madding Crowd is an example of a novel in which chance has a major role: In Hardy published his first volume of poetry, Wessex Poems , a collection of poems written over 30 years. While some suggest that Hardy gave up writing novels following the harsh criticism of Jude the Obscure in , the poet C. Sisson calls this "hypothesis" "superficial and absurd". Thomas Hardy wrote in a great variety of poetic forms including lyrics , ballads , satire, dramatic monologues , and dialogue, as well as a three-volume epic closet drama The Dynasts '08 , [32] and though in some ways a very traditional poet, because he was influenced by folksong and ballads , [33] he "was never conventional," and "persistently experiment[ed] with different, often invented, stanza forms and metres, [34] and made use of "rough-hewn rhythms and colloquial diction". They had been estranged for twenty years and these lyric poems express deeply felt "regret and remorse". Holst also wrote the orchestral tone poem Egdon Heath: A Homage to Thomas Hardy in Although his poems were initially not as well received as his novels had been, Hardy is now recognised as one of the greatest twentieth-century poets, and his verse has had a profound influence on later writers, including Robert Frost , W. Auden , Dylan Thomas , and, most notably Philip Larkin. He was baptised at the age of five weeks and attended church, where his father and uncle contributed to music. As a young adult, he befriended Henry R. Bastow a Plymouth Brethren man , who also worked as a pupil architect, and who was preparing for adult baptism in the Baptist Church. Hardy flirted with conversion, but decided against it. The irony and struggles of life, coupled with his naturally curious mind, led him to question the traditional Christian view of God: Once, when asked in correspondence by a clergyman, Dr A. Grosart, about the question of reconciling the horrors of human and animal life with "the absolute goodness and non-limitation of God", [50] Hardy replied, Mr. Hardy regrets that he is unable to offer any hypothesis which would reconcile the existence of such evils as Dr. Grosart describes with the idea of omnipotent goodness. Grosart might be helped to a provisional view of the universe by the recently published Life of Darwin and the works of Herbert Spencer and other agnostics. He also showed in his writing some degree of fascination with ghosts and spirits. Please help improve this article by adding citations to reliable sources. Unsourced material may be challenged and removed.

Chapter 8 : Jude the Obscure THEMES-THEME ANALYSIS

A short summary of Thomas Hardy's Jude the Obscure. This free synopsis covers all the crucial plot points of Jude the Obscure.

All for the love of history! Hardy was something of a pioneer in that he attacked dearly held British institutions, such as higher education, social class, and marriage, in his novels and stories. In the latter, he lived up to this innovative nature by introducing one of the first feminist characters: Hardy was born in near Dorchester in England. He trained as an architect and spent most of his life in that occupation. The suicide of his mentor, Horace Moule, greatly affected Hardy and his writing and is said to have spurred the start of his writing career in *Jude the Obscure* Author Bio. His first novel was rejected by publishers in However, he was encouraged to write another and *Desperate Remedies* was published anonymously in His first real success, *Under the Greenwood Tree*, was published also anonymously in The aforementioned *Tess* and *Jude the Obscure* were published in and respectively with *Jude* being his last novel. Most of his novels are tragic and focus on the ironic in the lives of his characters. In no other novel was the feminist cause more evident than in *Jude the Obscure*. *Jude the Obscure* Postscript 6 And so Hardy ceased writing novels and became a writer of poetry. His first collection of verse, *Wessex Poems*, was published in He would devote the last thirty years of his life to writing poetry and his autobiography, *The Early Life of Thomas Hardy* published posthumously He was also known to have burned his old letters, notebooks and private papers although some of his notebooks are still in existence today. Thomas Hardy died on January 11, *Jude* is idealic in his pursuit of higher education-determined to go to Christminster, a city of colleges and higher learning, to become a scholar. However, he is ensnared by marriage to Arabella that appears to him to be a situation more easily attained than to become a scholar. He soon learns that he is confined to an unhappy marriage and this is where the attack on marriage begins. This is exactly the spotlight on marriage that Hardy intended and one that afforded him much criticism at the time. His early marriage becomes an obstacle to his forming an attachment to his cousin, Sue Bridehead. This leads us to the character of Sue who is often thought to be one of the first feminist characters of novels. Sue has very unconventional ideas on marriage. She lived with an undergraduate scholar platonically for two or three years until he died-quite unheard of in that time. For this reason, Sue feels obliged to marry Phillotson. Finding herself expelled from the college and unable to be with Jude because she finds he is married, Sue-in a state of anger and frustration-marries Phillotson outright for lack of a suitable alternative. Although she likes Phillotson, she is unattracted to, and even repulsed by, him. She soon realizes her mistake and she confesses to Jude the following: I am certain one ought to be allowed to undo what one has done so ignorantly! *Jude the Obscure* Soon after this, she leaves Phillotson and they are divorced. Jude has become divorced from Arabella in the interim. Jude thinks he can be happy in this arrangement as long as he is with Sue. They find out that Arabella had a son by Jude that has been living in Australia with her parents where Arabella fled to when her marriage to Jude ended. The grandparents are no longer able to care for the boy so Arabella asks Jude and Sue to take him in. Jude and Sue also have two children together at this point. The presence of children increases the lack of acceptance by society. They are unable to find lodging and Jude loses jobs because they are not married and have children together. Hardy knows, no doubt as everybody does, that the children are a most serious part of the question of the abolition of marriage. She views it as the result of her crimes against the institution of marriage-her love for Jude is a sin in itself. She expresses her anguish to Jude: I see marriage differently now. What, what shall I do! In despair, Jude goes back to Arabella and turns to the drink. He has already been ill and not too long after, he dies. And so ends *Jude the Obscure*, certainly tragic, but thoroughly modern in its sensibilities. Yet the final impact of the book is shattering. The Norton Anthology of English literature.

Chapter 9 : Jude the Obscure by Thomas Hardy

Jude the Obscure is a novel by Thomas Hardy, which began as a magazine serial in December and was first published in book form in It is Hardy's last completed novel. It is Hardy's last completed novel.

By doing this he creates a character who is looking for something to give him an identity. As a result of his relationship with Mr. Phillotson who leaves for Christminster in order to become ordained, he finds religion and feels that he can use it to help him gain an identity. Hardy feels that people should shy away from their old ways of thinking and begin to form new opinions of their own. He feels that people should not just blindly follow religion without deciding for themselves that this is what they want. People should not be as Jude who becomes obsessed with religion simply because his mentor Phillotson felt this way. One of the major reasons that causes Hardy to have these views is that he feels religion leads to hypocrisy. He feels that man has many desires that go against the laws of religion, and these desires lead man to feel very hypocritical. These feelings of hypocrisy then cause man to have many inner conflicts that lead to many problems. This negativity towards religion is seen both through symbols in the book and in the plot itself. The symbols that convey this message are the name Jude, which is an allusion to Judas Iscariot who was a traitor to Jesus. The name Jude can also be a reference to the wandering Jew. The second symbol is Christminster. Another symbol that we encounter is that of Samson who is symbolic of man going after women that are forbidden to him. Finally, the job Jude chooses is also symbolic of the anti-religious attitude that is shown. The negativity towards religion is first revealed in the name Jude. Jude is an allusion to Judas Iscariot. Judas betrayed Jesus to his enemy for thirty pieces of silver. He later returned the money he received to kill Jesus and then went off and killed himself. When Jude was in his younger years he had strong feelings towards religion. Jude began to move away from God as his life progressed. This occurred when he started to feel the guilt that arose from his feelings for Sue. He then abruptly betrays Jesus for a mere thirty pieces of silver, the price of a slave. He is very unsure of himself and it is the hypocrisy that seems to eat away at him until he can longer take it, and as a result he ends up killing himself. Jude is very unsure of himself when it comes to religion, mirroring Judas. At first, he wants to be ordained, but, only because he wants to follow in the footsteps of his mentor Phillotson. He then is no longer able to keep his religious views because he cannot live with the fact that they go against his deepest desires to be with Sue. As with Judas, religion causes Jude to act very hypocritically. Jude wanted to be religious, yet at the same time he wanted to remain together with Sue. Finally, Jude can longer cope with all these feelings of guilt and confusion and he is forced to leave the Church. Thus we see that religion causes someone to be very confused and act in a very hypocritical manner. Hardy feels that these feelings are not necessary and could be avoided by avoiding religion. Had Jude and Sue not had the conflict of religion they would have been able to marry each other without having any guilty feelings. The word Jude can mean the wandering Jew. By calling the main character of the book Jude, Hardy is making a reference to a group of people who believe in God and are classified as wandering. By using this allusion Hardy is trying to convey to us that the path of religion is not one that has a true destination, but rather it is one of fallacy that leaves people wandering. Literally we see him wandering from place to place to find work, and figuratively we see him searching for his own identity. We encounter negativity towards religion by the town called Christminster. Christminster can be broken down into Christ and minister. At first, Christminster is symbolic of a place that is supposed to be wonderful like the world of the Church. It is likened to the Church by the phrases in which Hardy uses to describe it. Ingham, 85 These biblical references lead us to make a religious connection between the Church and Christminster. Christminster is also seen as a place where he hopes to fulfill all his hopes and dreams. His desire for this ideal vision involves a rejection of reality. For his own sporadically controlled, partially understood world, he substitutes the image of an ideal unified, stable, and understandable one. He does this in order to escape his complicated reality. Hardy is trying to tell us that we should not fall into the same predicament as Jude; we should not allow ourselves to run after religion as an escape to our problems because it will only lead to hardships. Here we see that the two major goals that Jude had hoped to achieve in Christminster both remained unfulfilled. What Hardy is trying to tell us is that at in many instances religion

may seem to be the path to take. However, after one delves deep into the meaning of religion he finds, as Jude does in Christminster, that while it may seem great from a distance, it is actually just filled with many letdowns. Thus, the view on religion is: He then realizes that with his true feelings he cannot continue to follow the Church because it would be hypocritical. What Jude is realizing is that one must choose his own path and should not feel compelled to follow God, if he does not come to the conclusion himself. When Jude and Arabella go walking together, they stop at an inn to drink tea. At this time Hardy makes mention of the picture on the wall. The hanging picture is of Samson and Delilah. Samson, although a fighter for his nation, was not someone who strictly adhered to the laws of religion. Samson showed his lack of adhesion to the laws of the bible by sleeping with three forbidden women. Samson is thus a symbol of one going against the proper views of the bible, as Jude. By bringing up Samson at such a time Hardy is trying to tell us something. He is trying to tell us that even though one of the great heroes of the bible has gone and committed sin with forbidden women, he was still able to become a hero. Hardy therefore brings this to our attention to show us that religion is not necessary in order for one to lead a successful life. By making this reference Hardy is trying to make Jude into a tragic hero. This is done through the mention of Samson. Hardy is saying that as Samson Jude is also a hero. While Samson was a hero because of his strength and ability to triumph in battle, Jude is a hero because he has the strength to fight against what society deems to be acceptable the ways of the Church. Jude is not swayed like most by what others feel he should do, but rather he is a fighter. Hardy compares Jude to Jesus in many instances, one of which is when Jude is angry at Sue for marrying Phillotson. This comparison is brought up when Jude and Sue are talking about which inn to go to, in order to avoid being seen by others. Here we have Jude intending to commit adultery with Sue and we have Hardy comparing him to Jesus. Crucify me if you will! You know you are the world to me, whatever you do! We encounter Jude and Sue arguing about her feelings for Phillotson. Once Jude realizes that he has caused Sue to feel bad he immediately tries to comfort her.