

جامعة تكريت

كلية التربية للعلوم الانسانية

قسم اللغة الانكليزية



المرحلة الثالثة

Subject Name: Novel

Lecture: Hardtimes

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The eighth lecture

Character: The main ones are the most important and the big role in the story. And second ones writer needs them to make the story

Learning as the same other people live is ground work for valuing them as a creature; learning about them only in terms of their productivity is a recipe for class warfare. If this proper groundwork is not laid, then a perverted kind of learning can take its place, full of cynicism and misanthropy. Thirdly, the theme of Wealth, the novel contain specific view on wealth, there is great difference between rich and poor and the myth that created by rich people is the poor can lift themselves up by their bootstraps. Those who rise does so at the expense of other, and even then their progress is slow, painful, and does not reach much higher than where they started. They believed that with wealth can privilege of escaping from paying for transgression, and the chance to start life over fresh. Also the theme of morality and ethics, in Hard Times, the key moral that includes empathy, generosity, and altruism.

According to Dickens these themes are foundation of human relationship. There is no getting around them with any other quality, however positive. And those who possess the qualities are much better equipped to handle the world, however hostile it may be. Those who lack these basic ways to connect to other people are doomed to a lonely and miserable existence. Finally, the family also considered as a theme in Hard Times, When families are emotionally they provide amoral education that centers on self- sacrifice and altruism.

And in this according to the novel 18 that what make a good society, however when families are ruled by cold logic they lose their emotional connection and society as whole becomes totally self-serving. 3.3 Characters Characters are

classified into main and secondary characters. The main ones are the most important and the big role in the story. And second ones writer needs them to make the story more convincing and lifelike. The main characters in Charles Dickens's novel *Hard Times*, are important, charming, and occasionally humorous types of personalities that most people know, by them Dickens is able to expose the follies of humanity in a compelling novel.

Thomas Gradgrind: A wealthy, retired merchant in Coketown, later a member of parliament. Mr. Gradgrind espouses a philosophy of rationalism, self-interest, cold and hard fact, he described himself as an "eminently man", and he tries his children Louisa, Tom, Jane, Adam Smith, and Malthus to be equally practical by forbidding the development of their imaginations and emotions. Thomas Gradgrind is the first character we meet in *Hard Times*, and of the central figures through whom Dickens weaves together a web of intricately connected plotlines and characters. Dickens introduces us to this character with a description of his most central feature; his mechanized, monotone, attitude and appearance. The opening scene in the novel describes Mr. Gradgrind's speech to group of young students, and it is appropriate that Gradgrind physically embodies the dry, hard facts that he crams into his students' heads.

Dickens calls attention to Gradgrind's "square coat, square legs, square shoulders," In the first few chapters of the novel, Mr. Gradgrind expounds his philosophy of calculating, rational self-interest, He believes that human nature can be governed by completely rational rules this philosophy has brought Mr. Gradgrind much financial and social success, He has made his fortune as a hardware merchant, a trade that, appropriately, deals in hard, material reality.

After Gradgrind becomes a wiser and humbler man, ultimately "making his facts and figures subservient to faith, hope and charity". Louisa: Gradgrind's daughter, later Bounderby's wife. Confused by her cold, silent and unfeeling upbringing. Louisa feels disconnected from her emotions and alienation from other people.

While she vaguely recognizes that her father's system of education has deprived her childhood of all joy, she also can not actively invoke her emotions or connect with others, and she marries Bounderby to please her father even though she does not love her husband. The only person she loves completely is her brother Tom. Louisa is the principal character in the novel, she is distinct from the novel's other women, particularly from her foils.

Sissy and Rachael. Tomas Gradgrind: Gradgrind's eldest son and an apprentice at Bounderby's bank, who is generally called Tom. Tom reacts to his strict upbringing by becoming a dissipated, hedonistic, hypocritical young man. He loves money and gambling even more than he loves Louisa. These vices lead him to rob Bounderby's bank and implicate Stephen as the robbery's prime suspect. Josiah Bounderby: Gradgrind friend belong to the middle class and later Louisa's husband, Bounderby claim to be a self-made man and boastfully he describes being abandoned by his mother as a young boy.

From his childhood poverty he has risen to become a banker and factory owner in Coketown, known by everyone for his wealth and power. Cecilia Jupe: The daughter of clown in Sleary's circus. Sissy is taken in Gradgrind when her father disappears, Sissy serves as foil, or contrast, to Louisa; while Sissy is imaginative and compassionate, and she embodies the Victorian femininity that counterbalances mechanization and industry. Her interaction with Louisa is able to explore Louisa's sensitive feminine sides. 20 Mrs. Sparsit: Bounderby's housekeeper, who goes to live at the bank apartment when Bounderby marries Louisa.

Once a member of the aristocratic elite, Mrs. Sparsit fell on hard times after the collapse of her marriage. A selfish, dishonest woman, she cherishes secret hopes of ruining Bounderby's marriage so that she can marry him herself. Mrs. Sparsit's aristocratic background is emphasized by the narrator's frequent allusion to her "Roman" and "Carolinian" appearance. Stephen Blackpool: A Hand in Bounderby's

factory. Stephen loves Rachael but is unable to marry her because he is already married.

a man of great honesty, compassion, and integrity. belong from the working class. James Harthouse: A sophisticated and manipulative young London gentleman who comes to Coketown searching for a new form of amusement, he belong to the upper class . He quickly becomes attracted to Louisa and resolves to reduce her. In another hand Dickens uses many minor characters to help the major characters moving the plot events forward. They are: Bitzer: pupil in Gradgrind's school. Mrs. Gradgrind: The wife of Thomas Gradgrind. Rachael: A simple, honest hand who loves Stephen Blackpool. To Stephen, she represents domestic happiness and moral purity. Jane Gradgrind: The youngest child of Mr. Gradgrind. Mr. Sleary: The manager of circus. Mrs.

Pegler: Old woman, Bounderby's mother. 21 Mr. M'Choakumchild: A teacher in Gradgrind's school. Slackbridge: The trade union's agitator. Signor: Sissy's father, working in circus. Josephine Sleary: A young woman and the daughter of Mr. Sleary. Finally, Dickens describe the different social classes, in which the three characters; James Harthouse, Josiah Bounderby from the upper and the middle classes and Stephen Blackpool from the working class by explain their education, work, living condition and even their dialect in this novel can make a different between social classes in the Victorian society(Ilhem 2012).

The upper and middle class they well educated and they speak a highly standard English, example from Harthouse's speech "Mr. Bounderby I assure you I am entirely and completely of your way of thinking"(Hard Times 103) , they eat a good food and houses contain several rooms as in the novel " They went down in the drawing room"(Hard Times 83). However the working class live in bad

condition, they not able to read example from the novel “Not the least eager of the eyes assembles were the eyes of those who could no to read, these people, as they listened to the friendly voice that read aloud”. (Hard Times 198), also they work in dirty and dangerous factories, they do not eat well and living just in one room like Stephen Blackpool “who was asleep in his little room”. Conclusion Dickens creates Hard Times by the use special characterization and portrays certain social realities of an industrial society that reflect the issues of the Victorian era including the class