

Drops of English

Tamara Drewe

TRADIMENTI ALL'INGLESE

The film

Conca Verde – Thu 03.11.11

THE FILM: *Tamara Drewe* – Tradimenti all'inglese

1. **Book:** Far from the Madding Crowd – quiz
2. **Poem:** Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard
3. **Comicstrip:** Tamar Drewe by Posy Simmonds
4. **Country vs City**
5. **Accents in the film**
6. **Some vocab from the film**
7. **Swearwords in the film**
8. **Songs**

1. Far from the Madding Crowd QUIZ

The film 'Tamara Drewe' is loosely based on the novel 'Far from the Madding Crowd'

Here's a little general knowledge quiz! The answers are on the last page.

- a. Who wrote 'Far from the Madding Crowd'?
- b. What do you know about the author?
- c. When was it published?
- d. What's it about?
- e. Who is the main character?
- f. How is the phrase 'far from the madding crowd' used today?

2. Poem

Hardy took the title of his book from a poem by Thomas Gray's called *Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard*.

Far from the madding crowd's ignoble strife

Their sober wishes never learn'd to stray;

Along the cool sequester'd vale of life

They kept the noiseless tenor of their way.

3. Comicstrip: Tamara Drewe by Posy Simmonds

The film 'Tamara Drewe' is based on the graphic novel by Posy Simmonds. It was in the Guardian as a comic strip on Saturdays from 2005 to 2007. Here are two episodes.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/books/series/tamara-drewe?page=4>

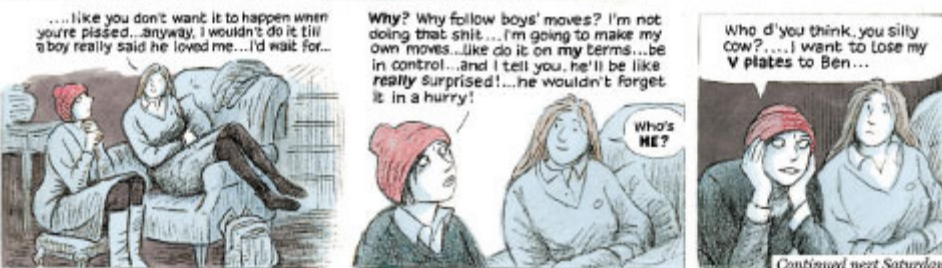
Episode 47 – Tamara Drewe comicstrip – The Guardian

Pretty soon Tamara's handbag starts giving me real, real creeps, like it's sort of alive. I don't want to touch it, put my hand in it. ANYTHING. I shove it under the bed in a bin bag, but even then I smell this sort of leathery breath.

Next day I'm persuading Jody we take the stuff back to the farmhouse as ap. Hard work because she's like all over her handbag. Stroking it, etc. Plus she sleeps with Ben's dirty T-shirt under her pillow. Sick or what?



Says a lot about this boring bumhole of a village that getting in and out of someone's weekend house is exciting, but it is! We're going "omigod", our hearts are really hammering. And then on Saturday when we next see that Ben and Tamara are there we get this sneaky thrill, thinking of our little paws on their things. Pathetic, I know. After that, every now and then (when we're sure the place is empty) Winnards Farm becomes our secret place to chill out, straight after we get off the school bus. Nobody misses us. My mum's used to me doing homework round at Jody's and her mum's never home until after seven. It's warm in the farmhouse - Tamara leaves the heating on low. We hang out in her lounge, talk about Ben (natch), Boys, pulling techniques and DOING IT (neither of us have done IT yet).



<http://www.guardian.co.uk/books/series/tamara-drewe?page=4>

Episode 54 – Tamara Drewe comicstrip – The Guardian

After Jody sent her stupid e-mail, we kept away from Winnards Farm. I don't know what we expected to happen - the police testing Tamar's laptop for fingerprints, sussing us, coming round and doing us for breaking in. Well, that didn't happen. But I say we should be careful. I mean, we're back using the old bus shelter, where you get a good view up the lane. Today we saw the old writer guy from Stonefield go past Winnards Farm - very slowly, like he was really really interested.



I tell Jody we should hang out somewhere else, and she goes, "Like where, your bloody bedroom?" Which is true. It's so-ooo boring, this village. Nowhere to go, nothing to do. Nothing happening, except when Gary Pound and his mates nearly set fire to the Coronation Tree on the green. So, I'm thinking OK, might as well go home, do some homework, because Jody's getting up my nose, too. She's droning on about Ben, Ben all the time. But if I even mention Ryan or boys at school she starts dissing them, treating me like a moron.



4. Country vs City

Do you agree with Jody that living in the country is boring? If you lived in the country would you describe your village as 'in the bumhole of nowhere'? How do the writers react to the country? What about Ben and Jody? What do you think about living in the country as opposed to living in town?

5. Accents in the film

There are various country, regional and class accents in the film.

Who has a British Middle Class accent, an Upper Class accent, a Scottish accent, an American accent, an Australian accent, a West Country accent, a Cockney accent? Answers on last page.

6. Some vocab from the film

Do you use phonetic symbols when you teach? Can you read them?

Consonants		Vowels	
p	<i>pen, copy, happen</i>	ɪ	<i>kit, bid, hymn, minute</i>
b	<i>back, baby, job</i>	e	<i>dress, bed, head, many</i>
t	<i>tea, tight, button</i>	æ	<i>trap, bad</i>
d	<i>day, ladder, odd</i>	ɒ	<i>lot, odd, wash</i>
k	<i>key, clock, school</i>	ʌ	<i>strut, mud, love, blood</i>
g	<i>get, giggle, ghost</i>	ʊ	<i>foot, good, put</i>
tʃ	<i>church, match, nature</i>	iː	<i>flee, he, sea, machine</i>
dʒ	<i>judge, age, soldier</i>	eɪ	<i>face, day, break</i>
f	<i>fat, coffee, rough, photo</i>	aɪ	<i>price, high, try</i>
v	<i>view, heavy, move</i>	ɔɪ	<i>choice, boy</i>
θ	<i>thing, author, path</i>	uː	<i>goose, two, blue, group</i>
ð	<i>this, other, smooth</i>	əʊ	<i>goat, show, no</i>
s	<i>soon, cease, sister</i>	aʊ	<i>mouth, now</i>
z	<i>zero, music, roses, buzz</i>	ɪə	<i>near, here, weary</i>
ʃ	<i>ship, sure, n<u>a</u>tional</i>	eə	<i>square, fair, various</i>
ʒ	<i>pleas<u>u</u>re, vis<u>i</u>on</i>	ɑː	<i>start, father</i>
h	<i>hot, whole, head</i>	ɔː	<i>thought, law, north, war</i>
m	<i>more, hammer, sum</i>	ʊə	<i>poor, jury, cure</i>
n	<i>nice, know, funny, sun</i>	ɜː	<i>nurse, stir, learn, refer</i>
ŋ	<i>ring, anger, thanks, sung</i>	ə	<i><u>a</u>bout, comm<u>o</u>n, stand<u>a</u>rd</i>
l	<i>light, valley, fee□</i>	i	<i>happy, radi<u>a</u>te, glor<u>i</u>ous</i>

r	<i>right, wrong, sorry, arrange</i>	u	<i>thank <u>you</u>, influence, situ<u>ation</u></i>
j	<i>yet, use, beauty, few</i>	ŋ	<i>sudd<u>enly</u>, cott<u>on</u></i>
w	<i>wet, one, when, queen</i>	ɪ	<i>mid<u>dle</u>, met<u>a</u>l</i>
ʔ	<i>(glottal stop) depart<u>ment</u>, foot<u>ball</u></i>	'	<i>(stress mark)</i>

This is the site where I got them:

<http://www.phon.ucl.ac.uk/home/wells/phoneticsymbolsforenglish.htm>

Try this site if you want to type phonetics into your lessons, tests, etc.: <http://ipa.typeit.org/>

Pronunciation of some names:

Stephen Frears /**fri**æz/ or /**fre**æz/ - Bathsheba /'bæθ**ʃ**ɪbə/ or /bæθ'**ʃ**i:bə/

Some vocab in the film: How are these words used in the film – in their first or second meaning?

1. madding: frenzied or crazy?
2. cheesy: vulgar (dozzinale) or hypocritical?
3. kinky: eccentric or perverted?
4. fling: botta di vita o flirt, breve relazione amorosa?
5. vile /**vail**/: ignobile, abietto o vile (coward)
6. distracted: distratto (absent-minded – inattentive) or assente, preoccupato?
7. smug: compiaciuto o rispettabile, compito?
8. engaging: molto simpatico o seducente?
9. devious: subdolo o indiretto?
- 10.rash: avventato o sconsiderato?
- 11.to meet/come to a sticky end: fare una brutta fine o fare qc di pericoloso

7. Swearwords in the film

Check if the Italian translations in the subtitles are correct and render the English swearwords:

1. Uses of 'fuck'

Fuck off/you!

For fuck's sake!

What the fuck are you doing there?

Can we get the fuck out of here?

She fucked it up with Ben. (to ruin – here the relationship)

2. Kissing

To snog

3. Having sexual intercourse

Would you do/have him?

To shag / a shagging

4. Male genitals used as an insult, etc

prick/dick/cock

5. Masturbation

wanker, tosser

6. General insults

moron, turd, arsehole, (a lucky) cow

7. Asking sb to leave, etc (rudely)

Bugger off! (GB) / Shove off! / Drop dead!

8. Prostitute

slag/tart

9. Saying sth is not true (rudely)

Bollocks! / Bullshit!

8. Songs

If your students are teenagers or like pop songs, here are the titles of the songs in the film:

- a. The Fear
- b. This is a Low
- c. Where are you now?
- d. Jail-bait Jody

Answers

1. Far from the Madding Crowd QUIZ

- a. Thomas Hardy
- b. An English writer and poet who lived in the Victorian Age (1840-1928). Most of his books are set in Dorset, where he was born, and often describe the unhappy side of life. His best known books include *Far from the Madding Crowd*, *Tess of the D'Urbervilles* and *Jude the Obscure*.
- c. In 1874
- d. It's about the lives of country people in mid-Victorian Dorset.
- e. Bathsheba Everdene
- f. The phrase is used humorously when talking about the peace and quiet of the country.

2. Accents in the film

British Middle Class accent: Nicholas, Beth, their daughter

Upper Class accent: Woman who chases dog in field

Scottish accent: Lesbian would-be writer

American accent: Glen

Australian accent: barmaid

West Country accent: Andy, Jody's friend

Cockney accent: Ben

Some vocab in the film: How are these words used in the film – in their first or second meaning? Here are the answers:

1. madding: frenzied
2. cheesy: vulgar (dozzinale)
3. kinky: perverted

4. fling: flirt, breve relazione amorosa
5. vile /vial/: ignobile, abietto
6. distracted: assente, preoccupato
7. smug: compiaciuto
8. engaging: molto simpatico o seducente: I don't remember – sorry!
9. devious: subdolo
10. rash: avventato e sconsiderato
11. to meet/come to a sticky end: fare una brutta fine