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Т. В. КУЗЬМИЧ

**ПРАКТИКА УСТНОЙ И ПИСЬМЕННОЙ РЕЧИ
АНГЛИЙСКОГО ЯЗЫКА**

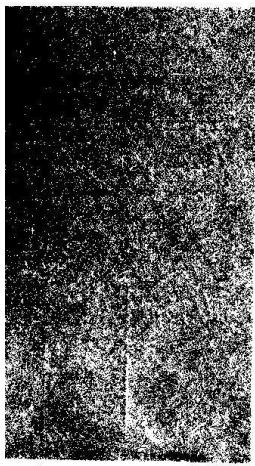
Практическое пособие
по книге Т. Моррисон «Смоляное чучелко»
для студентов 3 курса по специальности
1-02 03 06 01 «Английский язык»

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Целью подготовки практического пособия является оказание по-
мощи студентам в развитии навыков устной и письменной речи: со-
вершенствование речевых навыков и умений в использовании разно-
образного в лексическом и структурном отношении языкового мате-
риала; обеспечение руководства внеаудиторной и аудиторной деятель-
ностью студентов, направленной на изучение читаемого художествен-
ного произведения и его обсуждение по разделам и в целом.

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РЕПОЗИТОРИЙ ГГУ ИМ. Ф. СКОРИНЫ

ВВЕДЕНИЕ

Практическое пособие по роману Тони Моррисон «Смоляное чулок» разработано в соответствии с основными принципами социокультурного, коммуникативного и системно-деятельностного подхода к обучению иноязычному общению.

Целью подготовки практического пособия является оказание помощи студентам в развитии навыков устной и письменной речи: совершенствование речевых навыков и умений в использовании разнообразного в лексическом и структурном отношении языкового материала; обеспечение руководства в аудиторной и аудиторной деятельности студентов, направленной на изучение читаемого художественного произведения и его обсуждение по разделам и в целом.

Практическое пособие включает двенадцать разделов. В каждом разделе выделены наиболее употребительные в современном английском языке лингвистические единицы, подлежащие закреплению и усвоению. Объем словаря, над которым проводится работа, распределен равномерно по разделам практического пособия.

Упражнения и задания, включенные в практическое пособие, направлены на пополнение и идиоматизацию словарного запаса студентов, на развитие навыков устной речи, они помогут студентам организовать свою работу по домашнему чтению, усвоить языковой материал предлагаемого литературного произведения.

Цель лексических упражнений – активизация словаря и предупреждение ошибок в словосочетании и сочетаемости слов; стимулирование употребления активной лексики в ситуациях.

Цель речевых упражнений – обеспечить и направить читательское восприятие на смысловое содержание текста, обратить внимание на существенные для его понимания детали, факты, позволить глубже проникнуть в смысл. Практическое пособие снабжено биографической справкой об авторе книги.

Практическое пособие адресовано студентам 3 курса специальности 1-02-03-06-01 «Английский язык».

TONI MORRISON: GREAT AMERICAN NOVELIST

It is often said that people pursue the «Great American Dream», but what exactly is it? For some it is getting rich quickly, inventing something incredible, or simply living a good life and raising a family. Many also believe that one of life's goals is to write the Great American Novel. This is a difficult task, for one must be at the top of their craft, as well as be able to reach many people on different levels. One such author who has accomplished this goal is the African-American author Toni Morrison.



Morrison holds a great deal of prestige in the writing community, as she is both the winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature (1993) as well as the Pulitzer Prize (1988), the top honour a writer may receive. She writes about race and other contemporary issues from a perspective that not many readers have been exposed to. Toni Morrison has found success in writing with tones of African-American history, folklore, and music. As a novelist, critic, professor, editor, or mentor to other writers, Toni Morrison has had a profound impact upon the literature and culture of the twentieth century.

Toni Morrison's life can be seen from a number of accomplishments and influences as more fulfilling than any master writer could want. One influence is her childhood's background rich in tradition and history. A second influence was her education at some of the best universities the country has to offer. Morrison's life just before writing her first novel gave her life experience which would prove invaluable. She had the opportunity to exercise influence over many black authors and helped to make their works known. Also, her list of novels is impressive and well received. The awards she received for them are proof enough of her excellent work.

Toni Morrison was born Chloe Anthony Wofford on February 18, 1931 in the poor, multi-racial town of Lorraine, a suburb of Cleveland, Ohio. She was one of four children of Ramah Willis Wofford, a homemaker who sang in the church choir, and of George Wofford, who held a variety of

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jobs, including car washer, steel mill welder, and road construction and shipyard worker. Morrison grew up with strong influences from both her parents and grandparents. She received a legacy of resistance to oppression and exploitation as well as African American folklore. Her grandparents emigrated from Alabama to Ohio. Likewise, her father escaped Georgia and settled in Ohio, but found that it was not much easier there. It is possible to see that without the strong reminder of how life was for African-American people in this country coming from her parents, Morrison could have grown up unaware and unable to write the way she does now.

Literature was always an important presence in Morrison's childhood and youth. She was the only one in her first grade class who knew how to read when she entered school. As an adolescent she read widely in a variety of subjects, counting Flaubert and Jane Austin as her favourites. Her hunger for such difficult and involving texts at such an early age were an indicator of both her aptitude for literature and her solid foundation in the works of great literary authors, which will have an impact on her as she develops novels of her own. During those years Morrison had hopes of becoming a dancer, something greatly valued in the traditions passed down from her grandparents and parents, but her early reading inspired her to «capture ... specificity about the nature and feeling of the culture [she] grew up in».

Morrison's foundation and sense of self was strengthened by the community in which she lived. She was impressed with the cohesiveness of the small black Lorain community that parented and nurtured her for seventeen years. Morrison thinks of it as a «neighbourhood», a life-giving and sustaining compound, a village in the traditional African sense. Morrison grew up well taken care of, and her sense of community gave her pride in the way her people could live together.

Toni Morrison excelled in her academic school work, and received an education that would allow her to excel in work as a writer in the African-American tradition. She graduated from Lorain High School with honours and went on to attend Howard University, historically one of the most highly regarded black colleges. She graduated from Howard with a B.A. in English and a minor in classics. She describes her years there, during which she changed her name to Toni, with some measure of ambivalence.

She was disappointed with the atmosphere of the university, which, as she has said, «was about getting married, buying clothes and going to parties». This was a big difference from the community in which she grew up, so to offset the influences of these sorts of preoccupations, she became involved in the Howard University Players and travelled with a student-faculty drama troupe that took plays on tour throughout the South during the summers. Her involvement in the Drama department exposed her to playwriting and showed her another aspect of written expression which she had not previously known. After graduating from Howard in 1953, she went on to receive her M.A. in English from Cornell University, and started her teaching career at Texas Southern University, where she could begin writing her first novels.

Morrison did not immediately start writing after graduating from Cornell. She taught English full time at Texas Southern University from 1955 to 1957 and returned to teach at Howard from 1957 to 1964. At Howard she met and married Harold Morrison, a Jamaican architect; they had two sons, Harold Ford and Slade Kevin. It was then that she became forever known as Toni Morrison. Morrison says little about her marriage but has remarked upon the sense of frustration she experienced during that period: «It was as though I had no judgment, no perspective, no power, no authority, no self – just this brutal sense of irony, melancholy and a trembling respect for words». She could hardly find time to contribute to any form of writing while working full time and trying to raise a family. Morrison divorced her husband around the same time she left Howard, in 1964.

Morrison found herself free to write and began cultivating childhood memories into novels. After the divorce, she took her two sons back with her to Lorain for eighteen months. During this time she joined a writer's group, and wrote a story that would later become her first novel, «The Bluest Eye». It was also at this time that she began to work in publishing, first as an editor at L.W. Singer, the textbook subsidiary of Random House in Syracuse, and then as a senior editor at Random House's headquarters in New York City. While working in Syracuse, she worked on the manuscript of what was to become «The Bluest Eye», based on a memory from Loraine of a black girl who wanted blue eyes. She sent part of a draft to an

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editor, who liked it enough to suggest that she finish it. «The Bluest Eye» was published in 1970.

«Sula», published in 1973 as her second novel, contrasts with «The Bluest Eye». It lays bare the «unyielding personality of a pariah», the title character, who refuses to succumb to the codes, values, and standards of both the dominant culture and her immediate environment. One of «Sula's» main themes, individuality, was appropriate for the time in which it was published. Many African-Americans could relate and try to follow the examples and instances in the work, and it was widely popular. In «Sula» Toni Morrison explores the friendship of two young girls in the small town of Bottom. However, it is not their friendship that is so compelling but how they are such opposite in the way they relate to other people, to the world around them and toward each other. Theirs is a symbiotic relationship; one, without the other, will not suffice in its existence. Only the combination of both characters succeeds in constructing a solid identity for one another. Together they form a solid working unit.

The main theme of her third novel, «Song of Solomon», is that truth compels one to get in touch with his or her heritage in order to comprehend and appreciate one's true self. Morrison is trying to do with this novel what her parents and grandparents did for her: reveal the importance and significance of the traditions of one's people to the individual self.

In her fourth novel, «Tar Baby», Morrison produced a truly public novel about the condition of society, examining the relationships between whites and blacks, men and women, civilization and nature circa 1981. She tries to teach others to widen their horizons and see things not just based on race, but on all other aspects of our world. She may no longer be in the classroom, but she still is trying to teach.

In her fifth novel, «Beloved», Toni Morrison once again focuses on the importance of history and heritage. She unmasks the horrors of slavery, and depicts its aftermath on African Americans. The story is perfect for all who did not experience nor could imagine how it was to be an African American in America in the 1860's. «Beloved» lends a gateway to understanding the trials and tribulations of the modern African American. The novel has many things that occur that are very striking, most of which have to deal with the treatment of the African Americans. The book as a whole

is very disturbing, and even shows to what lengths African Americans were willing to go to avoid enslavement of themselves or their children. In the novel the most extreme case of someone avoiding enslavement comes from the main character when she attempts to kill her children.

Her sixth novel, «Jazz», takes place in Harlem and shows how important music is in one's culture. «Jazz» is the story of a triangle of passion, jealousy, murder and redemption, of sex and spirituality, of slavery and liberation, of country and city, of being male and female, African American, and above all, of being human.

Toni Morrison's seventh novel, written in 1998, is titled «Paradise». Morrison introduces an enormous number of characters, and imagines immensely complicated relationships in creating the life of an entire town, from its founding to the disastrous events that force it to face up to harsh realities. The basic tenets of Christianity and the hope of redemption and resurrection figure prominently in her story. This is a large menu, but Toni Morrison is a most accomplished chef. What she has produced here is food for the soul with exotic touches.

«Love», Toni Morrison's latest novel, is an exploration into the deepest regions of these most complicated of human emotions. Culture and society are rich in examples of how mere mortals have always attempted to understand the animal attraction between two people and, in doing so, to rationalize the essences of passion and romance. Ancient myths, poems, plays, novels, songs, folklore, fairy tales, film, advertising and popular culture in general all reflect peoples' preoccupation with love and its dizzying impact on the human psyche; both lover and beloved are equally bewildered by its bewitching spell.

Toni Morrison's success is evident in the numerous awards she has won. She has won the Melcher Book Award, Elmer Holms Bobst Award, as well as the Chianti Ruffino AnticoFattore International Literary Prize. «Song of Solomon» won the National Book Critics Circle Award and the Friends of American Writers Award, as well as the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters Award. In 1988 she won the Pulitzer Prize, one of her most cherished awards for her work on «Beloved». Then in 1993, Toni Morrison became the eighth woman, and first black woman to receive the most prestigious award a writer may receive: the Nobel Prize

for Literature. Then in 1996, she received the National Book Foundation Medal for Distinguished Contribution to American Letters.

Whether as a novelist, critic, professor, editor, or mentor to other writers, Toni Morrison has had a profound impact upon the literature and culture of the twentieth century, both in the United States and around the world. Her narratives make visible stories that might otherwise have been lost, and eloquently represent the complex workings of oppression, resistance, and tradition in African American communities, past and present.

Unit 1 Prologue and Chapter 1, Part 1 (pp. 3-23)

Lexical exercises

Ex.1 Find the sentences in which the following words and expressions are used and reproduce their contextual meaning.

hesitate (3), regain (4), demeanor (5), ajar (5), awe (6), on call (6), unaccounted for (7), refuge (9), nightmare (10), surfeit (11), confine to (12), assault (15), nitwit (17), conspire (19), hang on to something (21).

Ex.2 Match the following definitions with the words from Ex.1.

1 to take or get back; recover; 2 not explained adequately; 3 to continue or persist in an activity, especially with effort or difficulty; 4 slightly open; 5 shelter or protection, as from the weather or danger; 6 to keep or close within bounds; limit; restrict; 7 a foolish person; 8 to hold back or be slow in acting; be uncertain; 9 available to be called for work outside normal working hours; 10 an excessive or immoderate amount; 11 to plan or agree on (a crime or harmful act) together in secret; 12 the way a person behaves towards others; conduct; 13 to make a violent attack; 14 a terrifying or deeply distressing dream; 15 overwhelming wonder, admiration, respect, or dread.

Ex.3 Give words or phrases synonymous to the given below and the situations in which they are used.

dwelling, accommodation (3), a strong impulse, desire (4), demanding, persistent (4), raise, lift (5), fall asleep (6), relieve (7), find (8), worker, workman (9), change (9), gaze, observe (10), endless (14), meeting, collision (15), suitcase (19), old (22).

Ex.4 Give antonyms to the following words and their context.

careful, thorough (3), temporary (9), restless (9), inattentive (11), confidence (12), gentle (14).

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Ex.5 Explain the meaning of the following words and phrases.
counterclockwise (4), to break a dream life apart (6), surgical hunger (7), schedule for eternity (9), to be bored out of one's mind (11), set one's teeth on edge (12), to winter (13), a greenhouse (14), exile (15), revolting (18), a straightjacket (20), a late-sleeper and early-riser (22).

Ex.6 Reproduce the situations with the following words
1) go to the quarters, no things to gather, take off, duck, dive headfirst, swim well.
2) a toothache, to press the button, to telephone the neighbours, dentist, position a needle, pain disappeared.
3) to stay a bachelor, go for a stroll, Snow Carnival Parade, a polar bear, a rosy-cheeked girl, to kneel down.

Ex.7 Find in the text the words describing
a) the nature on Isle des Chevaliers.
b) the house of the Streets'.
c) Valerian Street.

Speech exercises

Ex.1 Answer the questions.
1. What is the man doing when we first meet him? 2. What happened after he dived into the water? 3. What did the man have to do to stay alive? 4. What did he find on board the "Sea Bird"? 5. Who was handling the boat and what were these people like? 6. What was Isle des Chevaliers like before man came to it? 7. What was the Streets' house like? 8. Who inhabited this house? 9. What was Valerian's hobby? 10. Did Valerian miss Philadelphia? If he did, what things did he miss? 11. Who came to the Streets' for Christmas and whom are they still waiting for? 12. What are the relations between the Streets' and their servants?

Ex.2 Are these statements true or false? Prove your point of view.
1. The man was a bad swimmer. 2. The owners of the Sea Bird noticed the stranger on the ship. 3. There were just women on board. 4. While stay-

ing on board the man slept and ate. 5. The nature was spoiled on the island by man. 6. The owners of the house dreamed of returning to the mainland. 7. Music was the greatest Valerian's hobby. 8. Valerian had no friends. 9. Valerian is still a bachelor. 10. Valerian's wife has her own boat. 11. Valerian loves the idea of having some guests for Christmas. 12. The Streets' are not always satisfied with their servants.

Ex.3 Whom do these words belong to and what are their meaning?
1. He'll be here till he dies. Less that greenhouse burns up. 2. And I prefer she should stay here because her husband's here, not because the boat is. 3. I know what she thought but the help is worse than the problem. 4. Coming and going, going and coming. 5. I am a first-rate butler and I can't be first-rate in slippers. 6. At seventy everything's medicine. 7. They tell us what to eat. Who is working for who?

Ex.4 What is meant by the phrase?
1. The sex, weight, the demeanour of whomever he encountered would inform and determine his tale. 2. Poor insulted, heart-broken river. Poor demented stream. 3. Every effort had been made to keep it from looking "designed". 4. The postman was lost to him forever. 5. This encounter, born in encouraged hatred, ended in affection. 6. Both felt as though they had been run out of their homes.

Ex. 5 Think of a dialogue between
1 Sydney and his wife Ondine discussing their masters.
2 Sydney and Ondine discussing Valerian's hobbies.
3 Sydney and Valerian discussing Margaret and Michael's coming.

Ex.6 Describe.
1 The nature on Isle des Chevaliers.
2 The Streets' house.
3 Valerian and his hobbies.

Ex.7 Give a summary of the passage under study.

Unit 2 Chapter 1, Part 2 (pp. 24-42)

Lexical exercises

Ex.1 Find the sentences in which the following words and expressions are used and reproduce their contextual meaning.

defy (25), a find (25), work oneself up (26), patronize (28), get over (29), pry out (31), dwell on something (31), be due (35), fix mind on something (35), fake (37), venture (41), a treat (42).

Ex.2 Match the following definitions with the words from Ex.1.

1. get upset; 2. to extract or obtain with difficulty; 3. to think about something over and over again; 4. enjoyment, delight, pleasure; 5. to resist (a powerful person, authority, etc.) openly and boldly, to challenge; 6. to protect, sponsor and support; 7. appointed to be present or arrive; 8. to expose to danger; 9. a person, thing, etc., that is found, especially a valuable or fortunate discovery; 10. to think, speak, or write at length; 11. to cause something to appear more valuable, desirable, or real by fraud or pretence; 12. to recover from (an illness, shock, etc.).

Ex.3 Give words or phrases synonymous to the given below.

final (26), thoughtful, serious (28), grumble (31), straightforward; direct (31), walk, stroll (31), to shout or yell (34), to feel sorrow, remorse, or regret (36), to anger and infuriate (41), drag, pull, tow, tug (41).

Ex.4 Explain the meaning of the following words and phrases.

cocktail party (25), a child bride (26), a sentimental holiday (27), environmental lawyer (27), at the dreaming stage (30), fool with somebody (34), deny someone a child (36), get one's way (38), a Mary (41), explicit refusal (41).

Ex.5 Reproduce the situations with the following words

1) guests for Christmas, not to show up again, be bored to death, to want to live with somebody, let somebody alone, agree to.

2) kiss somebody's forehead, well and late, a cup of chocolate, model for Karen, face in every magazine in Paris, to want business, not to leave somebody.

3) come on Saturdays, to refer to somebody as Mary, venture a comment, to do work inside, enrage somebody, to run errands.

Speech exercises

Ex.1 Answer the questions.

1. What is Valerian's reaction to having guests on Christmas? 2. Does Valerian believe that Michael will come for Christmas? Why? 3. What is Michael by profession? 4. What is Margaret planning to do after Christmas? 5. Why is Valerian against her decision? 6. What is Jade doing in Valerian's house? 7. What are Jade's plans for future? 8. Why is Valerian worried when he thinks about Sydney and Ondine? 9. What are Valerian's and Margaret's ideas about Christmas dinner? 10. What does Ondine think of it? 11. What does Ondine think of Michael? 12. What is Jadine's occupation? 13. What is Jadine planning to do this day? 14. What happened in the second kitchen where the supplies were kept? 15. Who is Yardman? 16. What does he do around the house? 17. Was there anything special about Yardman's face? 18. Whom does Yardman bring with him?

Ex.2 Are these statements true or false. Prove your point of view.

1. Valerian thinks it's a nice idea to have an old-fashioned Christmas. 2. Valerian hopes that his son will come for Christmas. 3. Margaret wants to live with her son in his own flat. 4. Margaret is not satisfied with her living in two places at the same time. 5. Valerian and Margaret love Jadine. 6. Jadine has a big family. 7. Valerian thinks his servants will leave him to help Jade to run her shop. 8. Ondine is absolutely against turkey. 9. Ondine and Sydney are trying to cook healthy food for Valerian. 10. Everybody suspects Yardman and Marys in stealing the chocolate.

Ex.3 Whom do these words belong to and what are their meaning?

1. If we hurry by the time I am eighty we can invite Philadelphia. 2. I am undergoing this very big change in my life called dying. 3. They are

here and they always will be. 4. Even the coloured people down here don't eat mangoes. 5. He's always coming. Ain't got here yet. 6. Valerian was a little boy? You sure? 7. Made those white girls disappear.

Ex. 4 What is meant by the phrase?

1. Her little victory over the mango strengthened her. 2. Love and good food never spoiled nobody. 3. She loved it when her niece called her Nanadine. 4. Fourteen, perhaps, or twenty, depending on what she chose to do with her eyes. 5. The Mary never did except for a quiet "Oui, madam". 6. She'd be damned if she'd mention a turkey.

Ex. 5 Think of a dialogue between

- a) Valerian and his wife discussing plans for Christmas.
- b) Sydney and Ondine discussing Valerian, Margaret and Michael.
- c) Sydney, Ondine and Jade.

Ex.6 Give a summary of the passage under study.

Ex.7 Write a short passage describing what you already know about the relations between: a) Valerian and Margaret; b) Sydney and Valerian; c) the Streets and Michael; d) Sydney, Ondine and Jade; e) Sydney, Ondine and other servants in the house. Use examples from the book.

Unit 3 Chapter 2 (pp. 43-61)

Lexical exercises

Ex.1 Translate and memorize the following words. Match them with the following definitions.

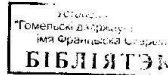
Alert (43), to elude (43), to repel (44), to transfix (45), to insult (47), a flop (50), to make an ass of somebody (51), to swerve (53), a spendthrift (54), to befall (54), to regale (56), to consort with (59), to pamper (59), to preen (60), to refresh (61).

1 failure, collapse, decline; 2 to give delight or amusement; 3 to cut a foolish figure; 4 to make or become fresh, as through rest, drink, or food; 5 attentive; 6 to turn or cause to turn aside, usually sharply or suddenly, from a course; 7 to make motionless, especially with horror or shock; 8 to treat with affectionate and usually excessive indulgence; spoil; 9 to escape or avoid; 10 a person who spends money in an extravagant manner; 11 to take place; to happen; 12 to pride; 13 to treat, mention, or speak rudely; offend; 14 to produce a feeling of aversion or distaste in; be disgusting; 15 to keep company with undesirable people; associate.

Ex.2 Insert the new words. Translate the sentences.

1. The car ... to the right. 2. No son of mine shall ... with common criminals. 3. In the war time he was lucky to ... wounds. 4. What a ... you are to waste all your money on that silly hobby of yours! 5. He was ... in case of any danger. 6. The eye and the ear, and all the senses, are ... amidst woodland scenery on a fine spring day. 7. I'll just ... myself with a cup of tea. 8. His awful manners ... me. 9. She ... of herself when arguing to prove her point of view. 10. Do not ... yourself on defeating so weak an enemy. 11. She was ... with astonishment. 12. He felt ... by the refusal. 13. His idea proved out to be a real ... 14. The disaster ... the human race.

Ex.3 Find the situations in the text where the new words are used.



РЕПОЗИТОРИЙ ГГУ ИИ

Ex.4 Give words or phrases synonymous to the given below.

Unsurprised (43), respect (43), superior, supreme, extraordinary (46), exceeding (46), false (48), interfering and nosy (50), to value (51), a sweet (53), permanently, eternally, everlastingly (54), to remove (57), loneliness (59).

Ex.5 Explain the meaning of the following words and phrases.

Grocery shopping (44), benevolent circumstances (45), unphotographable beauty (46), to straighten one's hair (48), a jig (51), candy giant (53), insomniac (55), a monogram (58), an overprotective parent (60).

Speech exercises

Ex.1 Answer the questions.

1. What are nights like in the Caribbean? 2. How are the pair of servants sleeping? 3. Why does the sleep elude Valerian? 4. What is he doing while he can't get to sleep? 5. What are Margaret's preparations for getting to sleep? 6. What event is Jade trying to recall? 7. Why was the day of this event the happiest day of her life? 8. Whom did she meet in the shop? 9. What was the woman doing in the shop? 10. What struck Jadine the most in her encounter with the woman in yellow? 11. What happened to Jadine next? 12. Why can't she forget the woman in yellow? 13. What legend about the island did Valerian and Margaret tell? 14. Who is Ryk and what does Jade think of him? 15. What was Valerian's childhood like? 16. What was his first marriage? 17. How did Valerian meet Margaret? 18. What were Valerian's plans connected with his son? 19. Who were Margaret's parents? 20. How was Margaret different from the rest of her family? 21. Why did Margaret's appearance worry her father? 22. What did he decide to do about it? 23. What were the relations between Margaret and her parents before and after she got married? 24. How did Valerian's relatives and friends meet his young wife? 25. Did Margaret have friends after she married Valerian? 26. Why did she have to break her friendship with Ondine? 27. What were the relations between Margaret and Michael when he was a small boy? 28. Why does Margaret want to live with her son now?

Ex.2 Whose characteristics are these? Comment on them.

1. It is always full. Always adrift and curious. 2. The man without pajama tops in deference to the heat. 3. His wife up to her neck in percale to defy it. 4. The skin like tar against the canary yellow dress. 5. The woman's woman – that mother/sister/she. 6. A lucky girl – why leave the show? 7. May be they are still young, still riding. 8. Exciting and smart and fun and sexy. 9. They could live together like a family at last. 10. Nothing would pull them away from the jobs they had had for thirty years or more. 11. The future of the family. 12. She was all red and white, like the Valerians. 13. The boy was a grown up man, but perpetually childlike. 14. Two ordinary-looking people. 15. Twins with hair the colour of saffron and the white skin of the north. 16. The smartest and the nicest. 17. The proudest people of their race.

Ex.3 What is meant by the phrase?

1. When you have fallen in love, rage is superfluous, insult impossible. 2. I wonder if the person he wants to marry is me or a black girl? 3. White but European was not as bad as white and American? 4. He resisted the temptation to introduce a new confection named after his son. 5. The son was not charmed by Teddy Boys or islands retreats. 6. He thought some great event was in store for him, but it never happened. 7. They gave her care, but withdrew attention. 8. She didn't have to leave them, they had already left her. 9. She couldn't even give them orders the way she was supposed to. 10. She should guide the servants, not consort with them. 11. It frightened Margaret – the possibility of losing him. 12. No one would believe that she loved him. 13. There was no competition with him, no winning, no preening.

Ex.4 Retell

- 1 The story of Jade and the woman in yellow's encounter.
- 2 Valerian's life.
- 3 Margaret's childhood.

Unit 4 Chapter 3 (pp. 62-80)

Lexical exercises

Ex.1 Translate and memorize the following words. Match them with the following definitions.

to dawdle (62), to squint (63), fidgety (64), a hint (66), doty (66), to bait (67), solicitude (68), menace (68), frailty (68), to animate (72), serenity (74), a residue (77), deft (77).

1 anxiety or concern; 2 to give life to or cause to come alive; 3 to peep, look or glance sideways and secretly; 4 slightly crazy; 5 something remaining after something has been removed; 6 to be slow or lag behind; 7 to persecute or tease; 8 clarity, clearness, stillness; 9 a suggestion or implication given in an indirect or subtle manner; 10 a threat or the act of threatening; 11 skillful, skilled, quick and neat in movement; 12 nervous and jumpy; 13 physical or moral weakness.

Ex.2 Insert the new words. Translate the sentences.

1. She was apparently a very ... woman, and that affected her career. 2. There is a ... of rain. 3. The magician riffled through the cards with ... fingers. 4. He dared to ... at me one more time before I went away. 5. No breath disturbed the perfect ... of the night. 6. This patient requires intensive ... 7. The Englishman looked sick and a bit ... 8. The speech of the general ... his troops. 9. She dropped a ... that she would retire soon. 10. There was a ... of kindness in her eyes but no love any more. 11. There is some characteristic ... at the bottom of every human heart. 12. ... each other for years was their favourite pastime activity. 13. Don't ... over your meal, we don't want to be late for the performance.

Ex.3 Find the situations in the text where the new words are used.

Ex.4 Explain the meaning of the following words and phrases.

racial characteristics (64), mediocrity (66), to be knocking fifty (67), fatheaded wedding (70), perpetual loser (75), blue-if-it's-a-boy blue eyes (78), port-softened eyes (78), the Met (79), dreadlock hair (80).

Speech exercises

Ex.1 Answer the questions.

1. What was Margaret like during the dinner? 2. What worried Margaret during the meal? 3. What mistake did she make at the dinner-table? 4. Why was Margaret sure that Michael would come for Christmas? 5. What hint had she made in the letter to Michael? 6. What was Valerian's idea about the poet? 7. What were the quarrels between Valerian and Margaret like? 8. Why was Jadine worried about these quarrels? 9. What other guests were Valerian and Margaret discussing? 10. Why doesn't Margaret like Valerian's sister? 11. Why is Valerian worried about Christmas? 12. Why did Jadine and Michael quarrel one day long ago? 13. What did Jade think about Michael's words? 14. What bad thing did Margaret do to Michael when he was a small boy, from Valerian's point of view? 15. What was the reason Michael was hiding under the sink? 16. What did Valerian do about it? 17. Why does Margaret want Michael to come, as Valerian sees it? 18. What happened while Valerian and Jadine were talking about Michael? 19. Why was Margaret screaming? 20. Did anybody believe Margaret's story? Why/Why not? 21. Who was there in Margaret's closet?

Ex.2 Whose characteristics are these? Comment on them.

1. He is seventy, she is knocking fifty. 2. The most beautiful, the brightest boy in the land. 3. Maybe she is a family now – or nobody. 4. You've grown. He hasn't. 5. Like two old cats clawed each other. 6. A complaining kitten. Always meowing. 7. Then she'd lose interest again. 8. With a smile like Sunday. 9. She is drunk.

Ex.3 What is meant by the phrase?

1. Speed has nothing to do with it. Pace does. 2. You've mislead him entirely. 3. "I married an idiot!" – "And I married an old fool". 4. Actually it's for Michael that I stay. His protection. 5. Picasso is better than Inumba masks. 6. I want him to be something at all. 7. Now she's ready. When it's over. 8. I can't tell you how lonely, lonely song. 9. I thought another child – but she said no. 10. Only the sounds, heard or imagined, that humans made.

Ex.4 Prove or refute with the help of the text that

- 1 Margaret still feels ill at ease at the dinner table.
- 2 Jade is treated like a servant in Valerian's house.
- 3 Valerian would like to invite some quests for Christmas whom Margaret doesn't like.
- 4 It's natural for husbands and wives to quarrel, but there's something unnatural in Valerian and Margaret's quarrels.
- 5 Jadine and Michael are good friends.
- 6 Valerian is of high opinion about his son.
- 7 Margaret was not ready to become a mother when Michael was born.
- 8 Michael made Jadine think of what and who she was.
- 9 Valerian did not believe that Margaret had seen somebody in her closet.
- 10 The black man tried to resist Sydney when he tried to catch him.

Ex.5 Retell in indirect speech.

- 1 The quarrels between Valerian and Margaret.
- 2 The way Michael was brought up.
- 3 What Jade remembers of Michael.
- 4 How the man in the closet was found.

Unit 5 Chapter 4, Part 1 (pp. 81-102)

Lexical exercises

Ex.1 Translate and memorize the following words.

Vigorous (81), uppity (84), consistent (86), to budge (86), to soothe (91), to mug (91), restraint (92), to give someone his/her due (97), edgy (98), to rile (101).

Ex.2 Paraphrase the sentences using the new words instead of the words in italics.

1. A stone so huge, that three men could hardly *stir* it. 2. Everybody *gave him what he deserved* – love and admiration. 3. At forty-five he was so *healthy* that he made his way to Scotland on foot. 4. I was walking out to my car when this guy tried to *rob* me. 5. It *made me angry* that they were paying no taxes. 6. There has been a *steady* growth of prices this year. 7. It was hard for him to show *reserve* during the conversation, but he tried as much as he could. 8. She's been a bit *nervous* lately. 9. He's just about the most *arrogant* fellow I ever ran into in my life. 10. The mother tried to *quiet* the child with a song.

Ex.3 Find the situations from the text where the new words are used.

Ex.4 Find a word/words which mean/s the same.

blurred, unclear (83), exhausted (83), dissatisfied, discontented, displeased (84), extremely hot (85), conceit, self-sufficiency, arrogance (90), a capricious idea or notion (91), worn-out, shabby (91), untidiness (95), contradictory, opposite (97).

Ex.5 Explain the meaning of the following words and phrases.

Astonishing good looks (82), unrefreshing sleep (86), tampered rooster (89), a believer (93), a pantry (93), to run a house (97), a crazy hobo (101).

РЕПОЗИТОРИЙ ГГУ ВШ

Speech exercises ▶

Ex.1 Answer the questions.

1. What was Margaret thinking about while lying in her bed? 2. What are the things that Margaret misses from her childhood? 3. Why is she shocked and dissatisfied by Valerian's behavior? 4. What's her opinion of the black man? 5. What was Margaret's attitude to Jadine when she was a girl and what is her attitude now? 6. Why doesn't Margaret love the island? What helps her bear it? 7. What present and from whom did Jade receive for Christmas? 8. What were the presents Jade prepared for the Streets and her aunt and uncle? 9. What were her ideas about buying Michael a present? 10. What changes did Jade notice in her aunt and uncle? 11. What event did Jade recall that had once happened to Valerian? 12. What was the atmosphere like during the dinner when the black man dined with Valerian and Jade? 13. What facts of the man's background became known during the dinner? 14. Why had the black man hidden in Margaret's closet? 15. What did Yardman have to do in the kitchen this morning? 16. Why was Ondine confused about it? 17. Why was Sydney angry with Yardman? 18. What are the other reasons for Sydney's bad mood? 19. What are Sydney's thoughts about the black man? 20. What was Jade's reaction to the man? 21. Why does Sydney think that Valerian treats him and Ondine improperly? 22. What did Ondine advise Sydney to do with his fear?

Ex.2 Whose characteristics are these? Comment on the characteristics.

1. They are fat and lazy, curious about nothing. 2. Margaret found her awkward and pouty, but now that she was grown up, she was pretty and a lot of fun. 3. As calm as you please and as filthy as could be. 4. What a first class louse. 5. Real live dope addict ape. 6. Mean as a tampered rooster. 7. A night prowler – sleeps all day, prowls all night. 8. They had been her parents since she was twelve. 9. His anger and frustration were too strong to hide. 10. More than grace he had courage. 11. A child whom she could enjoy, indulge, protect.

Ex.3 What is meant by the phrase?

1. Beauty is never enough. But you are. 2. Already the confusion was coming back. 3. It's Valerian who has to tell him to go. 4. What money can't buy. 5. You pick and choose when to believe and when not? 6. Wait till Michael hears about it. 7. A crazy white man and a crazy Black man is a shake too much. 8. It ain't your bone.

Ex.4 Prove or refute with the help of the text that

- 1 Margaret misses her parents and their home.
- 2 Margaret was sure that the black man had killed everybody and only she survived.
- 3 Jade enjoys Ryk's present, but Ondine is worried about it.
- 4 Jade forgot to buy presents for everybody.
- 5 Jade thinks a present for Michael must be something luxurious.
- 6 The black man introduced himself.
- 7 The black man came from America.
- 8 Yardman does some work instead of Ondine.
- 9 Sydney wants to find some other servant instead of Yardman.
- 10 Sydney is not afraid of the black man.
- 11 Sydney has some reasons to have a grudge against Valerian.

Ex.5 Describe.

- 1 Jadine's preparation for Christmas.
- 2 The dinner where the black man was present.
- 3 Ondine and Sydney's argument about the black man and Valerian.

РЕПОЗИТОРИЙ ГГУ ИИ

Unit 6 Chapter 4, Part 2 (pp. 102-127)

Lexical exercises

Ex.1 Translate and memorize the following words.

A pretext (104), to skulk (107), to crave for (109), a subterfuge (109), an asset (110), to exemplify (111), remorse (112), vulnerable (115), to manipulate (119), to elaborate (122), to backfire (125), to come to one's senses (126).

Ex.2 Paraphrase the sentences using the new words instead of the words in italics.

1. She was quite *defenceless* after what had happened. 2. Jake came *hiding* in the shadows of the trees. 3. She felt *deep regret and guilt* for what she had said. 4. And we've got to save a bit if we are going to live here, until whoever decides the income tax *comes to reason*. 5. It was an *excuse* to occupy more territory. 6. She *handled* the needle very easily. 7. I can't seem to stop *wanting* cigarettes. 8. Our ideas about right and wrong are *shown* in the laws. 9. He had to resort to a *trick* not to be caught. 10. Her attempt to frame him for the crime *played against him*. 11. The high character which the corps has won is in itself a *valuable thing*. 12. Please *consider* this question, we need to know more.

Ex.3 Find the situations from the text where the new words are used.

Ex.4 Find a word/words which mean/s the same.

hobo, tramp (102), to shake up, stir up (103), question, inquiry (105), to kill, to murder (106), similar (109), to be plentifully supplied with (110), arrogant, uppity (110), to feel bitter, indignant (112), untidy (113), excellent, magnificent (123), to disgust (123), aversion, hatred (126), reflection, thought (127).

Ex.5 Explain the meaning of the following words and phrases.

Foraging animal (105), handyman (110), coquette (111), accomplished student (116), fast lane (117), to be in strange waters (126), to beat the band (127).

Speech exercises

Ex.1 Answer the questions.

1. What was Ondine's opinion about the black man? 2. What is Therese doing in the washhouse? 3. What did she find out about the black man? 4. Who was the first to see the black man on the island? 5. How did Therese and Gideon help the black man? 6. What news did Gideon bring Therese that day? 7. How did he know that he was in the house openly? 8. What do Gideon and Therese think about the black man's purpose of coming to the island? 9. Where did Gideon come from? 10. How and why did he get to the USA? 11. Why did he return to the island? 12. What is his life on the island like? 13. What is Gideon's and Therese's attitude towards the American Negroes and white Americans? 14. What, from Therese's point of view, will happen to the black man afterwards? 15. Why did the black man come to Jade's room? 16. What were Jade and the black man talking about? 17. What interested the black man in the magazine with Jade on the cover? 18. What does Jade think about the black man's interest in the jewellery? 19. What had the black man done sometimes at night before he was discovered? 20. Why was Jadine suddenly infuriated by the black man? 21. What was her reaction to the black man's insulting words? 22. What did she decide to do about it? 23. Why was Jade ashamed? 24. What and whom did she find in the greenhouse?

Ex.2 Whose characteristics are these? Comment on the characteristics.

1. He was nasty and ignorant. 2. Her braids crossed like two silver machetes. 3. He is a horseman come down here to get her. 4. What they took for inattentiveness was a miracle of concentration. 5. His skin as dark as a riverbed, his eyes as steady and clear as a thief's. 6. Wild, aggressive, vicious hair that needed to be put in jail. 7. I belong to me.

Ex.3 What is meant by the phrase?

1. Who but an ass would go back to Dominique with no more than what he had when he left? 2. All her life she thought they felt nothing at all. 3. Kill him dead. 4. What had he seen or heard? 5. This is wrong, she thought. I shouldn't make him angry. 6. Nothing's priceless. Everything has a price. 7. You know I am not white! 8. Some mess this is.

Ex.4 Finish up the sentences and expand your thoughts.

1. Ondine was surprised because... 2. Therese thought that the black man came to the island to... 3. Gideon brought Therese the news that... 4. When Gideon was young he... 5. The magazine which Jade showed interested the black man because... 6. When the black man was still hiding he often... 7. Jadine was hesitating whether to tell Valerian everything because... 8. Valerian is playing a game that... 9. The black men Jade knew were...

Ex.5 Prove or refute with the help of the text that

1 Ondine also has some reasons to be dissatisfied with Valerian.
2 Therese is not very happy to live on the island and to serve the Streets.
3 The black man accepted the help which was secretly offered to him.
4 Gideon regrets his coming back to the island.
5 Therese never pays attention to her masters.
6 The black man suggested Jadine choosing a name for him.
7 The black man seems to have a good education.
8 The black man is being rude to Jade because he likes her.

Ex.6 Describe.

1 The life of the "lower" servants on the island.
2 The black man and his behaviour as a guest.
3 Jade's attitude to the black man and the way it changes.

Unit 7 Chapter 5, Part 1 (pp. 128-156)

Lexical exercises

Ex.1 Translate and memorize the following words. Match them with the following definitions.

Fragile (131), to sneak (138), to obliterate (140), to fuss over (141), to zoom (142), to rattle (142), reconciliation (143), an intruder (144), disarray (145), to duck (147), snooty (153), to unnerve (155).

1. to rise or to increase; 2. to dive or immerse; 3. contemptuous, scornful, haughty; 4. able to be broken easily; 5. to chat about something; 6. disorderliness; untidiness; 7. to go or to behave in a cowardly or underhand manner; 8. peace and agreement; 9. to cause to lose courage, strength, confidence, self-control; 10. to be excessively concerned over trifles; 11. to erase, strike out, cross out, remove; 12. a person who enters a building, grounds, etc., without permission.

Ex.2 Insert the new words. Translate the sentences.

1. She ... over the children so much. 2. I felt always like an ... there. 3. He ... under water and appeared on the other side of the pond. 4. The boy had ... out of the room while we weren't looking. 5. What a ... waiter! 6. Don't touch this vase - it's too 7. The plane ... up into the sky. 8. Nothing could ... the memory of those tragic events. 9. He found the room in ... , with food dumped on the floor and drawers pulled open. 10. He could ... on about his work for hours. 11. She lives in ... with her neighbours. 12. The feeling of love ... him.

Ex.3 Find the situations from the text where the new words are used.

Ex.4 Explain the meaning of the following words and phrases.

Homesickness (138), do-not-disturb and this-seat-taken sign (139), unlovable shrew (143), narcissism (144), an orphan (145), derring-do (145), phony accent (150), well-heeled man (151), a yalla (155).

Speech exercises

Ex.1 Answer the questions.

1. What were Jade and Margaret's discussing? 2. What did they decide to do to get rid of the black man? 3. What was the black man doing after Jade had gone? 4. What was his appearance like after he had spent several weeks hiding in the jungle? 5. How did it happen that the black man came to Valerian's house? 6. Why did he decide to stay near the house? 7. What did he remember about his childhood? 8. What was the reaction of the neighbourhood boys to his taking piano lessons? 9. What choice did the black man have to do on the island? 10. In what way did he first see Jadine? 11. What was the situation with the black man's name? 12. What episode from his childhood did Valerian remember? 13. Who was the washerwoman? 14. How did she help Valerian? 15. How does Valerian feel about growing old? 16. What did he recall about his first wife? 17. Why did Valerian let Son stay in his house? 18. Why did he like the black man? 19. What were they talking about in the greenhouse? 20. How did Son help Valerian? 21. Why were Valerian and Son laughing? 22. Where did Gideon and Son go? 23. Why was Valerian sure that Son wouldn't return to Valerian's house? 24. How was Son welcomed in Gideon's house? 25. What did Son find out about the blind race? 26. What, from Gideon's point of view, is the reason why Son stays in Valerian's house? 27. What did Alma Estee ask Son about?

Ex.2 Whose characteristics are these? Comment on the characteristics.

1. He looked like a gorilla! 2. She was thin, toothless and looked like a bird. 3. The unlovable shrew who was unlovable to this very day. 4. Their faces as black as his but smug. 5. Purveyor of exotics, a typical anthropologist, a cultural orphan. 6. She's gone stupid as well as blind. 7. That one. That devil. 8. The most generous people on the globe.

Ex.3 What is meant by the phrase?

1. Women were not on his mind. 2. His hands would be doing something nice and human for a change. 3. I was named after an emperor. 4.

They won't come near a mirror. 5. It's hard for them not to be white people.

Ex.4 Finish up the sentences and expand your thoughts.

1. Jadine told Margaret that ... 2. After Jadine had left Son ... 3. When the women's boat came to shore Son ... 4. When Son reached the house he ... 5. When he was a boy Son ... 6. Valerian remembered how ... 7. On the day his father died Valerian ... 8. Valerian's first wife ... 9. In the greenhouse Valerian and Son ... 10. Gideon, Therese and Alma Estee ...

Ex.5 Prove or refute with the help of the text that

1 Margaret and Jade decided to leave the island immediately.
2 The black man thought everybody in the house was afraid of him.
3 When Son left the boat he saw Jadine and followed her to Valerian's house.
4 When Son went to war he was afraid for his hands.
5 Son doesn't remember his original name.
6 Valerian's childhood was quite lonely.
7 Valerian never thinks about his first wife.
8 Valerian admits to himself that he would like Michael to come.
9 Son enjoyed his time at Therese and Gideon's.
10 Son is always welcomed at Gideon's house.

Ex.6 Think of a dialogues between

1 Margaret and Jadine planning to leave the house.
2 Valerian and Son in the greenhouse.
3 Son, Therese and Gideon.

РЕПОЗИТОРИЙ ГГУ ИИ

Lexical exercises

Ex.1 Translate and memorize the following words. Match them with the following definitions.

to be off (160), an outlaw (160), a reprobate (164), to mollify (164), hyper (165), to equate (166), to disabuse (169), to be on the run (174), to bolt (177), to call it a day (178), to attribute (181), to hazard (184).

1 to rid (oneself, another person, etc.) of a mistaken or misguided idea; set right; 2 to stop work or other activity; 3 a fugitive from the law; 4 to chance or risk; 5 to make or regard as equivalent or similar in order to compare; 6 to regard as belonging to, produced by; 7 to be not well; 8 to hide from the police; 9 an unprincipled, depraved, or damned person; 10 overactive; overexcited; 11 to start hurriedly and run away without warning; 12 to pacify; soothe.

Ex.2 Insert the new words. Translate the sentences.

1. The truth ... him of his error. 2. The woman has ... after giving birth to twelve children. 3. This old ... had smuggled his way onto the front pages of newspapers around the world. 4. When a sick man leaves all for nature to do, he ... much. 5. You cannot ... life in the city to life in the country. 6. She's so Just can't seem to relax. 7. I am feeling quite ... today. 8. She was ... by his begging for forgiveness. 9. They ... their success to hard work. 10. After it was found out that he was in touch with terrorists he became an ... 11. When I opened the door, the cat ... out. 12. A man convicted of murder is still ...

Ex.3 Find the situations from the text where the new words are used.

Ex.4 Find synonyms to the following words.

very beautiful (156), predominant, prevalent (156), dull, rather stupid (158), to skulk, sneak (162), friendly and lovable (165), difficult to understand, obscure, complex, puzzling (166), brotherhood, fellowship (168), a

city dweller and a dandy (170), not at all fashionable or up to date (175), insolent, impertinent (178).

Speech exercises

Ex.1 Answer the questions.

1. How did Son try to make peace with Jadine? 2. What did Jadine ask Son to do? 3. What was Jadine thinking of when Son left? 4. What did Son tell Ondine about himself? 5. What was Sydney's reaction when he saw Son in his room? 6. How did Sydney underline the difference between himself and Son? 7. What did Son ask Sydney about before leaving? 8. What was the atmosphere like in the house a few days before Christmas? 9. Why wasn't Son sleeping? 10. What accident did Son recall of his being on board a fishing boat? 11. Why couldn't Son go home? 12. Where did Son and Jadine go one day? 13. What was their lunch like? 14. What is Son's original dime? 15. What happened to the man who gave Son his original dime? 16. What is Jadine's idea about Son's life? 17. What is the town like where Son comes from? 18. Why was Son on the run? 19. How did he commit the murder? 20. What made Son say that he loved Jadine? 21. What did Son ask Jadine to do? 22. What happened to the car when Son and Jadine were going home? 23. What did Jadine do to hide from the sun? 24. What happened when Jadine went into the bushes? 25. How did Jadine manage to get away? 26. What did Margaret think of Son? 27. Why did Jadine suddenly become angry with Margaret?

Ex.2 Whose characteristics are these? Comment on the characteristics.

1. He was gorgeous. 2. She could take care of herself. 3. River rat. 4. What he wants is for people to do what he says do. 5. Undocumented man. 6. Treated his wife like a dog and ran other women all over town. 7. You are above it, above money, the rat race. You think like a kid. 8. It wasn't a man; it was a boy. Thirteen. 9. A dwarf with a head lopsided and swollen with water. 10. He wasn't manageable. 11. He's bad luck.

Ex.3 What is meant by the phrase?

1. I am guilty of being hungry and I am guilty of being stupid, but nothing else. 2. Clean your life up. 3. She is on my mind, but I am not on hers. 4. What do you want out of life? 5. I didn't want their punishment. I wanted my own. 6. Nothing's better than Eloë. 7. One of them anyway. I got another that says Herbert Robinson. 8. Killing doesn't take nerve. 9. I didn't mean the death. I went too far. 10. I won't kill you. I love you. 11. I don't have a real life like most people. 12. Cling to your partner, hang on to him and never let him go. 13. He doesn't want you. He wants me.

Ex.4 Prove or refute with the help of the text that

- 1 Son is actually sorry to Jade for what he did.
- 2 Jade has no idea what she is going to do after Christmas.
- 3 Ondine and Sydney softened towards Son.
- 4 Everybody is in bad mood before Christmas.
- 5 Son differs from other people when money is concerned.
- 6 Jade hates painting.
- 7 Eloë is a unique city.
- 8 The name 'Phil' is not good for Son.
- 9 It's his temper that made Son commit the murder.
- 10 Nobody saw the way Jadine got stuck in the pitch.

Ex.5 Think of a dialogues between

- 1 Son and Jadine when Son is apologizing.
- 2 Son, Sydney and Ondine.
- 3 Son and Jadine discussing Son's past.
- 4 Margaret and Jadine discussing Son.

Unit 9 Chapter 6 (pp. 187-214)

Lexical exercises

Ex.1 Translate and memorize the following words. Match them with the following definitions.

To summon (194), furtively (194), foresight (195), in stride (195), committed (199), to fluster (204), to call into question (206), beholden (207), unsullied (210), to jab at somebody (211).

1. calmly, without objections; 2. not stained, not spoiled; 3. stealthily, secretly, in a concealed manner; 4. to make or become confused, nervous, or upset; 5. to order to come; send for; 6. to doubt somebody/something or somebody's words; 7. indebted; obliged; under a moral obligation; 8. to strike with a quick short blow or blows; 9. devoted, loyal; 10. provision for or insight into future problems, needs, etc.

Ex.2 Insert the new words. Translate the sentences.

1. He is a man totally ... to nature and its protection. 2. I am ... to you for what you've done to me. 3. He had the ... to provide for the education of his children. 4. He ... at the other boxer with his left. 5. Get on the telephone, and ... all the directors up to my office. 6. He is an honest man and his evidence can't be... 7. His ... reputation was spoiled after the scandal he was part of. 8. They met ... and exchanged the information they had found out. 9. Mary was all ... up just before the wedding. 10. He took the news and criticism ...

Ex.3 Find the situations from the text where the new words are used.

Ex.4 Explain the meaning of the following words and phrases.

To get a kick out of something (188), to trail somebody (192), no-count Negro (193), scurrilous remark (195), to keep one's heritage intact (199), law-abiding man (203), to do the bidding of somebody (205).

РЕПОЗИТОРИЙ ГГУ ИИ

Speech exercises

Ex.1 Answer the questions.

1. What was Valerian's mood on Christmas Eve? 2. What did he ask Margaret to prepare for Christmas dinner? 3. Why is Ondine unhappy? 4. Why is she worried about Jadine? 5. Why couldn't Bridges and Michelin come for Christmas? 6. What happened to Michael? 7. What were the Streets and other residents of the house doing? 8. What did Valerian suggest doing? 9. What conversation with Margaret did Son recall? 10. How did Son try to persuade Margaret that he had meant no harm? 11. What did Margaret tell Son about Michael? 12. What information that Margaret mentioned made Son worried? 13. What was Christmas dinner like? 14. What information that Valerian presented surprised everybody? 15. Why were Ondine and Sydney indignant to know that Gideon and Therese were dismissed? 16. Why was Son upset? 17. What was Son's idea about Gideon and Therese's firing? 18. What did Valerian demand Son to do and what was Son's reaction to it? 19. Why did Ondine and Margaret quarrel? 20. What truth from Margaret's past suddenly became known? 21. What was Jade's reaction to the Christmas dinner incident? 22. How was Son trying to soothe her?

Ex.2 Whose characteristics are these? Comment on the characteristics.

1. He ain't got a dime and no prospect of one. 2. She has worked hard to make something out of herself. 3. She was my crown. 4. He wanted value in his life, not money. 5. One of the killers of the world. 6. The man who respected industry. 7. The man who prized fraternity. 8. You white freak! You baby killer! 9. I am the woman in this house. 10. She is a good servant.

Ex.3 What is meant by the phrase?

1. May be he would bring luck to the whole celebration. 2. Now you the one want the gun. 3. Any stranger in a closet is big. 4. Other folks steal and they get put in the guest room. 5. Your kitchen? Your help? 6. White

folks and black folks shouldn't sit down and eat together. 7. Would you like to know what it's like to be a star?

Ex.4 Prove or refute with the help of the text that

- 1 The nature and people are happy on Christmas Eve.
- 2 Ondine has some reasons to be dissatisfied with Jade and Son.
- 3 Valerian has no reason to keep Son in the house.
- 4 Michael phoned and told that he couldn't come.
- 5 Everybody was happy to gather round the Christmas table.
- 6 Margaret also softened towards Son.
- 7 Valerian agreed to pardon Gideon and Therese because they asked him to.
- 8 At the end of the dinner everybody made peace.
- 9 Margaret's behavior when her son was small is the reason why he doesn't want to come.
- 10 Jade was not shocked at all by what had happened.

Ex.5 Describe.

- 1 Preparations for Christmas.
- 2 Christmas dinner.

Ex.6 Make a dialogue between the six people who gathered round the Christmas table.

РЕПОЗИТОРИЙ ГГУ ИИ

Unit 10 Chapters 7-8 (pp. 215-243)

Lexical exercises

Ex.1 Translate and memorize the following words. Match them with the following definitions.

To misjudge (217), vengeance (221), misleading (225), plight (226), to nestle (226), commotion (227), to cherish (229), to devastate (231), to cogitate (234), to succumb (236), to recoil (239).

1. a condition of extreme hardship, danger; 2. violent disturbance; upheaval; political insurrection; disorder; 3. to give way in face of the overwhelming force or desire; 4. to judge (a person or persons) wrongly or unfairly; 5. to lay waste or make desolate; destroy; 6. to settle down; 7. to show great tenderness for; treasure; 8. the act of or desire for taking revenge; punishment; 9. to jerk back, as from an impact or violent thrust; 10. tending to confuse, deceptive; 11. to think deeply about (a problem, possibility, etc.).

Ex.2 Insert the new words. Translate the sentences.

1. Although I ... my children, I do allow them their independence. 2. We deal with complaints about false or ... description of goods or services. 3. She ... to temptation and took out a cigarette. 4. Hamlet took ... for his father's death on his uncle. 5. Most people will ... from a poisonous snake. 6. You can ... a man's character by his looks. 7. He became once more engaged in the political ... of the day. 8. The dog ... its head against her knees. 9. Please ... for a moment before answering. 10. Economic ... is far worse than had been expected. 11. The building was ... by fire.

Ex.3 Find the situations from the text where the new words are used.

Ex.4 Find synonyms to the following words.

Violent, harsh, severe (216), sorcery, witchcraft, magic (218), to eat or swallow (food) hastily (219), dark, gloomy (223), to walk or plod heavily

or wearily (228), decrease, lessen (230), peaceful or tranquil; calm (232), straightforward; direct (233), to give new life or spirit to (235), tasty, delicious (236), offensive to the senses; revolting (242).

Ex.5 Explain the meaning of the following words and phrases.

Defiance (216), heart-weary (217), a barfly (221), to be took-out (226), pilfering money (227), look-out work (227), word-worship somebody (227), to unorphan somebody (229).

Speech exercises

Ex.1 Answer the questions.

1. What were Son's impressions of New York? 2. What did he think of New York Negroes? 3. What did Son have to do in New York? 4. How did Son manage to return to America? 5. What were Son's thoughts of the future? 6. Was Jadine happy to return to New York? Why / Why not? 7. What was Jade and Son's life like in New York? 8. How did they earn money? 9. What things connected with their past did Jadine and Son tell each other? 10. What was the news from the Streets' house? 11. Whom did Son meet one day? 12. How did Jade and Son try to help Nommo? 13. What were the changes that Jadine felt in herself? 14. How did Valerian feel after Christmas? 15. What did he want to do to make Michael forgive him? 16. What had happened in the house after the Christmas dinner? 17. How did Margaret try to make peace with Valerian? 18. What conversation did Margaret and Ondine have? 19. What did Valerian blame himself for?

Ex.2 Whose characteristics are these? Comment on the characteristics.

1. He seldom misjudged people. 2. Ridiculous, maimed or unhappy to them. 3. A young girl with a shaved head and a small ring in her nostril. 4. The last lovers in New York City. 5. A not-so-secret alcoholic. 6. The one person he could not even choose not to love. 7. He isn't damaged. 8. Little charming eyes instead of styled ones. 9. You are disgusting. You are are are monstrous. 10. He was guilty of innocence.

Ex.3 What is meant by the phrase?

1. He saw what they had done with their childhood. 2. What would he name his son? Son of Son? 3. Wilderness wasn't wild any more or threatening; wildlife needed human protection to exist at all. 4. She poured her heart out to him and he to her. 5. At eighteen laughter was his only reliable weapon. 6. There was nothing to forgive, nothing to win and the future was five minutes away. 7. Find him, touch him, rub him, hold him in his arms. 8. When it did happen, it was out of my control. 9. Is that my job too? To stop you? 10. We should be friends.

Ex.4 Prove or refute with the help of the text that

1 Son didn't enjoy his stay in New York and wanted to go to Eloe.
2 Jadine didn't agree to go to Eloe.
3 Gideon and Therese didn't help Son to return to the USA.
4 For Jade, New York is the best city in the world.
5 Son and Jadine were quarrelling much while living in New York.
6 Valerian doesn't feel guilty for what had happened to Michael.
7 Margaret felt relief after the Christmas dinner.
8 Michael can never forgive his parents.
9 Ondine and Margaret made friends.

Ex.5 Describe.

1 Son and Jade's life in New York
2 Life in the Streets' house after Christmas.

Ex.6 Make dialogues between

1 Jade and Son discussing their future plans
2 Valerian and Margaret after the Christmas dinner
3 Margaret and Ondine after the Christmas dinner.

Unit 11 Chapter 9 (pp. 244-273)

Lexical exercises

Ex.1 Translate and memorize the following words. Match them with the following definitions.

To demur (246), to berate (248), to have a ball (251), to suffocate (252), accommodating (257), to reel (261), to hassle (263), lovey-dovey (265), regimen (267), almighty (269), repentant (271).

1. to sway, especially under the shock of a blow or through dizziness or drunkenness; 2. a systematic way of life or course of therapy, often including exercise and a recommended diet; 3. to raise objections or show reluctance; 4. to quarrel or to cause annoyance or trouble; 5. willing to help; kind; obliging; 6. to scold harshly; 7. making an excessive display of affection; 8. to have a good time; 9. omnipotent, all-powerful; 10. to kill or be killed by the deprivation of oxygen; 11. reproaching oneself for one's past actions or sins;

Ex.2 Insert the new words. Translate the sentences.

1. He's determined to bring in a reign of peace, prosperity and ... relationship. 2. I ... in a stuffy room. 3. Stop ... me about washing the car. 4. My host at first ... but I insisted. 5. The doctor advised him to keep a strict ... and go for a walk each day. 6. My head ..., doctor. 7. Marge felt ... for what she had said to her daughter. 8. It's no use ... the child for his behaviour. 9. He is an extremely pleasant and ... man. 10. He ... last summer when he spent two weeks mountaineering. 11. He felt like an ... man, but suffered a severe failure and was crushed.

Ex.3 Find the situations from the text where the new words are used.

Ex.4 Find synonyms to the following words.

To move aside (246), strongly built (246), lacking something (252), get married (254), to push or poke (someone) gently (258), a house or residence (267), sticky, soft, and often sweet (269).

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Ex.5 Explain the meaning of the following words and phrases.

Pointed questions (244), to clown (246), too lame an excuse (250), to repress a smile (256), to come to (264), kiddy stuff (268).

Speech exercises

Ex.1 Answer the questions.

1. What was Jadine's first impression of Eloe? 2. Whom did Son go to see first in Eloe? 3. What was Soldier's reaction to seeing Son? 4. Why did Son want to go to see his father alone? 5. What was Son recalling from his childhood while going to his father? 6. Had Son and his father been in touch all the years Son was away? 7. Who was Sally Brown and what news about her did Son learn? 8. Why couldn't Son and Jade live together in Son's father's house? 9. What was Jade doing when Son went to his father? 10. Where did Jadine have to stay? 11. What did Jade and Soldier discuss? 12. Why couldn't Son and Jade leave the day they planned? 13. How did Son persuade Jade to stay? 14. What happened to Jade in the night? 15. Why didn't Jade like Eloe? 16. What was Jade doing while waiting for Son in New York? 17. What were Son and Jade's relations like after Son returned? 18. What were they most quarrelling about? 19. What tale did Son tell Jadine? 20. What did Jade do after their last quarrel? 21. What was Son's reaction to her leaving?

Ex.2 Whose characteristics are these? Comment on the characteristics.

1. When he grew up, got married, had a baby boy. 2. She's special. 3. I wouldn't say pretty. Not bad looking, mind, but nothing like pretty! 4. He wouldn't know a good woman from a snake. 5. He don't like control. 6. Accommodating beyond belief. 7. Poor old white dude. 8. You are not from anywhere. 9. Repentant, terrified that he had gone too far. 10. They all looked stupid, backwoods, dumb, dead.

Ex.3 What is meant by the phrase?

1. You told the truth and so you got to live by the truth. 2. Nobody controls anybody. 3. The helpless victim of a dream that chose you. 4. I don't want to know their laws; I want to know mine. 5. White people love obedience. 6. They are the ones who put you through school, woman. 7. People don't mix races; they abandon them or pick them.

Ex.4 Prove or refute with the help of the text that

1 Eloe is totally different from the cities where Jade has lived before.
2 Son thought it a good idea to take pictures of everybody in Eloe.
3 Jade hated the place she had to sleep.
4 The vision of black women made Jade's life terrible.
5 Jade was afraid that something had happened to Son when he didn't arrive in time.
6 Son agreed to get education and to borrow money from Valerian.
7 Son thought that women were inferior to men.
8 Son was frightened when Jadine left him.

Ex.5 Describe.

1 Jade and Son's visit to Eloe.
2 Jade and Son's life after Eloe.

Ex.6 Make dialogues between

1 Son and his father in Eloe.
2 Jade and Soldier in Eloe.
3 Jade and Son in New York.

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Unit 12 Chapter 10 and Epilogue (pp. 274-306)

Lexical exercises

Ex.1 Translate and memorize the following words. Match them with the following definitions.

A throwback (275), to traipse (278), subdued (251), to bug (280), to dump somebody (282), to buck (285), imminent (294), to tarry (298), mayhem (301), calamitous (305).

1. to dispose of a person; 2 to walk heavily or tiredly; 3. destruction or confusion; 4. something that has the characteristics of an earlier or more primitive type, regress; 5. to oppose, resist; 6. disastrous, distressful; 7. to irritate; bother; 8. depressed, dispirited; 9. to delay in coming or going; 10. liable to happen soon; impending.

Ex.2 Insert the new words. Translate the sentences.

1. It is wasted time and energy to try to ... any of his whimsies. 2. It was a ... accident with his car. 3. Stop ... me! Go and do it yourself! 4. His job as an assistant manager was a ... in comparison to his previous position in the bank. 5. The exams were ... and he had to start cramming. 6. You will cause ... if you let everybody know the truth right now. 7. I had to ... up to the top floor. 8. He ... his best friend when he didn't help him in trouble. 9. He told us in a ... voice what had happened to him. 10. We ... sending the telegram.

Ex.3 Find the situations from the text where the new words are used.

Ex.4 Find synonyms to the following words.

Inconstant, peevish (275), loneliness (275), kindly, favourably (278), vain, empty, unsubstantial, trifling (278), dishonest, dishonorable (282), comfortable (284), furious, hectic, violent (288), being or doing something slowly (288), puzzled (289), lacking in energy (297), calm (304), agile, quick, and neat in movement (305), hesitant, uncertain, or cautious (306).

Ex.5 Explain the meaning of the following words and phrases.

The prodigal daughter (276), a clotheshorse (277), to work one's butt off (278), go figure that out (283), matter-of-fact tone (289).

Speech exercises

Ex.1 Answer the questions.

1. What changes in nature were taking place on Dominique? 2. How did Jade feel about leaving Son? 3. How was Margaret passing her time when Jadine came? 4. How was Valerian's doing, from Margaret's point of view? 5. How was Michael doing? 6. What were Ondine and Jade discussing? 7. What important things did Ondine have to say to Jade? 8. What was Jade's reaction to her aunt's words? 9. Why is Sydney angry with Jadine? 10. What was the conversation between Sydney and Valerian? 11. Whom did Jade meet in the airport? 12. What did Alma Estee accuse Jade of doing? 13. How was Jadine feeling when she was flying to Paris? 14. What was Son doing when he came to the island? 15. What had he been doing after Jade went away? 16. Where did Son find Therese and Gideon? 17. What were Gideon and Therese trying to do to stop Son from following Jadine? 18. Why was Son shocked when he saw Alma Estee? 19. What lies did Alma Estee tell Son? 20. Where did Therese take Son?

Ex.2 Whose characteristics are these? Comment on the characteristics.

1. He is an adult. Thirty. 2. He is stubborn. Worse than a child. 3. She was in the mood for death. 4. He's still the centre of everything. 5. She has the eyes of a curious deer. 6. Miserable, sad, poor and even poor-spirited. 7. I was a pretty girl. 8. Her sweet face, her midnight skin mocked and destroyed by the pile of synthetic dried blood on her head. 9. One blind, the other gone mad! 10. She has forgotten her ancient properties.

Ex.3 What is meant by the phrase?

1. When haven't I been by myself? 2. He kept her stupid; kept her idle. That always spells danger. 3. You don't need your own natural mother to

be a daughter. 4. Age ain't got nothing to do with it. 5. I think we're going to have to bury ourselves.

Ex.4 Prove or refute with the help of the text that

- 1 Margaret feels better after the truth of her behaviour became known.
- 2 Ondine is happy by the way she brought Jade up.
- 3 Sydney wants to kill Son once again.
- 4 Sydney speaks to Valerian like they are equal.
- 5 Valerian is feeling bad.
- 6 Jade is optimistic about her future.
- 7 Son is quite capable of forgetting Jade.
- 8 Therese wants to help Son.

Ex.5 Describe.

- 1 Jade's stay on the island.
- 2 Son's stay on the island.

Ex.6 Make dialogues between

- 1 Jade and Ondine.
- 2 Sydney and Ondine.
- 3 Son, Gideon, Therese and Alma Estee.

Study guide on Toni Morrison's «Tar Baby»

This is an outline of relevant materials and thoughts on the novel. Be prepared to discuss particular characters, Morrison's narrative technique, the relationship between «Tar Baby» and «The Tempest».

«Tar Baby» works on so many different levels! It has a structure and rhythm of its own, but it also seems to be grappling with and reworking other texts, including the «Brer Rabbit and the Tar Baby» story (popularized in Joel Chandler Harris's Tales of Uncle Remus) and Shakespeare's «The Tempest». Here is an outline of ideas on the parallels linking Morrison's text to those two works, each of which has been so historically influential.

A Morrison and Joel Chandler Harris

1 The Authors and the Narrators

Considering the study of Joel Chandler Harris's «Uncle Remus stories», particularly the relationship between *Harris* as white author and Uncle *Remus* as his black narrator/character, one comes to Morrison's book as a retelling that is more than a new rendition, but that has some goals. Morrison wants to restore Brer Rabbit as a black cultural hero, and she wants to replace Harris's narrator with a contemporary African-American voice that really speaks to a contemporary American audience. Morrison's narrator tells the story in a voice that is not stereotyped in any way. It seems to be the voice of an omniscient, god-like being who can see into people's dreams and tell what the trees and birds and rivers think and say.

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2 The Characters

Son is the *Brer Rabbit* figure; he is a trickster and a survivor; he was born in the US South, and he is endangered by the «Tar Baby», Jadine. As in Harris's account of the story, the *Tar Baby* is female and looks like a black child in a big floppy hat; but she is actually a trap, an attractive decoy constructed by white society (*Brer Fox*, as embodied in the person of Valerian Street). Son's attempt to establish a relationship with her leads to his extreme frustration; he even hits her once (as Brer Rabbit hits the Tar Baby). But the more entangled he gets with her, the more he risks being destroyed.

3 Further details to consider

The hats in Jadine's dreams are connected with the *hat* the Tar Baby is wearing in the illustrations by Frost, which appeared in the second edition of Harris's *Uncle Remus* book (1895). Jadine's connection with the white world of European haute couture is part of what makes her the tar baby.

The word «*tar*» comes into the novel to describe the skin color of the African woman «who had run [Jadine] out of Paris». She is the opposite of Jadine, a woman whose beauty is really the color of tar (rather than a tar-baby pretending to be black while really serving the interests of white culture). She drives out Jadine's brand of beauty, which is of the sort that European culture can handle because it defers to and aspires to European aesthetics.

The «*lickety-splits*» at the end of the novel seem to be an allusion to the Harris stories and the way Brer Rabbit's running is described in them.

In Harris's book *Uncle Remus's* story of the Tar Baby is divided into two parts, separated by another story. The first Tar Baby story ends with Brer Rabbit still stuck to the Tar Baby and the outcome left unclear:

«*Did the fox eat the rabbit?*» asked the little boy to whom the story had been told.

«*Dat's all de fur de tale goes*», replied the old man. «*He mout, en den agin he moutent. Sme say Jedge B'ar come 'long and tossed 'im – some say he didn't. I hear Miss Sally callin'. You better run 'long*».

The end of Morrison's novel preserves something of that suspense.

Finally, one might pursue an interesting possibility that the little white boy of the *Uncle Remus* stories is alluded to in the character of *Michael Street*, who never appears in Morrison's version of the story, but whose sufferings as a child were due in part to the racist societal structure that Valerian enforced and that damaged Margaret as a woman and a mother.

B. Morrison and Shakespeare

1 The Artist-Figure in the Play and the Novel, and the Narrator of the Novel

In Shakespeare's «*Tempest*», Prospero is the stand-in for the playwright. He brings all the characters together on his island and uses his magic art to stage various spectacles (the fabulous meal and the harpies, the glittering clothes on a line, the masque, the unveiling of F and M playing chess); in Morrison, the figure who resembles Prospero is Valerian Street. But the narrator is a very different sort of person. She does some of the same things Prospero does – for example, she brings the ocean-swimming Son to arrive at precisely the location that her plot required just as Prospero brings the ocean-swimming Ferdinand and the others to shore at the precise locations he desires – but Morrison's narrator resembles Nature herself, rather than the magical man who manipulates Nature. In the prologue, for example, the narrator has much in common with the «*water-lady*» who inexorably forces Son onto Margaret and Jadine's boat and thus

into the world of Valerian Street. And in Chapter 2, she sees into the dreams of her characters rather than crafting a dream-vision for them to watch.

2 The Characters

Valerian is the Prospero-figure, the white lord and master of his Island realm, a business tycoon who has gone into self-imposed exile to escape the responsibilities of his «rule» over the candy company he inherited. Prospero's magic involves the manipulation of the forces of Nature (the storm, Ariel, etc.) and recalls various myths of death and rebirth including the myth of the hanged man/crucified redeemer; Morrison's Prospero-figure has named his estate after the cross of Christ («L'Arbe de La Croix» means «The Tree of the Cross»), and his house is a magnificent harmonizing of Nature and Art; but Art has something of an upper-hand in his day-to-day magic, which is the art of greenhouse-gardening, judged unnatural and maybe even devilish by Ondine. Prospero's art serves to establish what he sees as a benevolent hierarchy, to restore order, to effect reconciliation, forgiveness, and renewal. But in Morrison, Valerian's art and his rule are selfish, hedging against the encroachments of Nature and Old Age, oblivious of how oppressive he often is, and in many ways self-destructive.

Margaret Lenore, the Principal Beauty of Maine, is Valerian's wife; she was a child-bride, and in many ways she may be thought of as the Miranda of Morrison's story, warped by her relationship to a domineering father-husband who molds her and warps her so that she is unable to function as a healthy woman ought to, but remains infantile. When Son comes to the Island, Margaret fears him terribly but is also fascinated by his beauty. She fantasizes that he wants to rape her. Margaret is something of an Antonio figure. Under Valerian's neglectful rule, she has abused her own powers and harmed her own flesh and blood.

Sydney and Ondine are the Ariel-figures. They serve Valerian / Prospero faithfully, but dream of freedom and retirement. They have very clear-cut and dignified standards for themselves as professional servants, but they are also critical of the «master» and do not hesitate to give him advice and criticize him. Still, they find themselves pitted against the Caliban-figure (Son); like Ariel, they are not willing to commit to the kind of revolution he represents.

Son is both a Caliban. He is also something of a Ferdinand (the love interest, the experienced man of the world who is wafted ashore by the ocean and reborn and who finds a gorgeous goddess waiting for him on the island. His past history also recalls (though it does not duplicate) the history of another Shakespearean character, Othello. He is closely associated with a whole network of mother-figures who are, like Sycorax, close to the earth and to African culture and meaning. The most powerful of these Sycorax-figures are the *tar woman* in Paris and *Therese*.

One odd addition: *Dr. Michelin* is, like Sycorax, an exile driven out of Algiers. But he is a man, and he proves a friend and ally of Valerian's rather than an enemy.

Jadine is a combination of Miranda (daughter-figure educated by the Prospero-figure and thus «made» by him, given his values) and Caliban (insofar as she is a black protégé of the Prospero figure, cut off from her dead mother – i.e., from her actual mother and from African culture and values – who has been taught to speak Prospero's language). She also incorporates a bit of Ferdinand (who becomes an adopted child of the Prospero-figure, and who is a sophisticated member of a European cultural elite). The danger that this mixed-character poses to Son (who is a true son to his black mothers) is that she will try to entangle him in her Prospero-oriented world.

Michael Street, though he does not appear, is a male Miranda gone native; rebelling against his father and the Western values that (whether he

realizes it or not) shaped his childhood so terribly, he flees to non-Western culture and tries to embrace it. He is not taken very seriously by his father, by Jadine, or by Sydney (who thinks he's spoiled) and by Ondine (who resents his «coming in my kitchen to liberate me every minute»); but he has done his best to escape from the world that was defined for him.

The Inauthentic tar Baby (By Annina Jokinen)

Toni Morrison's *Tar Baby* (1982), is a novel about contentions and conflicts based on learned biases and prejudices. These biases exist on a race level, gender level, and a class level. The central conflict, however, is the conflict within the main character, Jadine. This conflict, as Andrew W. A. LaVallee has suggested, is the conflict of the "race traitor." It is the conflict of a woman who has discarded her heritage and culture and adopted another trying to reconcile herself to the "night women" who want to bring back "the prodigal daughter."

The first of the contentions is that of race. As New York Times Book Review correspondent John Irving aptly puts it: "Miss Morrison uncovers all the stereotypical racial fears felt by whites and blacks alike." Prejudice exists between the white and black people in the house; between the black people of the house; the black people and the local populace. Sydney and Ondine Childs, the Cook and Butler in the house of Valerian Street, feel superior to the local black populace. Sydney remarks twice on how he is "A genuine Philadelphia Negro mentioned in the book of that name" (284). Part of this feeling of superiority might be class-related. The Childs' are very proud of their positions in the Street house—they are industrious and hardworking. The Dominique blacks are to them "swamp women" or "horsemen" - depersonalized figures. This is most apparent in their ignorance of their help's names - they dub Gideon, Thérèse, and Alma Estée "Yardman" and "the Marys." At Christmas dinner Valerian adds epithets calling them "Thérèse the Thief and Gideon the Get Away Man." (201). But as Judylyn Ryan points out, "Both the superordinate and the subordinate exercise this prerogative of naming" (606). Gideon and Thérèse have 'christened' Ondine "Machete hair" and Sydney as "Bow-tie"-Thérèse contemptuously calls Jadine "Fast ass" whereas Gideon denotes her as "the yalla." Ondine and Sydney think "Mary" does not listen to them out of inattentiveness, whereas in reality Thérèse intentionally refuses to speak to them and "never even to acknowledge the presence of the white Americans" (111). A contention also exists between Ondine and the white lady of

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the house, Margaret, whom Ondine has dubbed "Principal Beauty of Maine." Margaret, in return, has dubbed Sydney and Ondine "Kingfish and Beulah." Son adds to the "name-game" by calling Valerian "Tarzan." "Son," itself, is a nickname for Willie.

The white people of the house feel superior, and later threatened by, the blacks. Margaret is a prejudiced white woman, a veritable stereotype. She has argued that "Ondine (if not all colored people) was just as good as they were," but "she didn't believe it" (59). When Son is discovered in her bedroom closet she goes into near hysterics. Margaret feels no compunction at calling or thinking of Son as a "nigger in the woodpile", a "gorilla", or a "boy." Because he was a black man in her closet she thinks he intended to rape her, has masturbated on her clothes and shoes, and goes as far as thinking: "now this nigger he lets in this real live dope addict ape" (87). Thus the character of Margaret has spewed out every racist cliché in the book.

It is not surprising (and that says much about the society) that the white lady of the house should feel prejudice toward a black man found in her closet. What is fascinating, however, is Morrison's depiction of how Sydney and Ondine react to the man, revealing their own prejudices. Sydney is ready to shoot Son where he stands, suspecting him of being a thief, killer, or a "wife-raper" (99). Ondine, who at various times calls Son "that thieving Negro" (89), "the jailbird" (190), "a swamp nigger" (191) and "no-count Negro" (193), feels that the "man upstairs wasn't a Negro-meaning one of them. He was a stranger" (102). Thus when she calls him "nigger" she does not mean the term in a familiar, inclusive way.

Jadine's reaction to Son is the most revealing—she is the "racial traitor." Andrew W. A. LaVallee writes: "Central to the race traitor idea is the disassociation from and racist perspective on the traitor's race of ethnic group." At the sight of his "Wild, aggressive, vicious hair" (113) she immediately classifies him as a criminal. In her room she assumes that Son wants to rape her:

"You rape me and they'll feed you to the alligators. Count on it, nigger. You good as dead right now."

"Rape? Why you little white girls always think somebody's trying to rape you?"

"White?" She was startled out of fury. "I'm not ... you know I'm not white!"

"No? Then why don't you settle down and stop acting like it."

"Oh, God," she moaned. "Oh, good God, I think you better throw me out of the window because as soon as you let me loose I am going to kill you. For that alone. Just for that. For pulling that black-woman-white-woman shit on me. Never mind the rest. What you said before, that was nasty and mean, but if you think you can get away with telling me what a black woman is or ought to be..." "I can tell you." (121)

Here is the main contention of the novel. Jadine has rejected her heritage and culture. She knows herself to be "inauthentic" and hollow when she sees the woman in yellow with the tar-colored skin—"that woman's woman—that mother/sister/she; that unphotographable beauty" (46). The woman recognizes Jadine's inauthenticity and spits at her in spite. Jadine, who alternately calls herself Jade, appreciates Picasso over Itumba masks, "Ave Maria" over gospel music. As Karin Luisa Badt says: "Jadine has so willingly embraced white culture that she has become, literally, its cover model." Gideon warns son against the possibility that Jadine might be "out of reach":

"Your first yalla?" he asked. "Look out. It's hard for them not to be white people. Hard, I'm telling you. Most never make it. Some try, but most don't make it."

"She's not a yalla," said Son. "Just a little light." He didn't want any discussion about shades of black folk.

"Don't fool yourself. You should have seen her two months ago. What you see is tanning from the sun. Yallas don't come to being black natural-like. They have to choose it and most don't choose it." (155)

Headless of the warning and desperately in love, Son wants to "rescue" Jadine from the white world and bring her back to Eloë and the history it stands for. He attempts "to breathe into her the smell of tar and its shiny

consistency" (102). Jadine starts on the path toward being "unorphaned" in her relationship with Son.

Jadine, on the other hand, wants to rescue Son from what she perceives to be his "white-folks-black-folks primitivism" (275). She attempts to "culture" and to educate him and wants to ask Valerian for money to pay for a store for the two of them, or for Son's education. Son refuses to be in debt to "one of the killers of the world" (204). A trip to Eloë where Aunt Rosa calls her "daughter" and where the night-women visit her, proves too much for Jadine:

But most of the hurt was dread. The night women were not merely against her (and her alone-not him), not merely looking superior over their sagging breasts and folded stomachs, they seemed somehow in agreement with each other about her, and were all out to get her, tie her, bind her. Grab the person she had worked hard to become and choke it off with their soft loose tits. (262)

Badt, I think, explains this perfectly:

She fears being cast as a representative of her race and joining its "fraternity." She rejects the "ancient properties" of African people that Son, the African woman, and the night women who visit her in a dream embody.... Given the atrocities in Afro-American history, to return to one's "roots" has the psychic resonance of returning to a subjugated position.

(Badt)

During a final confrontation Jadine feels she is fighting not Son but the night women who had seduced him. The argument is over Valerian and education. Son tells Jadine Valerian owed her the education, considering that he had "shit all over your uncle and aunt" (263). Still refusing to see the truth, Jadine defends Valerian. Son finally sees Jadine for who she really is. He renounces Jadine's Eurocentric, or EuroAmerican education:

"The truth is that whatever you learned in those colleges that didn't include me ain't shit.... If they didn't teach you that, then they didn't teach you nothing, because until you know about me, you don't know nothing about yourself. And you don't know anything, anything at all about your children and anything at all about your mama and your papa." (227-8)

Son renounces Jadine's previous plans to marry a white man, saying: "People don't mix races; they abandon them or pick them" (270). He tells Jadine the truth about who put her through school, and about Ondine's feet. He speaks of Jadine's responsibility and how appalled he was when Jadine deserted them after the Christmas Eve fight. Son sees Jadine, her rejection of her native culture as well as of her family, and is filled by a desperate rage. He rapes her while telling her the story of the Tar Baby. He is shamed afterwards by Jadine who gives him "his original dime." He leaves and upon his return finds the apartment empty.

Jadine escapes to Isle des Chevaliers where she rejects her family and culture one final time. Ondine tells her that "A daughter is a woman that cares about where she come from and takes care of them that took care of her" (242). Jadine replies that she does not want to become like Ondine—a grave insult to the woman who gave her all to this ungrateful girl. This story is not just about preserving one's cultural heritage, but also about maturity. As Ondine says to Jadine:

"A girl has got to be a daughter first... and if she never learns how to be a daughter, she can't never learn how to be a woman... good enough even for the respect of other women.... You don't need your own natural mother to be a daughter. All you need is to feel a certain way, a certain careful way about people older than you are." (242)

As Jadine leaves with her black baby-seal "killer" coat, Ondine and Sydney doubt that she will even bury them. Jadine proves how little she has learned when she considers the new help "the mulatto with a leer" (225) and calls Alma Estée "Mary." She is truly the Race-Traitor.

Thérèse knows that Jadine is lost. A descendant of the "blind race" she also knows how to detach Brer Rabbit (Son) from Jadine, the "Tar Baby." She leaves Son on the far side of Isle des Chevaliers where he has a choice... where he can be free. "Lickety-Split" the sound both of the rabbit and of the horsemen signifies Son's freedom in the end. Though one is lost to history, the other can carry the heritage.

Through her fiction, Toni Morrison intends to present problems, not their answers.

(Moon)

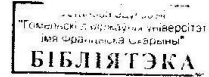
Toni Morrison is a complex writer who weaves deftly together difficult motifs. Her books rarely have a "neat" conclusion. As Barbara Christian writes: [It is] a simple story becoming increasingly complex, mythic, beyond solution, yet teaching me a lesson I needed to know.

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