

Chapter 1 : England, Their England by A.G. Macdonell

A Village Cricket Match -by A. G. Macdonell The story 'A Village Cricket Match' is an excerpt from the author's novel 'England, their England' and presents a light-hearted look at the hypocrisy of the English society and the concept of Englishness through the eyes of the Scottish author.

It fascinated me, because it was very funny, and beautifully written, and also had a great deal in it that I knew would be funny, if I only I could understand it better. I was a teenager desperate to understand. These experiences are all reused joyfully in the book. He wrote detective novels under various pseudonyms, and became what the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography calls a pugnacious drama critic on the London Mercury, an important review newspaper of the s. England, Their England was his first novel, and was an instant success, becoming required reading in schools during the s and s. England, Their England is a first-novel yell of frustration and affection from the heart, and has the knockout power, and sincerity, that comes from exasperation and emotion. Macdonell then brings in a large collection of English shibboleths that he can knock down gleefully with hard-hitting satire. He goes on to lampoon modern journalism, modern novels, the English country-house weekend, modern art, the habits and dress of modern young women, and makes a surprisingly rude joke about Americans, and an even more off-colour set of jokes about rape and Latin Americans. Apart from the endemic jokes about the English which are on every page, the Americans are the most joked-at nation in the book. The chapters become set-piece satirical feasts. Donald is sent into a new English milieu to observe it and become a hapless victim of its silliness. He is invited to an English country-house weekend party, and meets a fine collection of parodic stereotypes. This cricketing chapter was apparently packed with recognisable characters from the literary and journalism world of the time, which undoubtedly helped his sales. Just imagine everyone buying the book eagerly to look for themselves and their friends and enemies, and then writing gleefully about their discoveries. Macdonell was a cunning anthropologist of the London literati. It might also be instructive reading for present-day European Parliament stagiaires in Brussels and Strasbourg. Donald also assists at a general election: Winchester, but this final chapter is a bit overdone, with rather too much fond glorification and not enough bitter wit. What does work as satire in this last chapter is a really vicious attack on s fox-hunting, and the arrogance of the modern youth who attend the meet. This is where the satire turns in on itself to produce some unexpected home truths. The hardness of character that makes s fox-hunters so obnoxious, selfish and offensive, is very closely connected with the hardness that made it possible for some people to survive the war, as combatants and as nurses. There is a lot in here about rapidly changing English society: What I like best about this book are the sly running jokes, particularly the ones about Aberdonians and their carefulness with money. This is a standard joke in Scotland, but I was oblivious to it until quite a late age. I like the deliberately difficult Scottish historical references, which are a mash-up of Sir Walter Scott and jokes about tartan. In fact, this book, written by an ex pat Scot, spends a lot of time laughing at the propensity of the English to romanticise the Scots, particularly in their expectation that the golf professional will speak like a music-hall caricature, and that at Hogmanay you have to pretend to be Scottish to enjoy it properly. I also like watching the hapless career of Donald as he is swept up by one helpful Englishman after another, dumped into situations over which he has no control, and with little understanding of what is going on. He is a stranger in a strange land, which is packed with marvellously silly stereotypes that suggest a nicely lunatic portrait of s English society. The game of golf, and the game of cricket are a joy to read, but the self-consciously lyrical descriptions of England in the winter and in the summer are a bit too syrupy. When Macdonell keeps his edge, his sense of irritation, his satire really, really works. Donald he thinks he will have a miserable time, but actually enjoys himself watching the winter sea and the traffic on the Kiel Canal. This is the kind of man who will make you anything you want out of steel, brilliantly imagined and executed, but he will also bore you to death for days telling you all about how it works. But he likes them. Actually, we learn to like them too. Most of all I like Donald, who really needs someone to look after him. This book is a joy:

Life and work. Born in Poona, India, A. G. Macdonell's family were Scottish. His father was a physician, and he was educated at Winchester where he excelled academically and at sports, representing the school at association football and golf.

Hire Writer It is an excerpt from A. The cricketers are petty businessmen or local shopkeepers. The story is presented in a mock epic style and ornate and bombastic language has been used to bring out this effect. The author has used humor as the main ingredient of the story. His description of the players, their style of playing, movements, and conduct is humorous. The story begins with the arrangements of Mr. Hodge who completed his tricky negotiations with the Fordendan captain. Just as the two players who were arranged to play for both sides went away in dismay, a motor car arrived containing not only Mr. Negotiations therefore had to be reopened. This funny arrangement at the beginning of the story underlines the streak of humor which will run throughout the story. The method of winning of winning the toss by Mr. Hodge is described in a humorous way. The bowling end of the ground was so steep that at the end stood a fielder who saw nothing saw nothing of the game but the blacksmith walking back or running to bowl. It was only during the last few yards of his run when the blacksmith was visible to the batsman. Recent Uploaded Essays Village cricket match Pages: The English society has been satirized in a light hearted manner especially what ' A Village Cricket Match: The novel follows the remarkable experience of Donald Cameron who was forced to go away from Scotland ' Dbq: Cricket and Politics Rough Draft Pages: A significant continuity was that as in document 3, ' Test Cricket Pages: Each team takes it ' Cricket World Cup Pages: The first Cricket World Cup was played during in England www. In India where cricket is consider a religion and cricket players are '.

Chapter 3 : England, Their England : A.G. Macdonell :

In A Village Cricket Match A.G. Macdonell has used humour as the main ingredient of the story. Substantiate your answer with instances from the text. Ans: The story 'A Village Cricket Match' by A.G. Macdonell is replete with humour and this is very subtle.

We will write a custom essay sample on A Village Cricket Match: His first undertaking was to discover what the English were all about, and he ventured on his act of enthusiastic searching. The story is a study in humor and satire of the village cricket game. All kinds of strange and unconventional behavior and activities are exhibited in the match which enduringly appeals to the readers. Donald gives a high hearted commentary of the match containing some hilarious incidents: Ambience in and around the field. Blue and green dragonflies playing hind and seek among the thistledown; a pair of swan was seen flying overhead; an old-fashioned person was seen working, leaning upon a scythe; a magpie was seen, lapping lazily across the field; doves were cooing; the sun was shining unsteadily and visibility was impeded with atmospheric moisture and dust quite unfavorable for the game of cricket ; silence heating up the excitement was prevailing all around. Village folks It appeared that some of them had been eagerly waiting to watch a match of this standard. Village folks are usually impatient, but here, they were showing some kind of patience Village people suffer from the unusual behavior of God who seems to have done great injustice by putting up a large financial and social difference between the rich and the poor. When these village people have endured such eccentricities of God, they will have no difficulty in bearing with the match that is going to be played by the people Man of eccentric characters. Actually, saying this, Macdonell brings out a faint hint of humor in advance. Changes brought about before the match started and its effect: Before the match began, two players of the English team were found absent; so, two Scottish players from the village team were asked to field for both the team and bat for neither of these two teams. This arrangement, however, irritated these two players and they withdrew themselves from the match. Two missing English players arrived at the spot in a car and they brought with them another person who claimed that Hodge, the captain of the English team had asked him to play and that was why he had come and he was determined to play the match. On the other hand, two Scottish players who had left the team were brought back into the team after negotiations. Finally, it was decided that two sides would play with twelve players, instead of usual eleven players. However, the English team won the toss and decided to bat. Batting performance by the English players: James Livingston, a club cricketer and Boone, a huge man dressed in Cambridge Blue. James faced four balls from a bowler who, by profession, was a blacksmith. The first ball went past like a bullet resulting in four byes. The second ball was a full-length and it went over James hitting directly the stomach of the wicket-keeper who was replaced by a substitute wicket-keeper. The third ball was skillfully hit for a six. The fourth ball was also a full pitch that took off his leg stamp. The score was then ten runs for one wicket. The professor came to bat and got hurt as the fifth ball hit his ears. He went back to the Three Horseshoes. Harcourt came to play and he unfortunately hit the wickets with his bat before the sixth ball from the blacksmith was bowled. The score stood at ten runs for two wickets with one person retired hurt. Boone who looked so stout was stumped on the very first ball of the new over started by the local rate-collector, a left-arm bowler. The score was ten runs for three wickets. The next player was a singular young man. He appeared quite decent and on enquiry it was found that he was Mr. Southcott, a famous novelist. He hit the very first ball he faced over the three Horseshoes. The second ball he faced was hit into the saloon bar of the Horseshoes, making Mr. Harcourt who was sitting there and drinking beer became so afraid that he had to take several pints to recover from the trauma. The third ball that he faced was hit and it landed in a stream of trout, upsetting the rate collector. Ignoring enthusiastic instruction from the captain, Hodge, Southcott just made one run, playing in his own style for the next fifteen minutes. While playing defensive, Southcott inadvertently allowed one ball to hit him out. Besides, the other interesting part of the game was the participation of an American journalist who did not know anything about the game of cricket. He hit a ball towards square leg and threw down his bat, and he himself ran towards the cover-point. Finally, he confessed that he thought he was playing baseball. Humor used to describe umpiring: Harcourt who was

earlier dismissed was sent for umpiring much to the discontent of the local team. Humor used to describe the bowling-action: The bowler himself fell on the center of the wicket. Each team takes it
Dbq: Cricket and Politics Rough Draft Pages: The first Cricket World Cup was played during in England www. The first three matches were

Chapter 4 : A Village Cricket Match Summary, Notes, Guide

The Cricket Match Comedy | TV Movie This film is taken from a part of A G Macdonell's novel "England their England" (Published c)The film shows an amateur cricket team of literary (and other) people travelling to play a village team in rural England.

His father was a physician , and he was educated at Winchester where he excelled academically and at sports, representing the school at association football and golf. During World War I , he served for two years as a lieutenant of the Royal Field Artillery before being invalided out of the army, possibly because of shell shock. Lieutenant Cameron, the protagonist of England, Their England is sent home for that reason. The war had a profound effect on him, as it did with so many of his generation. Afterwards he spent two years in eastern Europe, firstly on the reconstruction of Poland , and then on famine relief in Russia. In he joined the League of Nations where he spent five years. Politically, he was a supporter of the Liberal Party. During and he unsuccessfully contested Lincoln as the Liberal candidate. In , he became famous with the publication of England, Their England. The book gained considerable critical and popular acclaim, and won the James Tait Black Award that year. Today, Macdonell is remembered mostly for this one book. It is regarded as one of the classics of English humour and is much loved by readers for its evocation of England between the wars. It is particularly cherished by devotees of cricket for its famous description of the village cricket match. Although the rest of his books have been largely forgotten, several of them earned accolades during his lifetime. Macdonell was also a connoisseur of military history , and wrote a historical study called Napoleon and his Marshals Macdonell wrote a number of plays for the theatre. These were mostly comedies, with titles like What Next, Baby? He also engaged in amateur theatrics himself, at least in the early part of his career. A review of an amateur production in Thursley , printed in The Times in January , notes that he played his role with "immense gusto" which was "vastly to the taste of the audience". Macdonell also wrote "The crew of the Anaconda" in , a Boys Own ripping yarn type tale. He was a keen sportsman and a first-rate golfer, representing the Old Wykehamists on a number of occasions. He died suddenly in Oxford in at the age of In his obituary, The Times called him "one of the leaders of the younger school of satirical novelists". He is buried at Wolvercote Cemetery in Oxford. Marriages[edit] Macdonell was married twice. His first marriage lasted from to , and gave him his only child Jenny. In July , his wife Mona sued for divorce. According to the suit, Macdonell had committed adultery in a hotel in London the previous January. His second wife was a Viennese woman whose family was associated with the banking firm of Warburg-Schiff and who had fled to England just before the Anschluss.

Chapter 5 : UK: England Their England by Alan Sutton and A. G. MacDonell (, Paperback) | eBay

A Village Cricket Match" is an excerpt from "England, Their England". The story is a study in humor and satire of the village cricket game. All kinds of strange and unconventional behavior and activities are exhibited in the match which enduringly appeals to the readers.

Chapter 6 : England, Their England - Wikipedia

Taken from the novel 'England Their England', The Cricket Match follows an amateur cricket team of literary (and other) people traveling to play a village team in rural England.

Chapter 7 : A.G. Macdonell - IMDb

Answer: A. G. Macdonell's "England, Their England" is an excellent work of satire. The novel follows the remarkable experience of Donald Cameron who was forced to go away from Scotland by the terms of his father's will and pursue a career (appropriate to literature) in London.

Chapter 8 : A. G. Macdonell - Wikipedia

Written in the s, this is a Scotsman's idiosyncratic portrait of the English. Something of a roman a clef, the book includes veiled vignettes of public figures of the day against the typically English backdrops of the country house, the cricket match and the London pub.

Chapter 9 : England, Their England - A. G. Macdonell - Google Books

Macdonell writes with a droll wit taking everything that occurs in this excerpt from England, Their England perfectly seriously. It is this brilliantly understated approach to associations with.