

Tony kytes, the arch-  
deceiver by thomas  
hardy and the  
unexpected by kate  
chopin



**ASSIGN  
BUSTER**

“ A short story should stimulate the imagination and hold its reader in suspense.

” Critically consider this statement with detailed reference to “ Tony Kytes, the Arch-Deceiver” by Thomas Hardy and “ The Unexpected” by Kate Chopin  
This statement is ambiguous as a short story could not be filled with suspense but still be able to stimulate the imagination. Thomas Hardy’s “ Tony Kytes, the Arch-Deceiver” story is filled with more suspense than Kate Chopin’s “ The Unexpected”. Kate Chopin was born on February 8th 1850 in St. Louis, Missouri. Her father was an Irish immigrant and died when Kate was young. So, she grew up in an all female household.

When her husband died she started writing seriously and is considered to have been a forerunner of feminist authors of the 19th century. Thomas Hardy was born on 2 June 1840 in Stinsford, Dorchester, England. His father was a builder and he was interested in the countryside and the people of Wessex, which is reflected in his works as an author. The language in Chopin’s story is filled with sensuous descriptions of the wife waiting for her future husband to return.

The sense of anticipation is heightened through the use of language during the opening scenes of the story. This contrasts with Hardy’s novel which describes a man who has many women upon his beck and call. The description is less tender and romantic and this is illustrated by the less descriptive impression of the women portrayed to the reader. The imagery throughout “ The Unexpected” is of raw passion between the couple until the end where there is a sense of hostility between the two. An example of this

is when there is “ a frenzy of passion. ” This may have been written in this way as Kate Chopin lived in an all female household so would have a different way of perceiving men as oppose to if she had a male figure in her life when she was younger.

This is where the story climaxes as it unknown to whether she will ever forgive him, but from then on there is a sense of bathos, which is a reference to after Dorothea has left Randall, there is very little suspense evoked in this story. Conversely it can be seen in “ Tony Kytes, the Arch-Deceiver” that the imagery throughout is more erratic, at the beginning it is written with words such as “ tender” and “ clasp his dearest one” but as the story progresses he becomes more violent acts by “ bringing down his fist”. This represents the suspense rising and the reader is in search of more. This story is effective as it is enjoyable and the suspense during the story stimulates the reader’s imagination.

The nature of Chopin’s story is effective as it is unexpected, as the title of the story suggests. Despite this, it is demonstrated all through the story that the woman has mixed feelings towards her partner during the works of Kate Chopin. It can be perceived that as the story goes on she is becoming more and more disgusted by the figure that she has to marry until the point where there is no option but to break up with him forever. It is ironic that the story is called “ The Unexpected” as the ending is expected as the events unfold from the beginning, to reveal a predictable ending. This can be juxtaposed with “ Tony Kytes, the Arch-Deceiver” as in this story it is clearly seen that all going on during the story is unexpected, as “ Tony [looks] like a tree struck by lightning”.

<https://assignbuster.com/tony-kytes-the-arch-deceiver-by-thomas-hardy-and-the-unexpected-by-kate-chopin/>

When the first woman goes into the cart it does not seem believable, but this is made even more startling when the three women are in the same cart together without realising it. Most astonishing of all is the fact that after the first two women reject him the third seems as if she is about to follow suit but surprisingly she agrees to marry him despite seeing his unfaithful behaviour. Tony Kytes is a character full of suspense all the way through the story. This character would have been based on a person from Wessex who behaved in this manner and was observed by Thomas Hardy. The themes of the first story are how the man should not take all as well without confirmation and should be more patient if he is to obtain what he wants instead of saying " you will come with me and be with me.

" This contrasts with the second story's themes in which it portrays the moral that a person should be faithful and loyal to the person they are with or else they are at risk of losing everything. However this theme is tainted by Tony Kytes ending up marrying the women he intended to in the first place and he wins her over by saying " it do seem as if fate had ordained that it should be you and I". This shows that although there is the chance of losing everything there is also the chance of escaping with what was started with or in some cases even more than to begin with. In " The Unexpected" the mood is set at the beginning with the anticipation of the woman waiting for her man. This mood changes slowly and steadily right the way through the story as she realises how since he has been gone he has changed and was no longer patient, " We need not wait" and " We must not put it off" show his intolerance towards Dorothea . If he really loved her he would be willing to wait until she was ready.

This results in Dorothea eventually wanting nothing to do with Randall. The way the mood changes means the pathos is evoked towards the husband as the reader sees how he has been punished too severely for something that is not even his fault. This is shown by the way she turns from loving him to wanting nothing to do with him so suddenly and she concludes by saying “ Never, never! Not for millions! ” This takes the reader time to register how blunt she has been towards the husband despite him having been away for months and looking forward to seeing her again. In the second story it can clearly be seen that the mood is set right at the start of the story and is maintained all the way through until the end, Tony Kytes is portrayed in the same way all through the story as a womaniser with a good heart but it juxtaposes to what he is really like. This is shown by the way that he is very kind and polite towards the women but he manipulates them with his dishonesty as he is really mistreating the women.

He says to all three women he loves them more than the other two and consequently near the end as Milly has “ bitter rage and shame in that way at what Tony was saying”. The situation in “ The Unexpected” is one in which it is very ambiguous as it is unclear as to how some of the events unfold and it leaves much to the reader’s imagination. This is not the case in “ Tony Kytes, the Arch-Deceiver” as it is explicitly clear to how all the events unfold and the eventualities and consequences of all the characters and their action throughout the story. The tone in “ The Unexpected” is descriptive and romantic.

This is shown by Dorothea’s “ cheeks [are] aflame” and she “ bent her

supple body”. This gives the impression that the story is very sensuous and <https://assignbuster.com/tony-kytes-the-arch-deceiver-by-thomas-hardy-and-the-unexpected-by-kate-chopin/>

extremely intense with a “ frenzy of passion” in how it describes the ongoing actions. The structure of the story is also important to how the reader portrays the story. This is shown in “ The Unexpected” it has short paragraphs filled with intense description of the situation. In the second story the tone is more light hearted and less descriptive. Tony Kytes did not have “ enough to hurt his looks into a woman’s eyes”.

This story is longer than the other one as it is less intense but more complex in showing more events unfold by involving more characters, which stimulates the reader’s imagination leaving them in suspense. The structure of “ Tony Kytes, the Arch-Deceiver” is that there are longer paragraphs which are less passionate but portray a better storyline that is more enjoyable for the reader. In conclusion, one way the statement can be explored is that a short story does not have to be filled with suspense. In “ The Unexpected” there is not a large amount of suspense but the story is still enjoyable and stimulates the reader’s imagination.

The statement can be correct as in “ Tony Kytes, the Arch-Deceiver” much suspense is incorporated within the story which is effective as it stimulates the reader’s imagination.