

МИНИСТЕРСТВО НА ОБРАЗОВАНИЕТО, МЛАДЕЖТА И НАУКАТА

REGIONAL OLYMPIAD IN ENGLISH

2012

Group Four

Part One

Dictation

I am telling this story / in the first person, / though I am in no way / connected with it, / because I don't want / to pretend to the reader / that I know more about it / than I really do. // The facts are as I state them / but the reasons for them / I can only guess. // No one can know for certain. // But if you are interested in human nature / there are few things more diverting / than to consider the motives / that have resulted in certain actions. // It was only by chance / that I heard anything at all / of the unhappy circumstances. // I was spending two or three days / on an island on the north coast of Borneo, / and the district officer had very kindly offered / to put me up. // I had been roughing it for some time / and I was glad enough to have a rest. // The island had been at one time / a place of some consequence, / with a governor of its own, / but was so no longer; / and now there was nothing much to be seen / of its former importance / except the imposing stone house / in which the governor had once lived / and which now the district officer, / grumblingly because of its unnecessary size, / inhabited. // But it was a comfortable house to stay in, / with an immense drawing-room, / a dining-room large enough to seat forty people, / and lofty, spacious bedrooms. // It was shabby / because the government at Singapore / very wisely spent / as little money on it as possible; / but I rather liked this, / and the heavy official furniture / gave it a sort of dull stateliness / that was amusing. // The garden was too large / for the district officer to keep up / and it was a wild tangle / of tropical vegetation. // His name was Arthur Low. // He was a quiet, smallish man / in the later thirties, / married, with two young children. // The Lows had not tried / to make themselves at home / in this great place, / but camped there, / like refugees from a stricken area, / and looked forward to the time / when they would be moved / to some other post / where they could settle down / in surroundings more familiar to them. //

I took a fancy to them at once. // The district officer had an easy manner / and a humorous way with him. // I am sure he performed / his various duties admirably, / but he did everything he could / to avoid the official demeanour.

(Adapted from "A Casual Affair" by W.S. Maugham)

*Преди първия прочит на диктовката на дъската се изписват собствените имена от текста: **Borneo, Singapore и Arthur Low.***
