

Part 4 – READING NARRATIVE TEXT

Directions: Read the passage and answer the questions that follow.

Introduction: Disturbing dreams become even more disturbing when they begin to come true and drive an arrogant member of the British upper class to extreme measures.

Lord Mountdrago (abridged) by Somerset Maugham

Dr. Audlin was a psychiatrist who explored and treated maladies of the mind. Of all the strange cases he had been called upon to deal with, Dr. Audlin could remember none stranger than that of Lord Mountdrago.

2 He was a fearful snob, coldly insolent to those whom he looked upon as his social inferiors. He was rude to his servants and insulting to his Secretaries. The subordinate officials in the government offices to which he had been successively attached feared and hated him. His arrogance was horrible. He knew that he was a great deal cleverer than most of the persons he had to deal with and never hesitated to apprise them of the fact. He had no patience with the infirmities of human nature. He was immeasurably selfish. He was overbearing and discourteous; and yet his merit was so great, his patriotism so evident, his intelligence so solid, and his management of affairs so brilliant that they had to put up with him.

Lord Mountdrago almost failed to become Dr. Audlin's patient. A secretary telephoned the doctor and told him that His Lordship, wishing to consult him, would be glad if he would come to his house at ten o'clock on the following morning. Dr. Audlin answered that he was unable to go to Lord Mountdrago's house, but would be pleased to give him an appointment at his office at five o'clock on the next day. The secretary took the message and immediately called back to say that Lord Mountdrago insisted on seeing Dr. Audlin in his own house and that the doctor could fix his own fee. Dr. Audlin replied that he only saw patients in his office and expressed his regret that unless Lord Mountdrago was prepared to come to him, he could not give him his attention. In fifteen minutes, a brief message was delivered to him that His Lordship would come at five the next day.

When Lord Mountdrago was shown in he did not come forward, but stood at the door and insolently looked at the doctor up and down. Dr. Audlin perceived that he was in a rage.

"It seems that it is as difficult to see you as a Prime Minister, Dr. Audlin. I'm an extremely busy man."

"Won't you sit down?" said the doctor.

"I think I should tell you that I am His Majesty's Secretary for Foreign Affairs," he said acidly.