

CLASSICS IN ENGLISH LITERATURE

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Classics in English Literature

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FOREWORD

First and foremost, the author wishes to register her thanks to her team for bringing out such a magnificent book. This book intends to offer a comprehensive knowledge on crucial works in English literature. The author has used a simple, lucid and concise language so that the learners understand the content at the drop of a hat. Generally, aspirants preparing for NET/JRF have a dilemma on what work to focus and what work not to focus. To scaffold them, the works chosen in this book are very important from NET/JRF perspective. Focusing on these works alone can boost one's NTA NET score and enhance one's chance of clearing JRF. The most significant attribute of this book is its concise approach where the author has focused purely on the most significant areas and possible questions in NTA Net.

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SUMMARY OF THE NOVEL:

- It centers around a young woman named Margaret Hale, who moves with her elderly parents into the industrial town of Milton in northern England.
- Margaret becomes involved in the rapidly heating strike of the destitute factory workers in the town against the factory owners.

- One of the factory owners, Mr. Thornton befriends Margaret and falls in love with her.
- Over the course of the novel, Thornton slowly learns to treat his workers better and pay for improvements to his mill.
- In the end, Margaret and Thornton go into business together and marry. The story has been adapted into two BBC miniseries in 1975 and 2004

PALE FIRE (1962)

Vladimir Nabokov (1899 – 1997)

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

- Vladimir Vladimirovich Nabokov was a Russian American novelist known by his pen name Vladimir Sirin.
- His first nine novels were in Russian but he achieved international prominence after he began writing in English.
- Nabokov's "*Lolita*" (1955) is his most famous novel and finest work in English.
- His last work was "*The original of Laura*", which remained unfinished because of his death. It was published in 2009.
- He wrote several short stories.
- *Lolita* is described as an Erotic Novel.

ABOUT THE NOVEL:

- *Pale Fire* is widely considered Vladimir Nabokov's masterpiece. Although he is better known for *Lolita*, *Pale Fire* is an experimental form of literature published in 1962 as a 999-line poem by the fictional poet John

Shade with notations by fictional editor John Kinbote.

- Kinbote's notes do very little to explain the poem and a lot to help us piece together the story. He introduces the poem in the foreword and claims to be at odds with other critics as he is the friend of the poet. By the end of the book, there are two separate stories, Shade's poem and Kinbote's story.

SUMMARY OF THE NOVEL:

- In **Canto 1**, the poet John Shade describes his brushes with mortality, which made him into the poet he is. He saw a waxwing bird "slain" by running into a plate glass window, perhaps when he was still a boy. His childhood was also marked by a series of fits or seizures, which suddenly resolved themselves.
- In **Canto 2**, the poet describes his ideas about life after death. He also recounts the life and death of his daughter, Hazel. She was an