

SIMPLIFIED READERS

B1<sup>+</sup>

LEVEL 5

# Cranford

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# WORKSHEETS

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**ABOUT THE NOVEL**

*Cranford* is one of the best-known works of Victorian author Elizabeth Gaskell. It is a comedic novel about the everyday occurrences in the lives of older ladies in a small rural village. Gaskell based the fictional town Cranford on Knutsford in Cheshire, the town where she grew up. The first two chapters appeared as short stories in Charles Dickens's weekly magazine *Household Words*. With Dickens's encouragement, Gaskell wrote more stories between 1851 and 1853.

*Cranford* is about the struggle of old-fashioned society against the changes brought about by the new industrialism. The two main characters are the young woman who is the narrator of the story, Mary Smith and her older friend Matilda Jenkyns. Their friendship symbolizes the union of the new England and the old England. The Cranfordians are used to their old ways and the social rules that have played a central part in their lives, but industrialism is threatening their old ways. Mary Smith seems to bring together the values of the older generation with the new ones, and at the end, the old and the new are able to exist together.

*Cranford* has been adapted many times for theatre, radio and television.

**SUMMARY**

The narrator is a young woman called Mary Smith, who lives with her businessman father in the big city of Drumble and visits Cranford occasionally. Cranford is a small rural town made up mostly by women. The ladies of Cranford are widows or elderly unmarried women. They lead traditional lives and follow strict social rules.

One day, Captain Brown and his two daughters move to Cranford. When the Captain talks openly about being poor, the ladies are horrified. Later he wins their hearts with his kindness. His elder daughter Miss Brown is very ill, and her sister Miss Jessie takes care of her.

Miss Deborah Jenkyns lives with her sister Miss Matilda (Miss Matty). Their father was the late rector of Cranford. At a party she gives, Captain Brown offends her when he implies that Charles Dickens is a better writer than Dr Johnson. He tries his best to get her to forgive him, but she does not.

The Captain is killed as he rescues a little child from being run over by a train. The next day, Miss Brown also dies. Miss Jessie moves in with Miss Jenkyns. Shortly after, Major Gordon, her old admirer, arrives. They get married and move to Scotland.

Many years later, Miss Jenkyns also passes away. Her sister Miss Matty seems to be at a loss on how to live by herself. She asks Mary to help her train Martha, the new maid. Their good friend Miss Pole tells Mary about an old love affair between her cousin Mr Holbrook and Miss Matty. She thinks that Miss Matty's father and sister were against their marriage because they did not think he was a real gentleman. Miss Matty and Mary run into Mr Holbrook at the shop. He invites the three ladies for dinner at his house. Then, he goes for a trip to Paris. Miss Matty later learns that he is very ill. When he dies, she becomes very depressed. She thinks about the old times and her lost love.

One night Miss Matty brings out the old family letters. Mary learns about their family history. Miss Matty had a brother called Peter, who ran away from home after being scolded by their father in public. He joined the navy and went to India. Later they lost contact with him.

One day during tea at Miss Barker's house, Mrs Jamieson announces that her sister-in-law Lady Glenmire is going to visit her. Lady Glenmire is the widow of a Scottish lord, so the ladies are nervous about how to behave around her. Mrs Jamieson later tells them that she does not want them to visit her sister-in-law. The ladies are very upset. Shortly after, Mrs Jamieson changes her mind and invites everyone to a party at her house. The ladies find out that Lady Glenmire is very kind and friendly. She soon becomes good friends with everyone.

Mary is invited to Cranford for a magic show by Signor Brunoni. All the ladies attend the show and have a good time. Afterwards, some robberies take place in town, which terrifies everyone. There is even gossip that connects the robberies to Signor Brunoni. When Mrs Jamieson's house is broken into and a few days later her dog is dead, she decides to go away for some time. She leaves Lady Glenmire in charge of her house.

While taking a walk, Miss Pole and Lady Glenmire find Signor Brunoni and his family at an inn outside Cranford. The family have been in an accident and Signor Brunoni is lying ill. He is an ex-soldier whose real name is Samuel Brown, and he and his wife spent years in India. The whole town takes care of the family. His wife later tells Mary about the time she walked miles to Calcutta with her baby and about the Englishman named Jenkyns who helped her. Mary wonders if he could be Miss Matty's lost brother and decides to investigate. She does not find out much but sends him a letter.

Sometime later, there is news that Lady Glenmire and the town doctor Mr Hoggins are engaged. Everyone is surprised and wonder what Mrs Jamieson will think about it.

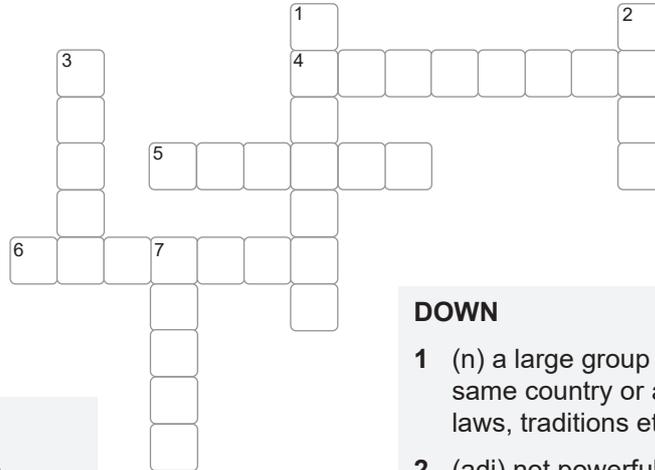
When out shopping, Miss Matty learns that her bank is going bankrupt. She will become poor and lose her home. Martha refuses to leave her and says that she will marry Jem Hearn and have her as their lodger. The ladies of Cranford also plan to help Miss Matty by contributing money. Mary's father agrees with the plans. They decide that Miss Matty can sell tea to make some money.

A year later, Miss Matty's shop is very successful. One day an old gentleman arrives. It is Mr Peter. Peter becomes part of Cranford society. With his stories, he is a favourite at the parties and is even able to make peace between Mrs Jamieson and Mrs Hoggins.

**Discuss before you begin reading:**

- 1 What are some of the differences between small towns and big cities? Are there any differences in relationships and lifestyle?
- 2 Think about the members of the older generation around you (e.g., your parents or grandparents). Do they have any values and behaviours that are different from yours? How do you settle your differences?

**A Crossword Puzzle. Find the words that are defined below. The first two letters are given.**



**ACROSS**

- 4 (v) to plan or arrange something: **or** \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 (adj) that must be obeyed exactly: **st** \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 (v) to have a very good opinion of somebody: **re** \_\_\_\_\_

**DOWN**

- 1 (n) a large group of people who live in the same country or area and have the same laws, traditions etc.: **so** \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 (adj) not powerful or not having a strong character: **we** \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 (n) the particular things you like, such as styles of music, clothes, decoration etc.: **ta** \_\_\_\_\_
- 7 (adj) feeling very pleased about something you have done: **pr** \_\_\_\_\_

**B Complete the passage below using the words in part A.**

In the Victorian times, British **1** \_\_\_\_\_ was organised hierarchically: the upper class, the middle class and the lower class. The people of the upper class did not usually do physical work. They were landowners who hired lower class workers to work for them or made investments to make money.

The women of the upper class had few responsibilities because they were thought to be **2** \_\_\_\_\_. An everyday task was to accept and pay visits and to **3** \_\_\_\_\_ dinner parties. By doing such activities, they could show their homemaking skills and good **4** \_\_\_\_\_.

People followed **5** \_\_\_\_\_ rules for polite and good behaviour. They were very **6** \_\_\_\_\_ of following these rules. They **7** \_\_\_\_\_ people who showed acceptable and proper behaviour. Any behaviour that was not proper was considered vulgar.

**C Below are some rules of etiquette from the Victorian times. Match the beginnings of the sentences (1-6) with their second halves (a-f).**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 You should visit each other during calling hours, _____</li> <li>2 You should return a call _____</li> <li>3 You should never speak about _____</li> <li>4 You should not show your _____</li> <li>5 An unmarried woman _____</li> <li>6 When a woman gets married, she _____</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a money or money-spending.</li> <li>b takes her husband's level in society.</li> <li>c keeps her father's level in society.</li> <li>d feelings openly in public.</li> <li>e in the next three days.</li> <li>f which are between 12:00 and 15:00.</li> </ul> |
|---|--|

**A Who is who:** After reading **Chapters 1 and 2**, match the names (1-10) with their descriptions (a-j). The first one has been done for you.

1 Miss Deborah Jenkyns <u> d </u>	<b>a</b> He is Miss Pole's cousin and Miss Matty's past love interest. After running into Miss Matty many years later, he dies.
2 Miss Matty Jenkyns _____	<b>b</b> She lives in a tiny house and has only one maid.
3 Miss Pole _____	<b>c</b> She is the younger daughter of Captain Brown. She takes care of her father and her sister but later loses both of them.
4 Mrs Forrester _____	<b>d</b> She is very strict about social rules. She thinks she is a good reader because her father had a library of religious books.
5 Mrs Jamieson _____	<b>e</b> She is related to an important family, so she is higher in social status than others. The other ladies look up to her with respect and a little fear.
6 Captain Brown _____	<b>f</b> She does not have a very strong personality and depends on her elder sister, who always makes the decisions.
7 Miss Brown _____	<b>g</b> She is the daughter of Captain Brown. She is very sick and feels guilty for being selfish.
8 Miss Jessie Brown _____	<b>h</b> He is the long-lost brother of the Jenkyns sisters. He ran away from home many years ago and went to India.
9 Mr Holbrook _____	<b>i</b> She is a good friend of the Jenkyns sisters. She invites the narrator to stay at her house.
10 Poor Peter _____	<b>j</b> He moves to the village with his daughters. He is a friendly and honest person. The people respect him.

**B The following are the events that are described in Chapter 3. Match the reasons (1-7) with the results (a-g). The first one has been done for you.**

Reason	Result
1 Mrs Jamieson does not think Mrs Fitz-Adam belongs to high society. <u> f </u>	<b>a</b> Miss Pole cannot believe that the man on the stage is Signor Brunoni.
2 Mrs Jamieson does not want the Cranford ladies to meet her sister-in-law. _____	<b>b</b> Miss Matty says she will be busy making candle-lighters that night.
3 Miss Matty does not want to go to Mrs Jamieson's party. _____	<b>c</b> Miss Pole spends the night at Miss Matty's house.
4 Miss Pole buys a new cap for her meeting with Lady Glenmire. _____	<b>d</b> Mrs Jamieson decides to go away for a while.
5 Miss Pole sees Signor Brunoni the day before the magic show. _____	<b>e</b> Miss Pole insists on going to Mrs Jamieson's party.
6 Miss Pole thinks the robbers will break into her house. _____	<b>f</b> Miss Barker hesitates to invite Mrs Fitz-Adam for tea.
7 Mrs Jamieson's house is broken into and then she loses her dog. _____	<b>g</b> The ladies are very disappointed.

**C Read Chapters 4 and 5 and number the events in the order that they happen. The first and last ones are given.**

**Chapter 4**

- \_\_\_\_\_ **a** Miss Pole and Lady Glenmire find Signor Brunoni and his family in an inn outside town.
- \_\_\_\_\_ **b** Miss Pole brings the news that Lady Glenmire is engaged to the town doctor Mr Hoggins.
- \_\_\_\_\_ **c** Everybody in town does their best to help the family.
- 7  **d** Miss Jenkyns learns that she is going to lose all her money.
- 1  **e** Despite their fear, the ladies go to Mrs Forrester's for tea.
- \_\_\_\_\_ **f** Mrs Brown tells the narrator that an Englishman named Jenkyns helped her in India.
- \_\_\_\_\_ **g** The narrator asks Miss Pole and Mrs Forrester about Miss Matty's brother Peter.

**Chapter 5**

- \_\_\_\_\_ **a** Mary's father arrives in Cranford to help Miss Matty.
- 1  **b** The narrator sends the Aga Jenkyns a letter.
- 8  **c** Mr Peter comes back to Cranford.
- \_\_\_\_\_ **d** Martha and Jem have a baby.
- \_\_\_\_\_ **e** The ladies meet at Miss Pole's house to tell Mary about their plan to help Miss Matty.
- \_\_\_\_\_ **f** Mary's father agrees with the plans.
- \_\_\_\_\_ **g** Martha tells Miss Matty that she will marry Jem Hearn.
- \_\_\_\_\_ **h** Miss Matty's dining parlour is turned into a shop.

**A Fill in the table with the correct names for the quotations.**

	Who said this?	About whom?
1 "But perhaps the writer is young. If he continues to write and if he takes the great Doctor for his model, he may become a better writer."	Miss Jenkyns	_____
2 "My dear, if you saw how much she does for her father and sister, you could never laugh at her childish hair ribbons again."	Miss Pole	_____
3 "She had the best methods. She could teach a new maid in a week, but I am not as good as her."	_____	Miss Deborah Jenkyns
4 "I expected to marry one person a long time ago. But he is dead and gone. He never knew why I said 'No.'"	Miss Matty	_____
5 "She will have so little to live on. I don't think she will have enough money to buy your food."	_____	Miss Matty
6 "Please, ma'am, don't listen to him. He asked me to marry him only last night, and I said we should wait. Now he's confused because it's so sudden."	Martha	_____
7 "I would like to give a little more without anyone knowing about it. And my brother would be happy to be her doctor for nothing."	_____	Miss Matty

**B Read the title choices for each chapter. Circle the one(s) you like best. Then, write your own title for each chapter.**

		Your title
<b>Chapter 1</b>	a Our Society b The Captain c A Sad Beginning	
<b>Chapter 2</b>	a A Love Affair of Long Ago b A Visit to an Old Bachelor c Remembering the Past	
<b>Chapter 3</b>	a High Society b Your Ladyship c Excitement and Panic in Town	
<b>Chapter 4</b>	a Good News, Bad News b Engaged to be Married c Stopped in Payment	
<b>Chapter 5</b>	a Friends in Need b A Happy Return c Peace in Cranford	

**C Word Search: Find nine words from the book. Then use the words to complete the summary of Elizabeth Gaskell's novel *My Lady Ludlow*. The first two letters of each word are given.**

A	D	G	U	W	E	T	R	R	A	H
Q	R	U	R	G	W	N	E	E	Q	W
P	Y	R	R	D	A	A	A	S	A	J
X	U	A	I	C	Z	R	L	P	P	H
T	H	M	C	V	E	O	I	E	H	G
C	K	E	O	C	E	N	S	C	F	U
N	P	F	E	A	R	G	E	T	T	Y
T	T	I	L	Y	S	I	J	T	Y	J
I	V	P	R	A	F	B	E	S	A	L
E	F	P	Z	I	X	E	M	A	L	B
K	L	C	D	Q	L	B	N	Y	D	P

Margaret Dawson is a young girl who **1 ar**\_\_\_\_\_s at Hanbury Court to live with Lady Ludlow, a distant relative. She lives there and spends her time doing needlework and visiting other ladies with Lady Ludlow.

Lady Ludlow is the highest-ranking woman in the neighbourhood, so everyone **2 re**\_\_\_\_\_s her. She has had great sadness in her lifetime, but she always shows good manners and proper behaviour. Although she is a good person, she believes in the superiority of the upper classes and thinks that not everybody should **3 re**\_\_\_\_\_an education. She **4 bl**\_\_\_\_\_s the French Revolution for introducing the idea of educating the lower classes. She thinks the lower classes should remain **5 ig**\_\_\_\_\_and the upper classes should be in **6 ch**\_\_\_\_\_of making the important decisions.

Lady Ludlow believes in the old England, and she **7 fe**\_\_\_\_\_s change in society. However, as the story develops, she **8 re**\_\_\_\_\_s that her ideas are wrong. She **9 ac**\_\_\_\_\_s the fact that everything is not always black and white.

**A Mark the sentences as True (T) or False (F). (8x4=32 pts)**

- \_\_\_1 Mrs Forrester's cook had made the cakes for the guests.
- \_\_\_2 No one said a word about Mrs Forrester being poor because it was impolite.
- \_\_\_3 Miss Jenkyns commented on Miss Jessie's dimples because she was jealous of her.
- \_\_\_4 Miss Jenkyns was surprised that Lord Mauleverer had come to town just to see Captain Brown.
- \_\_\_5 The last time they saw him, Captain Brown was not hopeful that his elder daughter would get better.
- \_\_\_6 Miss Jessie never told her sister about the death of their father.
- \_\_\_7 After she lost her father and sister, Miss Jessie decided to find a way to make money.
- \_\_\_8 Miss Jessie had accepted Major Gordon's offer of marriage years ago, but her father had refused.

**B Match the two halves of the sentences (1-8 with a-h). (8x3=24 pts)**

- 1 Although Miss Matty wanted to marry Mr Holbrook, \_\_\_\_\_
  - 2 Although Mr Holbrook was a farmer, \_\_\_\_\_
  - 3 Although Miss Matty wanted to accept Mr Holbrook's invitation, \_\_\_\_\_
  - 4 Although Miss Matty never talked about Mr Holbrook, \_\_\_\_\_
  - 5 Miss Matty thought that the best letters were written by Miss Jenkyns, but \_\_\_\_\_
  - 6 Peter was a very nice boy, but \_\_\_\_\_
  - 7 Mr and Mrs Jenkyns went to Liverpool to see Peter, but \_\_\_\_\_
  - 8 Mr Jenkyns had once been ashamed of his son, but \_\_\_\_\_
- a she didn't think it was right for an old lady to see her old love.
  - b Mary could see that she still had feelings for him.
  - c he had a great love of poetry.
  - d he was very proud of him when he came home.
  - e they were too late.
  - f her family did not agree.
  - g he loved fun and jokes and had bad friends.
  - h Mary thought they were extremely long and boring.

**C Use the words in the box (a-h) to complete the summary. (8x3=24 pts)**

a embarrass	b deliver	c respect	d earned
e relationship	f afford	g willing	h decided

When the bank went bankrupt, Miss Matty could not **1** \_\_\_ to keep her house. People had great love and **2** \_\_\_ for her, and everyone was **3** \_\_\_ to help her. Martha **4** \_\_\_ to marry Jem Hearn, rent a house and take Miss Matty as their lodger. The Cranford ladies collected money for her. They did not want to **5** \_\_\_ her, so they had Mary's father Mr Smith **6** \_\_\_ the money. Miss Matty opened a tea shop and **7** \_\_\_ money by selling tea and sweets. Her shop was very successful because people in town bought their tea from her. She had a great **8** \_\_\_ with everyone.

**D Mark the correct answers. (10x2=20 pts)**

- 1 Miss Betty Barker thought Mary did not belong to high society even though she herself ----.**
  - a had called at Miss Matty's before calling hours
  - b was the best dressed lady in Cranford
  - c used to be in the business of selling hats
- 2 When Mrs Fitz-Adam moved to town, the ladies decided to change their social rules because ----.**
  - a otherwise there wouldn't be anyone to socialise with
  - b they really liked Mrs Fitz-Adam and her brother
  - c Mrs Jamieson said they could visit Mrs Fitz-Adam
- 3 Mary did not join the card games because ----.**
  - a she preferred reading
  - b she did not know the games they were playing
  - c the ladies would get too serious and competitive
- 4 What did the ladies do the first time Lady Glenmire appeared in public?**
  - a They looked at her, but they did not speak with her.
  - b They turned their backs on her.
  - c They welcomed her in a cold way.
- 5 How did the ladies feel when they heard that Lady Glenmire was going to stay in Cranford?**
  - a pleased      b shocked      c sorry
- 6 The day before the show, when Miss Pole went to the Assembly Room, she saw Signor Brunoni twice at different places. How was this possible?**
  - a She was confused because she had lost her glove.
  - b It was his twin brother that she saw.
  - c He was hiding behind the curtain.
- 7 Which of the ladies said that there was a scientific explanation for magic?**
  - a Miss Pole      b Mrs Forrester      c Miss Matty
- 8 When she heard that Mrs Jamieson's house had been broken into, Miss Pole said that ----.**
  - a the robbers would attack her house the next day
  - b she was wrong about the robbers
  - c the robbers had attacked Mrs Jamieson's instead of her house
- 9 When her old fear of being caught by a hand returned, Miss Matty ---- every night.**
  - a jumped into bed
  - b rolled a ball under the bed
  - c looked under the bed
- 10 How did Miss Matty feel about her lost love?**
  - a She was regretful but happy that she had friends.
  - b She was happy that she never married him.
  - c She blamed her family for making her unhappy.

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