

Emile Zola Society London, Quiz 2019-20

| | | |
|----|---|---|
| 1 | Name <i>five</i> items sold by Mme Raquin in her boutique (<i>mercerie</i>) in Paris. | Caps, bonnets, collars, sleeves, socks, braces, wool, buttons... |
| 2 | What relation was Camille to Captain Degans? | Nephew |
| 3. | Which two streets are connected by the Passage du Pont Neuf? | Rue Mazarine and Rue de Seine |
| 4 | Where was Thérèse born (town and country required) | Oran, Algeria |
| 5 | What was the change in Camille's salary on moving from Vernon to Paris? | 60F pcm to 100F pcm |
| 6 | Name two books that Camille read in the evenings after coming home from work. | Thiers (L'Histoire du Consulat et de l'Empire) and Lamartine (L'Histoire des Girondins) |
| 7 | Where did Laurent live? | Rue Saint-Victor |
| 8 | How did Thérèse view the visitors at her aunt's Thursday soirées? | She hated them – they seemed to her like corpses or cardboard dolls, operated by strings. |
| 9 | When and where did the idea of seducing Thérèse first occur to Laurent? | She was always in the bedroom, when he was painting a portrait of Camille; the thought of seduction occurred to him on his way home afterwards. |
| 10 | What according to Laurent, were the pros and cons of seducing Thérèse? | Pros: easy prey, no cost, can be dumped. Cons: danger of discovery, he didn't find her pretty, wasn't in love with her. |
| 11 | What prevented Thérèse and Laurent from continuing to enjoy their clandestine relationship? | Laurent was threatened with the sack if he absented himself from work in the afternoon, and Thérèse couldn't find an excuse to go to his lodgings in the evening. |
| 12 | How did Michaud strengthen Laurent's resolve to kill Camille? | His tales of unsolved murderers, unsuspected murderers walking free made Laurent think it was possible. |
| 13 | What memento of Laurent did Camille carry away with him as he drowned in the river? | A chunk of skin and flesh from Laurent's neck. |
| 14 | The morgue was popular with the general public. Name four different groups of people that Laurent identified during his visits there. | Workmen, young working girls, casual strollers, rich ladies, the old, teenage boys. |
| 15 | How did Laurent and Thérèse (aided by Michaud) convince Mme Raquin that their marriage would be a universal blessing? | Thérèse assumed an air of malaise and listlessness, which alarmed the lady. She consulted Michaud who suggested that Thérèse needed a man. Laurent made himself useful to her in every possible way. He spoke with affection of Camille and how her son had entrusted Thérèse to him as he drowned. This reassured the lady that their marriage would not be a betrayal of her son but a fulfilment of his last wish. |
| 16 | On the wedding night, what object did Laurent mistake for the corpse of Camille? Why did the presence of François add to his fears? | The portrait he painted of Camille; he then convinced himself that the spirit of Camille had got into the cat. The fact that the cat had witnessed their lovemaking added to his fears. |
| 17 | How did Madame Raquin first learn the truth about Camille's death? | Her paralysis worsened to a stage where she could no longer move or speak. Without realising it, Laurent and Thérèse discussed Camille and his death in her presence. She understood everything despite the paralysis. |
| 18 | What happened to François? | Thrown out of the window by Laurent, he broke his spine and died a slow painful death on the glass roof of the Arcade. |
| 19 | How did Laurent and Thérèse plan to kill each other? | Laurent acquired cyanide from a chemist friend; Thérèse had a kitchen knife specially sharpened. |
| 20 | What did Camille stop to look at in the Jardin des Plantes? | The bears |