

Concorsi ordinari, per esami e titoli, a cattedre nelle scuole e istituti di istruzione secondaria e per il conseguimento dell'abilitazione (D.D.G. 31 marzo 1999)

SCUOLA SECONDARIA

**Ambito disciplinare 5 – Classe 45/A
Classe 46/A**

Lingua Inglese

PROVA SCRITTA

ALTHOUGH Miss Quested had known Ronny well in England, she felt well advised to visit him before deciding to be his wife. India had developed sides of his character that she had never admired. His self-complacency, his censoriousness, his lack of subtlety, all grew vivid beneath a tropic sky; he seemed more indifferent than of old to what was passing in the minds of his fellows, more certain that he was right about them or that if he was wrong it didn't matter. When proved wrong, he was particularly exasperating; he always managed to suggest that she needn't have bothered to prove it. The point she made was never the relevant point, her arguments conclusive but barren, she was reminded that he had expert knowledge and she none, and that experience would not help her because she could not interpret it. A Public School, London University, a year at a crammer's, a particular sequence of posts in a particular province, a fall from a horse and a touch of fever were presented to her as the only training by which Indians and all who reside in their country can be understood; the only training she could comprehend that is to say, for of course above Ronny there stretched the higher realms of knowledge, inhabited by Callendars and Turtons, who had been not one year in the country but twenty and whose instincts were superhuman. For himself he made no extravagant claims; she wished he would. It was the qualified bray of the callow official, the 'I am not perfect, but-' that got on her nerves.

How gross he had been at Mr Fielding's - spoiling the talk and walking off in the middle of the haunting song! As he drove them away in the tum-tum, her irritation became unbearable, and she did not realize that much of it was directed against herself. She longed for an opportunity to fly out at him, and since he felt cross too, and they were both in India, an opportunity soon occurred. They had scarcely left the College grounds before she heard him say to his mother, who was with him on the front seat, 'What was that about caves?' and she promptly opened fire.

'Mrs Moore, your delightful doctor has decided on a picnic, instead of a party in his house; we are to meet him out there -you, myself, Mr Fielding, Professor Godbole- exactly the same party.'

'Out where?' asked Ronny.

'The Marabar Caves.'

'Well, I'm blessed,' he murmured after a pause. 'Did he descend to any details?'

'He did not. If you had spoken to him, we could have arranged them.'

He shook his head, laughing.

'Have I said anything funny?'

'I was only thinking how the worthy doctor's collar climbed up his neck.'

'I thought you were discussing the caves.'

‘So I am. Aziz was exquisitely dressed, from tie-pin to spats, but he had forgotten his back collar-stud, and there you have the Indian all over: inattention to detail; the fundamental slackness that reveals the race. Similarly, to “meet” in the caves as if they were the clock at Charing Cross, when they’re miles from a station and each other.’

‘Have you been to them?’

‘No, but I know all about them, naturally.’

‘Oh naturally!’

‘Are you too pledged to this expedition, mother?’

‘Mother is pledged to nothing,’ said Mrs Moore, rather unexpectedly. ‘Certainly not to this polo. Will you drive up to the bungalow first, and drop me there, please? I prefer to rest.’

‘Drop me too,’ said Adela. ‘I don’t want to watch polo either, I’m sure.’

‘Simpler to drop the polo,’ said Ronny. Tired and disappointed, he quite lost self-control, and added in a loud lecturing voice, ‘I won’t have you messing about with Indians any more! If you want to go to the Marabar Caves, you’ll go under British auspices.’

The text is an extract from:

E.M.FORSTER, *A Passage to India*, 1924
(Penguin Modern Classics, 1963, p.79-80)

1. Write a short summary of the passage.
2. Find out the key points related to the setting and the cultural context.
3. List the characters and, when possible, discuss character portrayal and development.
4. Quote all the hints at race consciousness and social prejudice.
5. Explain the cultural significance and function in the text of such words as Charing Cross, British public schools and polo.
6. Discuss the author’s narrative technique.
7. Discuss his style and use of the language.
8. Discuss this extract as a specimen of the novel as a literary form and, in particular, as an aspect of British fictional tradition.

DISCUSSION

“A Passage to India” deals with the complex relationship between the Indians and the British at the time of British rule in the Indian subcontinent. DISCUSS Britain’s relationship with the English-speaking peoples from the British Empire to the British Commonwealth of Nations and to the present time.

Durata massima della prova: ore 8.

E’ consentito soltanto l’uso del dizionario monolingue non enciclopedico inglese.