Summary Points

Tess starts to work for Crick. She shocks Crick by drinking the raw milk. A story about tricking a bull is told by another dairyman. Angel is introduced. Tess fits in well and gets along with the other girls; she keeps her past a secret in fear of judgement and condemnation.

Notes on setting (Where does the action take place? What is the landscape / setting like?)

The environment is compared to a little battlement – contrasts its seemingly pleasant appearance: ‘The milkers forms quite a little battlement of men and maids.’ The dairy is large, but still suffers hardship with decline in demand. A calm and peaceful place to work: ‘the only movements were those of the milkers’ hands up and down, and the swing of the cows’ tails.’ The dairy is in the middle of a vast meadow that fills the valley, with indications of an entirely different past use.

Characterisation (make notes on how the characters are presented).

Crick

A ‘sturdy middle aged man’ who is clearly in charge but still a six day milker like the others. Notorious/remarkable: ‘Dairyman Dick/All the week:-/ On Sundays Mister Richard Crick.’ Uncommon kind too.

Angel Clare

Singular for a dairyman, addressed as ‘sir’ even though he wears the ordinary clothes of a dairyman but underneath ‘a dark velveteen jacket’- though trying to be worldly and different, Angel is still to remove himself entirely from his past i.e. his family’s views about adultery. Tess recognises him from the May Day dance three years prior but he does not her. Well educated and spoken, contrasts the colloquial language of the others. ‘Beneath it was something educated, reserved, subtle, sad differing.’ Remains anonymous throughout most of the chapter: still an ideal in the eyes of Tess.

Tess

As she arrives she is sad and grief struck but quickly returns to the feelings of Chap. 16 of new life and of new hope. Tess is treated with ‘generosity and admiration’ unlike at her job in Trantridge.

Links to the Pastoral. Think about: pastoral characters, landscapes and all the expectations we have of pastoral literature.

Tess is more pure than Crick – she can stomach the raw milk, she is truly a child of the countryside.

The story told by the dairyman could foreshadow the flight of Angel and Tess after she kills Alec, but also how Tess is constantly chased by Alec, the raging bull. Folkloric tales are very pastoral as they speak of an almost legendary and irretrievable past.