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Literature Teaching Unit

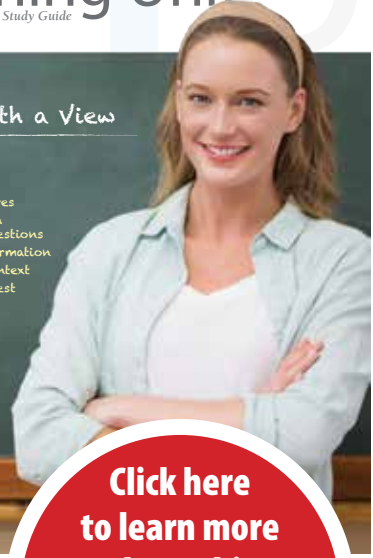
Chapter-by-Chapter Study Guide



A Room with a View

by E. M. Forster

- Learning objectives
- Study Guide with short-answer questions
- Background information
- Vocabulary in context
- Multiple-choice test
- Essay questions
- Literary terms



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A Room with a View

Note to Teacher

All page references come from the Dover Publications paperback edition of *A Room with a View*, copyright 1995.

Objectives

By the end of this Unit, the student will be able to:

1. identify the genre to which the work belongs.
2. describe life among the middle-class of England.
3. discuss the differences and conflicts between the classes of England.
4. discuss the issue of equal rights for women during Medieval England.
5. analyze the growth and maturing of Lucy.
6. analyze the relationships between Lucy and Cecil and Lucy and George.
7. infer the writer's feelings toward love.
8. discuss the significant conflicts and tensions felt between the Socialists and the Victorians.
9. cite examples of irony in the story and explain how Forster uses this literary device.
10. identify the writer's tone and explain how it reflects the writer's feelings toward his subject.
11. discuss the writer's use of symbolism in relation to the eras of medievalism, renaissance, and classical.
12. cite examples of the following additional literary terms:
 - characterization
 - imagery
 - satire
13. discuss the themes of the book including, but not limited to:
 - passion and propriety
 - the beauty of human beings
 - women's position and independence
14. discuss the meaning of the title of this work.

Questions for Essay and Discussion

1. What do you think is the significance of the title of the book?
2. What were your expectations before you started the book? Had you heard of the book before? What did you expect from the book based on the title?
3. Discuss Lucy's and Miss Bartlett's relationship. How did it change throughout the book?
4. Consider the following quotation from the second chapter of the book: "The true Italy is only to be found by patient observation." Discuss the importance of this statement in relation to truth and observation throughout the whole book.
5. Lucy feels empowered when she plays the piano. She says, "The kingdom of music is not the kingdom of this world; it will accept those whom breeding and intellect and culture have alike rejected." Discuss why Lucy is so drawn to music and how her life reflects that connection.
6. Forster uses the differences between the classes as well as between cultures to cleverly satirize Lucy's actions. Discuss at least three different times when Forster was being satirical.
7. Discuss Miss Bartlett's subtlety of expressing her opinion. How does it work to her advantage? What about to her disadvantage?
8. Truth plays a major role in the entirety of the story. Discuss the importance of truth to the plot.
9. Lucy's actions are often driven by her lack of connection with people. Discuss to what degree having human connections are important to her.
10. Lucy agrees to marry Cecil after turning him down twice. Why would she change her mind after returning from Italy?
11. Cecil is a great example of a medieval man. Who would you say is an example of a classical man? Why?
12. Cecil once says, "It makes a difference doesn't it, whether we fence ourselves in, or whether we are fenced out by the barriers of others?" What does he mean by this statement?
13. Do you agree with George that it was coincidence and Fate that brought him to town, or do you agree with Mr. Beebe that it was because everyone liked the same things that they kept crossing paths? Is there another explanation that neither has mentioned? Explain your answer and why the other does not work.

A Room with a View

Chapter 1

VOCABULARY

allusion — the act of hinting at
benignly — favorably
censured — judged
Cockney — a native of London, especially the East End of London
demure — reserved; modest
despondently — feeling extreme discouragement, dejection, or depression
Ghibellines — a member of an aristocratic political party in medieval Italy supporting the authority of the German emperors
Guelfs — a member of a papal and popular political party in medieval Italy that opposed the authority of the German emperors of Italy
merit — a praiseworthy quality
officious — meddlesome
peevish — irritated
pension — a hotel or boarding house especially in continental Europe
sedulously — diligent in application or pursuit
squalid — marked by filthiness and degradation from neglect or poverty
trammels — something impeding activity, progress, or freedom; restraint

1. Which of the two women, Lucy or Miss Bartlett, seem to be of a higher social status?

2. Why does the old man take offense at Miss Bartlett's refusal to change rooms?

5. Lucy purchases some photographs that Miss Bartlett tries to talk her out of because it is considered a pity. What does “a pity” mean in the art world?

6. What happens to Lucy while she is walking alone in the piazza?

7. Lucy keeps feeling like she has done something wrong during the incident in the piazza. What does she conclude is the cause of this feeling?

8. Why does George throw the photographs Lucy has purchased into the river?

Chapter 12

VOCABULARY

cornice — the molded and projecting horizontal member that crowns and architectural composition

impassive — giving no sign of feeling or emotion

sward — a grassy surface of land

1. According to Freddy, how has Lucy and Cecil's relationship changed since they went to London?

2. What are Mr. Emerson's and George Emerson's unique views on the equality of the sexes?

3. What does George feel has brought him to town?

4. Who happened upon Freddy, George, and Mr. Beebe as they bathed in the pond?
