

Reading Part 1

Read the text and the statements. Some of these statements are true according to the text; some of them are false. Choose the correct answer True (T) or False (F) for each statement.

He picked up the plough handles and went on down the furrow. It needed a long while in the attic to wash out those words, but the power that was there washed them away in a while. I made allowance for Gideon, since he lost so many nights of rest, it being still lambing time. For lambing time is the shepherd's trial.

In the black of night, in the dead of the year, at goblin time, he must be up and about by his lonesome. With mist like a shroud on him and frosty winds like the chill of death, and snow whispering, and a shriek on this side of the forest and a howl on that side, the shepherd must be waking, though the pleasant things of day are folded up and put by, and the comforting gabble and busyness of the house and the fold are still, and the ghosts are strong, thronging in on the east wind and on the north, with none to gainsay them. So when Gideon was short with me I only took a bit more time in the attic. It was pleasant there when spring drew on, with a dish of primmy roses on the table and a warm wind blowing in.

When April came we were still ploughing, and I was so used to it that I'd given over being tired, and enjoyed it, and sang to myself the while. It was grand to go down the red furrow with the share cutting strong into the stiff earth and shining like silver.

It was fine to look away to the blue hills by Lullingford, and see the woods of oak and larch and willow all in bud, as if a warm wind blew from there and called the leaves. It was pleasant too, seeing the rooks follow in a string at my heels, looking as if they'd been polished and to see the birds again that had been away. There were violets now to pull for market and tight pink buds like babies' little fists in the apple trees.

1. The writer and Gideon had just had an unpleasant conversation.
2. Gideon was taken to court over a lambing issue.
3. The examples emphasise that a shepherd is at the mercy of the elements.
4. The writer had spent much time doing hard physical farm-work.
5. The writer had always found the work enjoyable and easy and never changed her mind.
