



L,U,C,I,E.

Nadine Gordimer

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2N BATXC

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I. THE READER

1. - WHAT DOES LUCIE DO?

She is a lawyer.

"... I correct the spelling because I'm a lawyer and I'm accustomed to precision in language..." (line 8 from the text)

2. - WHO DID SHE TAKE HER NAME FROM?

She takes her name because of her father's Italian granny. Her name is Lucie, although the original Italian name is Lucia.

"...I'm named for my father's Italian grandmother, and the correct Italian form of the name is Lucia. This had no significance for me until I saw her name on her tomb: LUCIE..." (line 13 to 15 from the text)

3. - WHY DID SHE TAKE A TRIP TO ITALY WITH HER FATHER?

Lucie and his father took that trip because of her mother died. He saw her daughter as the clone of his wife. Going to another country maybe protected him from the reality and he took the restraints of his life.

"... it was one of those journeys taken after the death of a wife when the male who has survived sees the daughter as the clone woman who, taken out of present time and place to the past and another country. will protect him from the proximity of death and restore him to the domain of life..." (line 17 to 20 from the text)

4. - HAD LUCIE'S FATHER BEEN TO EUROPE BEFORE? ON WHAT PURPOSE?

Lucie's father had been to Europe almost every year with his wife. They went to Europe because Lucie's mother wanted to go to art galleries and museums in the best European cities and her father liked to be invited to speak in war conferences everywhere.

"...He has been to Europe so many times—with my mother, almost every year. ..." (line 28 to 29)

"...My mother wanted to go to art galleries and theatres in great European cities, he was gratified to be invited to speak at conferences in Hong Kong and Toronto ..." (line 45 to 47 from the text)

5. - DID LUCIE'S FATHER SPEAK ITALIAN?

Her father didn't speak Italian very well but he hesitated translating for her.

"...My father was translating for me, but hesitantly, not much is left of his Italian. ..." (line 56 and 57 from the text)

6. - WHICH WERE THE FIRST TWO PLACES THAT LUCIE AND HER FATHER VISITED ONCE THEY HAD ARRIVED IN ITALY?

Firstly, they visited the only albergo that was in the village, where the proprietor mother remembered Lucie's father. Secondly, they went to Church Square where he played and where there was an infant school where her father has gone for a few months.

"...My father was translating for me, but hesitantly, not much is left of his Italian...." (line 52 from the text)

"...The church square where he vividly remembered playing was still there and the nuns still ran an infant school where he thought he might have been enrolled for a few months.(line 61 to 63 from the text)

7. - WHICH MOUNTAIN RIDGE IS MENTIONED IN THE TEXT?

In the text is mentioned the Alps when Lucie described what she looked when she was looking on to the window.

"...I didn't know how long I stayed like that, glitteringly bathed in the vast mist that drowned the entire valley between the window and the dark rope of the Alps' ..." (line 102 to 105 from the text)

8. - HOW LONG DID THEY STAY IN ITALY?

According to the text, they stayed four days in Italy

"...We had four days. ..."(line 116 from the text)

9. - WHERE DID THEY GO ON THEIR LAST AFTERRNON THERE?

Lucie and her father went to the village old cementary their last afternnon there.

"..On our last afternoon, he said 'Let's walk up to the old cemetery.' My mother was cremated—so there was no question of returning painfully to the kind of scene where we had parted with her.." (line 116 to 118 from the text)

"...But it seemed this was just one of the directions we hadn't yet taken on the walks where he had shown me what he believed belonged to me, given in naming me..." (line 120 to 122 from the text)

10. - WHEN LUCIE ASKED HER FATHER WHY HER GRANDMOTHER'S NAME WAS THIS AND NOT LUCIA, WHAT DID HE TELL HER?

Her father told her he didn't know it very well but that he thought she was because of his mother's French affair, who used the French version of that name.

"...- I don't really know—only what I was told by my father, and he didn't say much. . . parents in those days. . . the sisters kept their mouths shut, I suppose, and in any case he was away working at the docks in Nice from the age of eighteen. . . Apparently she had also gone to work in France when she was very young— the family was poor, no opportunity here. She was a maid in an hotel, and there's something about her having had a love affair with a Frenchman who used the French version of her name... and so she kept it, even when she married my grandfather..." (line 166 to 173 from the text)

11. - WHAT WAS THE LAST WOMAN THAT LUCIE AND HER FATHER MET WEARING?

Lucie and her father met a woman at the gate of the cemetery, a woman in backless slippers and flowered overall local women dressed except to go to the church. Reading the text we couldn't

"...At the gate we met a woman in the backless slippers and flowered overall local women wore everywhere except to go to church...". (line 204 to 206 from the text)

"...She spoke to him and he said something reassuring, using his hands and shaking his head. She repeated what she had told him and began to enlarge on it..." (line 208 and 209 from the text)

II. THE WRITER

If I were the writer maybe I wouldn't write this kind of stories because in my view they are complicated to understand.

I would change the vocabulary because it isn't the collective one and people with a poor vocabulary maybe don't understand the text. I would use the informal vocabulary because everybody could understand me when I write.

The other thing I would change would be the way to tell the story because it's very affected and sometimes it's difficult to understand the context and the things the writer is describing during all the book.

In my view all the other things are ok and correct for my pleasure.

III.THE CRITIC

I didn't like that book.

In my opinion, that book is a little bit difficult for our general English level. We had to look for all the words we didn't understand but although is good for improve our English ,we spent a lot of time doing it. I think that sometimes is better to read an easier book but longer that not one that we have to look for a lot.

Besides, in some parts of the text it's difficult to follow the context is very complicated to understand it and the vocabulary is poetic and literary and it's difficult too for us to understand it.

In conclusion, it's a good book but on the other hand it's complicated for the general English level of the class.

IV.THE BIOGRAPHERR

Nadine Gordimer:

She was born in Transvaal, South Africa, 20-11-1923. She has lived all her live, and continue live, in her country.

She was the daughter of middle-class Jewish parents. She attended Convent of Our Lady of Mercy and the University of the Witwatersrand for one year.

She started writing from the age of nine, and her first novel was published when she was 16.

The Apartheid effects concern most of her novels.

Her principal works: 10 novels, 10 short story collections, non-fiction histories...

She has received a lot of honorary degrees from a lot of countries like USA, England, South Africa, etc. winner of 11 literary awards and 14 honorary degrees.

She won the nobel prize of literature in the 1991.



Web sources:

- www.nobel.se/literature/laureates/1991/gordimer-bio.html
- www.undp.org.za/docs/gordimerbio.html
- www.or.essortment.com/nadinegordimer_rsur.htm
- www.almaz.com/nobel/literature/1991a.html