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**محاضرات مادة الرواية للمرحلة الثانية - قسم الترجمة**

**STUDY GUIDE**  
**TO**  
**THOMAS HARDY'S *THE RETURN OF***  
***THE NATIVE***

**BY**  
**DHEYAA W. GHAFEEER**

This work is totally based on:  
BRIGHT NOTES: The Return of the Native  
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**LECTURE 11: CHAPTER 8: THOSE WHO ARE FOUND WHERE THERE IS SAID TO BE NOBODY**

## **LECTURE 11: CHAPTER 8: THOSE WHO ARE FOUND WHERE THERE IS SAID TO BE NOBODY**

Little Johnny, after leaving Eustacia Vye's bonfire, has about three-eighths of a mile to go home. First he runs till he is out of breath; then, slowing down, he walks along at an easy pace, singing a song, and clutching his sixpence to give him courage. Suddenly, ahead of him, he sees a dusty light and hears a slapping noise. He turns back, frightened, thinking to ask Miss Eustacia to have her servant go home with him; but finding that Eustacia is talking with a man, he listens for a while from under the bank. Then he decides to brave the strange light and noise after all, rather than incur Miss Eustacia's wrath at being interrupted. As he marches stoutly back along the path, he finds that the light and the noise are gone.

As he comes upon the sandpit, he sees a lighted van. He ascends a slope of the pit so he can peer into the open door of the wagon. "By a stove inside the van sat a figure red from head to heels. . . . He was darning a stocking, which was red like the rest of him . . . as he darned he smoked a pipe, the stem and bowl of which were red also." Hearing movements of the ponies outside, the reddleman comes to the door just as Johnny, stepping on ground that gives way, rolls down the bank to his very feet. By questioning Johnny, the reddleman learns matters of importance to him: that Johnny was given a sixpence by Miss Vye to keep up her bonfire; that a gentleman came to talk with her; that she "told him that she supposed he had not married the other woman because he liked his old sweetheart best"; and that the gentleman had "said he did like her best" and was coming to see her again under Rainbarrow. Johnny now pleads to be allowed to go home. The reddleman, having learned what he wants to know, leads Johnny onto the path, and then returns inside to his darning.

### **Comment**

Hardy's use of dialogue between little Johnny Nunsuch and Diggory Venn serves to tighten the plot. Diggory gets the information he needs about Wildeve and Eustacia to help him from his plans to protect Thomasin. We are now set to have the forces of the mind plot against the forces of the heart.