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Academic ESL World History Unit 4. E. Gaskell, North and South Part 4.

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North and South Part 4.

Suggested Activities

These activities are meant to cover the second half of the novel. The activities are grouped around characters and main events. They can be carried out as individual or small group projects.

- **Labor Conflict and Social Justice: Nicolas Higgins.**
 - Summarize Nicolas story. Who is he? What is he trying to achieve?
 - Which conflicts has he faced, and how have this conflict evolved so far. Give examples.
 - How is his story resolved? What is the final solution to the problem? Has it involved a significant change or transformation compared to the beginning of the novel?
 - Write a critical reflection. Do you agree with Nicolas and his actions? Should he have acted differently? Do you think the outcome is positive?
 - If you were to write the ending, what would you have written?

- **Moral Conflict: Frederick's Story and its Resolution**
 - Define the moral conflict in Frederick's story.
 - What is your position? Is Frederick a victim, or is he guilty?
 - Margaret is put in an impossible situation when she is seen at the train station with Frederick. In the end, she must lie to save her brother. Describe the moral dilemma.
 - Reflect: is Margaret's behavior justified?

- **Transformation and change: Margaret and Mr. Thornton**

The love story between Margaret and Mr. Thornton is a complex, interwoven plotline in the novel. They are originally portrayed as protagonist and antagonist. This tension changes over time to finally be resolved in the most beautifully described love scene.

- Summarize the relationship between Margaret and Mr. Thornton in the first part of the novel. What or who keeps them apart? What makes up the differences between them? What are their different opinions about society, social justice, and moral values?
- What are the different key moments that contribute to the changed relationship between them?
- Which key elements bring them together in the end, in your opinion?
- Describe Mrs. Thornton's role in this conflict.
- Reflect: Margaret has an opinion of her own and is very independent. Do you think Margaret or Mr. Thornton should have reacted differently earlier in the novel? If so, why?

- **Financial Crisis: Marlborough Mills**

In the second half of the novel, we encounter the big shifts in finance and industry. Some start speculating on the stock-market, which is something entirely new at the time. We also read about the great World Exhibition in London.

- What exactly leads to the financial crisis at Marlborough Mills?
- What are the different positions regarding investments and what is Mr. Thornton's position?
- Describe the world Exhibition in London in .. Do a search on the internet and be sure to cite your sources.
- How does this exhibition connect with what you have learned about colonialism and global trade? How does the exhibition reflect the power of Great Britain during this time?
- Reflect: Would Mr. Thornton's textile factory exist today? Justify your answer with thorough arguments, examples, and sources.