

Why did
circumstances led to
eustacia's tragic end
in egdon heath?
essay



**ASSIGN
BUSTER**

Why Did Circumstances Led to Eustacia's Tragic End in Egdon Heath?

Thomas Hardy Thomas Hardy created the story around the main characters such as, Eustacia, Clym, Wildeve, and Venn, whose personalities, characteristic, natures, and actions molded the directions the story would take. It is important to note that the story's setting, Egdon Heath, is a character in itself and the strongest and most enduring one, in terms of how it was described by the author. The story seemed to show the characters as more susceptible to change and had been portrayed to contribute more as a background to the story than Egdon Heath itself, where the main characters had been depicted as more dispensable in the end, while the setting remained untouched and the same throughout the story. The novel is a story of utter discontent, a discontent so strong that it brought about sadness, isolation and deceitfulness to its lead heroine, Eustacia, who took to desperate measures and schemes in order to get what she wanted.

She was desperate to escape from the life that she believed was dreary and worthless, a life in Egdon Heath. In the end, she was not able to escape. Her attitude and general outlook in life were reasons that slowly led to her tragic end. Eustacia felt trapped in the hand of fate due to the circumstances and situations that she was in, a life that was forced upon her when her parents died and she was moved away from fashionable Budmouth to Egdon Heath. When people are thrust into an unexpected and undesirable situation, they usually find the strength to accept and adapt to the new situation they find themselves in. But that was not the case with Eustacia Vye, her inability to accept her new situation, and most especially, adapt to her new place of residence, Egdon Heath, triggered the situations and circumstances that

would lead to eventual failure and tragedy. Her life unraveled so differently from what she had dreamed and hoped for and took turns for the worse.

Because she could not accept Egdon Heath, it in turn, rejected her. Her characteristics were so dominant that she was able to influence the actions and circumstances of even those people around her, in a way that would serve her purpose. However, even she could not control everything, and when circumstances happen that manifests that, she blames fate for being unkind. Of all the characters in the novel, those that strike the most impact and on whom the story primarily revolved around on are Eustacia, Wildeve, Clym, Venn, and in a lesser degree, Mrs.

Yeobright, with Eustacia's actions triggering those of the other characters'. Thomasin Yeobright's character, on the other hand, seemed to be a bit passive and was more secondary to the actions of the other characters. The author seemed to emphasize the romantic cycle among Eustacia, Clym, Wildeve, and Thomasin, where romantic attachments revolved around interchanging love interests, but again, with Eustacia in the middle of it all. Eustacia having had the choice between the two men, with Thomasin only getting the man that was 'discarded' by Eustacia. She schemed to meet Clym who she thought could be her way to get out of the heath; her choices had to serve her purpose. Eustacia was the epitome of self-centeredness, selfishness, and feeling of superiority. She believed that everything and everyone in Egdon Heath was beneath her. Her anger at her situation shaped how she dealt with and treated others.

She was incapable of loving genuinely as she saw other people as only a means of achieving her purpose. Her failure was her doing, as her superiority and pride prevented her from doing what had to be done to get out of Egdon Heath. She had been offered by Venn as job to enable her to leave, but she was too proud and working was beneath her. She would rather stay in her most despised place than stoop to the level of working class citizens. At one point, she was offered by Wildeve to leave the heath and go to Paris, but she would not take him because by then, he was already getting a 'secondhand' from Thomasin. Initially, she wanted Wildeve only for want to have someone to idealize and there was no one else in Egdon Heath, even Clym was primarily to serve her purpose in getting out of the heath. However, Clym turned out to be her biggest disappointment as the man he married, unlike her, was very comfortable in Egdon Heath, and loved it as much as Eustacia hated it. As Clym was a native of the heath, Eustacia was and had remained a stranger.

She failed in her belief that she would be able to influence her husband of leaving the heath, and return to Paris with her. In many ways, Wildeve was the male counterpart of Eustacia. He was self-centered, selfish, and had a misplaced pride. At one point, he humiliated Venn into thinking that he could already propose to Thomasin, his love, in truth, Wildeve just wanted him to think that in order for him to save face and not be rejected by Thomasin, after he was rejected by Eustacia. He was concerned only of himself and his happiness, even leaving Thomasin behind with their baby, just so he could go with Eustacia. Meanwhile, among the characters, Venn

was shown to be the most selfless, having loved Thomasin unconditionally and having acted as her constant protector.

He was portrayed as the one person that connects all the characters in the story, the person who was always in crucial moments, as protector, eavesdropper, informant, savior, and witness to events. His presence in the story also depicts the presence of selfless and unconditional love in contrast to Eustacia's and Wildeve's selfishness and superficial love. The story showed that everyone cannot control circumstances and situations that refusing to adapt to change and embracing one's circumstances could lead to failure. Curiously, the characters that in varying degrees refused to accept and adapt to circumstances, and nurtured a warped sense of superiority and self-centeredness, ended in tragic death, that is, Mrs.

Yeobright, Wildeve, and Eustacia. Ultimately, the story showed destiny as victorious and that circumstance cannot be controlled, scheming and manipulating our way towards achieving our desires does not always work. Circumstances and destiny are only what we make of it, refusing to adapt to different situations when change is a constant fact of life, is futile.