

Aufgabenstellung

1. Sum up the information the text provides about the members of the Marchmain household.
2. Examine Sebastian's attitude towards Brideshead and his family.
3. Analyse the language to show how the author conveys the atmosphere of the stately home and its surroundings.
4. Compare Nanny Hawkins' relationship to the members of the Marchmain family with Stevens' role at Darlington Hall in Ishiguro's novel *The Remains of the Day*.

Material: Excerpt from E. Waugh's novel *Brideshead Revisited* (1945)

Sebastian Flyte, the youngest son of the Marquis of Marchmain and a student at Oxford, takes his friend Charles Ryder to see Brideshead, the stately home of his family, and to visit his former nanny. The novel is set in the 1920s and 1930s.

We drove on and in the early afternoon came to our destination: wrought-iron gates and twin, classical lodges on a village green, an avenue, more gates, open parkland, a turn in the drive; and suddenly a new and secret landscape opened before us. We were at the head of a valley and below us, half a mile distant, prone in the sunlight, grey and gold amid
5 a screen of boskage, shone the dome and columns of an old house.

"Well?" said Sebastian, stopping the car. Beyond the dome lay receding steps of water and round it, guarding and hiding it, stood the soft hills.

"Well?"

"What a place to live in!" I said.

10 "You must see the garden front and the fountain." He leaned forward and put the car into gear. "It's where my family live." And even then, rapt in the vision, I felt, momentarily, like a wind stirring the tapestry, an ominous chill at the words he used - not "That is my home," but "It's where my family live."

"Don't worry," he continued, "they're all away. You won't have to meet them."

15 "But I should like to."

"Well, you can't. They're in London, dancing."

We drove round the front into a side court — "Everything's shut up. We'd better go in this way" — and entered through the fortress-like, stone-flagged, stone-vaulted passages of the servants' quarters — "I want you to meet Nanny Hawkins. That's what we've come for"
20 — and climbed uncarpeted, scrubbed elm stairs, followed more passages of wide boards covered in the centre by a thin strip of drugget, through passages covered by linoleum,

passing the wells of many minor staircases and many rows of crimson and gold fire buckets, up a final staircase, gated at the head, where at last we reached the nurseries, high in the dome in the centre of the main block.

25 Sebastian's Nanny was seated at the open window; the fountain lay before her, the lakes, the temple, and, far away on the last spur, a glittering obelisk; her hands lay open in her lap and, loosely between them, a rosary; she was fast asleep. Long hours of work in her youth, authority in middle life, repose and security in her age, had set their stamp on her lined and serene face.

30 "Well," she said, waking; "this *is* a surprise."

Sebastian kissed her.

"Who's this?" she said, looking at me. "I don't think I know him."

Sebastian introduced us.

35 "You've come just the right time. Julia's here for the day. She was up with me nearly all the morning telling me about London. Such a time they're all having. It's dull without them. Just Mrs. Chandler and two of the girls and old Bert. And then they're all going on holidays and the boiler's being done out in August and you going to see his Lordship in Italy, and the rest on visits, it'll be October before we're settled down again. Still, I suppose Julia must have her enjoyment the same as other young ladies, though what they always want
40 to go to London for in the best of the summer and the gardens all out, I never have understood." [...]

"D'you say Julia's here?"

45 "Yes, dear, you must have just missed her. It's the Conservative Women. Her Ladyship was to have done them, but she's poorly. Julia won't be long; she's leaving immediately after her speech, before the tea."

"I'm afraid we may miss her again."

"Don't do that, dear, it'll be such a surprise to her seeing you, though she ought to wait for the tea, I told her, it's what the Conservative Women come for. Now what's the news? Are you studying hard at your books?"

50 "Not very, I'm afraid, Nanny."

[...]

55 Sebastian and the old woman talked on. It was a charming room, oddly shaped to conform with the curve of the dome. The walls were papered in a pattern of ribbon and roses. There was a rocking horse in the corner and an oleograph of the Sacred Heart over the mantelpiece; the empty grate was hidden by a bunch of pampas grass and bulrushes;

laid out on the top of the chest of drawers and carefully dusted were the collection of small presents which had been brought home to her at various times by her children, carved shell and lava, stamped leather, painted wood, china, bog oak, damascened silver, blue-john, alabaster, coral, the souvenirs of many holidays.

60 Presently Nanny said: "Ring the bell, dear, and we'll have some tea." [...]

But Sebastian said we had to go.

[...] "All right," I said. "I'm perfectly content. But am I not going to be allowed to see any more of the house?"

65 "It's all shut up. We came to see Nanny. On Queen Alexandra's Day it's all open for a shilling. Well, come and look if you want to ..."

70 He led me through a baize door into a dark corridor; I could dimly see a gilt cornice and vaulted plaster above; then, opening a heavy, smooth-swinging, mahogany door, he led me into a darkened hall. Light streamed through the cracks in the shutters. Sebastian unbarred one, and folded it back; the mellow afternoon sun flooded in, over the bare floor, the vast, twin fireplaces of sculptured marble, the coved ceiling frescoed with classic deities and heroes, the gilt mirrors and scagliola pilasters, the islands of sheeted furniture. It was a glimpse only, such as might be had from the top of an omnibus into a lighted ballroom; then Sebastian quickly shut out the sun. "You see," he said; "it's like this."

From: E. Waugh, *Brideshead Revisited* (Boston, 1945), pp. 34 – 38.

Annotations

2	<i>lodge</i>	- gatehouse
5	<i>boskage</i>	- bushes and trees
21	<i>drugget</i>	- coarse cloth used especially as floor-covering
22	<i>well</i>	- here: narrow space in a building that drops down from a high to a low level
26	<i>spur</i>	- area of high ground
58	<i>damascened</i>	- decorated or inlaid
58/59	<i>blue-john</i>	- blue-streaked semi-precious mineral which can be made into jewellery
64	<i>Queen Alexandra's Day</i>	- Queen A.'s (1844 – 1925, married to King Edward VII) Rose Day, celebrated on 26th June since 1912
71	<i>scagliola</i>	- fake marble, a technique for producing plasterwork columns and other architectural elements that resemble marble

Hilfsmittel

Den Prüflingen stehen einsprachige sowie für den schulischen Gebrauch geeignete zweisprachige Wörterbücher der Allgemeinsprache (Deutsch-Englisch/Englisch-Deutsch) zur Verfügung.