



**The Grammar Dog Guide to
The Rocking-Horse
Winner
by D.H. Lawrence**

**All quizzes use sentences from the story.
Includes over 250 multiple choice questions.**

About Gramwardog

Gramwardog was founded in 2001 by Mary Jane McKinney, a high school English teacher and dedicated grammarian. She and other experienced English teachers in both high school and college regard grammar and style as the key to unlocking the essence of an author.

Their philosophy, that grammar and literature are best understood when learned together, led to the formation of Gramwardog.com, a means of sharing knowledge about the structure and patterns of language unique to specific authors. These patterns are what make a great book *a great book*. The arduous task of analyzing works for grammar and style has yielded a unique product, guaranteed to enlighten the reader of literary classics.

Gramwardog's strategy is to put the author's words under the microscope. The result yields an increased appreciation of the art of writing and awareness of the importance and power of language.



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SAMPLE EXERCISES - THE ROCKING-HORSE WINNER by D.H. Lawrence

EXERCISE 5 COMPLEMENTS

Identify the complements in the following sentences. Label the underlined words:

d.o. = direct object *i.o.* = indirect object *p.n.* = predicate nominative *p.a.* = predicate adjective
o.p. = object of preposition

- ___1. His mother watched him with an anxious expression on her face.
- ___2. “Well – I don’t want to give him away – he’s a young sport, a fine sport, sir.”
- ___3. The boy watched the handsome man closely.

EXERCISE 6 PHRASES

Identify the phrases in the following sentences. Label the underlined words:

par = participle *ger* = gerund *inf* = infinitive *appos* = appositive *prep* = preposition

- ___1. The father went into town to some office.
- ___2. And the children would stop playing to listen for a moment.
- ___3. It came whispering from the springs of the still-swaying rocking horse, and even the horse, bending his wooden, champing head, heard it.

EXERCISE 9 STYLE: FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE

Identify the figurative language in the following sentences. Label the underlined words:

p = personification *m* = metaphor *s* = simile *oxy* = oxymoron *h* = hyperbole

- ___1. She married for love, and the love turned to dust.
- ___2. Nevertheless, when her children were present, she always felt the center of her heart go hard.
- ___3. Bassett was serious as a church.

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EXERCISE 12 STYLE: ALLUSIONS AND SYMBOLS

Identify the type of allusion used in the following sentences. Label the underlined words:

a. money b. gambling/horse racing c. religion d. insanity e. folklore/superstition

- ___1. The mother had a small income, and the father had a small income, but not nearly enough for the social position which they had to keep up.

- ___2. And so the house came to be haunted by the unspoken phrase: *There must be more money! There must be more money!*

- ___3. “Filthy lucre does mean money,” said the mother.

EXERCISE 13 STYLE: LITERARY ANALYSIS – SELECTED PASSAGE 1

Read the following passage the first time through for meaning.

There was a woman who was beautiful, who started with all the advantages, yet she had no luck. She married for love, and the love turned to dust. She had bonny children, yet she felt they had been thrust upon her, and she could not love them. They looked at her coldly, as if they were finding fault with her. And hurriedly she felt she must cover up some fault in herself. Yet what it was that she must cover up she never knew. Nevertheless, when her children were present, she always felt the center of her heart go hard. This troubled her, and in her manner she was all the more gentle and anxious for her children, as if she loved them very much. Only she herself knew that at the center of her heart was a hard little place that could not feel love, no, not for anybody. Everybody else said of her: “she is such a good mother. She adores her children.” Only she herself, and her children themselves, knew it was not so. They read it in each other’s eyes. There were a boy and two little girls. They lived in a pleasant house, with a garden, and they had discreet servants, and felt themselves superior to anyone in the neighborhood. Although they lived in style, they felt always an anxiety in the house. There was never enough money. The mother had a small income, and the father had a small income, but not nearly enough for the social position which they had to keep up. The father went into town to some office. But though he had good prospects, these prospects never materialized. There was always the grinding sense of the shortage of money, though the style was always kept up.

Read the passage a second time, marking figurative language, sensory imagery, poetic devices, and any other patterns of diction and rhetoric, then answer the questions below.

- 1 There was a woman who was beautiful, who started with all the advantages, yet she had no luck.
- 2 She married for love, and the love turned to dust. She had bonny children, yet she felt they had been
- 3 thrust upon her, and she could not love them. They looked at her coldly, as if they were finding fault
- 4 with her. And hurriedly she felt she must cover up some fault in herself. Yet what it was that she
- 5 must cover up she never knew. Nevertheless, when her children were present, she always felt the

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6 center of her heart go hard. This troubled her, and in her manner she was all the more gentle and
7 anxious for her children, as if she loved them very much. Only she herself knew that at the center
8 of her heart was a hard little place that could not feel love, no, not for anybody. Everybody else
9 said of her: “she is such a good mother. She adores her children.” Only she herself, and her
10 children themselves, knew it was not so. They read it in each other’s eyes.

11 There were a boy and two little girls. They lived in a pleasant house, with a garden, and they had
12 discreet servants, and felt themselves superior to anyone in the neighborhood.

13 Although they lived in style, they felt always an anxiety in the house. There was never enough
14 money. The mother had a small income, and the father had a small income, but not nearly enough
15 for the social position which they had to keep up. The father went into town to some office. But
16 though he had good prospects, these prospects never materialized. There was always the grinding
17 sense of the shortage of money, though the style was always kept up.

- ___ 1. Line 2 contains an example of . . .
a. metaphor b. simile c. personification d. hyperbole
- ___ 2. The underlined words in Line 8 are examples of . . .
a. assonance b. consonance c. alliteration d. rhyme
- ___ 3. ALL of the following words are part of the pattern of repetition EXCEPT . . .
a. felt b. eyes c. fault d. hard

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