

The crock



**ASSIGN
BUSTER**

What's the matter with the Crock? Mr Crocker- Harris is a man with a very distraught life. He has many problems at work and at home. To start with, his wife is consistently horrible to him and doesn't love him at all. She sees him as a man with no heart and she never shows any kind emotion to him. Also, she has had many affairs with many masters from the school and worse, she tells Andrew about them all. Andrew realises that all Millie wants is not the emotion love, but physical love. Two kinds of love. Hers and mine. At school things go very bad for him as well.

When Andrew talks to the Headmaster he is told that he is not going to get a pension because he is not old enough to have the privilege of one, despite the fact that a teacher much younger than him, got one. I put your case to them as well as I could, but they decided, with great regret, they couldn't make another exception. The actual reason that the last teacher got a pension was because he was far more admired, the governors received a petition from boys, old boys and parents so Andrew would have felt deeply hurt by this action of the Headmaster and the Governors of the school. After the Headmaster has told him this, he then tells him that on speech day he should not speak last in case of an anti-climax. Normally it is the leaving teacher who has been at the school for the longest right to speak last, but there is a considerably younger teacher who is leaving too.

Mr Fletcher, the younger teacher, because he is more popular and will get a longer round of applause, is going to speak after him. applauding Fletcher for several minutes and yourself say for well not quite so long. This, to Andrew must be devastating because he is then shown by the Headmaster

that nobody likes him and that Mr Fletcher is more liked throughout the school. To add to his life that is slowly deteriorating, the Headmaster asked Millie first if Andrew would mind if he didn't speak last and, knowing that he would mind, said that it was no problem. He asked my advice about a week ago. I told him to go ahead).

His wife again has been vicious to him. After this ghastly meeting with the Headmaster, Andrew meets the new master who will be taking over his position at the school. This teacher is worried about the Lower Fifth and he tells Andrew how he ruled them with a rod of iron. So good that he says the Headmaster calls him the Himmler of the Lower Fifth. Himmler was one of the most hated and feared men in the whole world while he was alive and to be called this is a horrific insult.

The reason this broke Andrew down so much wasn't because he found out that he wasn't liked because he knew that, it was because he realised the children feared him (I hadn't realised that I was also feared). After the many down falls, this day has been truly upsetting for Andrew. When he gets a knock on the door and he sees Taplow he must have just wanted him to go away. This all changes when Taplow gives Andrew a translation of the Agamemnon and has written a phrase which Andrew said in class, "God from afar looks graciously upon a gentle master."

This shows Andrew that someone likes him truly and that Taplow remembers in class what Andrew said. This means a lot to Andrew because Andrew thought that he had ruined the Classics Department at the school. Having found some small hope and so that he is happy Millie then walks into

the room. She hears about this story with Taplow and decides to do something that would destroy Andrew completely. She tells Andrew actually why Taplow gave him this book, "that artful little beast, my dear, I came into this room this afternoon to find him giving an imitation of you to Frank here.

Obviously he was scared stiff that I was going to tell you and you'd ditch his remove or something. This action that Millie has done is terrible. Andrew now knows that when he thought he was liked he wasn't, Taplow made a fool out of him and also Taplow saw him cry so Andrew thinks that he would make even more fool out of him. This day couldn't have been worse for Andrew Crocker-Harris.

He is depressed and on top of all the things that he had to go through, he has heart trouble which would make life even more difficult. Against all this, Andrew makes a stand for himself and tells the Headmaster that he will speak last on Speech Day. His last act before he goes away.