

READING A Literary Excerpt

1 Do you think it might be difficult to be in love with someone who is passionate about their work or hobby? Why?

2 **MAKING INFERENCES** The following sentences appear in the excerpt. What can we infer from them? Choose TWO correct answers. Then read the excerpt to see if you were right.

Breathless with emotion, Van Baerle said, "Will I see you again tomorrow?"

Rosa replied coldly, "I'm not sure I can come tomorrow. I've got a lot to do."

- 1 Van Baerle is in love with Rosa.
- 2 Rosa will not visit Van Baerle any more.
- 3 Rosa is trying to hide her true feelings.

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3 Choose the correct answer.

- 1 Why does Rosa decide not to visit Van Baerle any more?
 - a She no longer loves him.
 - b She discovers that she is being followed.
 - c She fears that her father will disapprove.
 - d She feels she is not his first priority.
- 2 Rosa saves the tulip from Jacob by ...
 - a planting it in a safe spot in the garden
 - b hiding it behind a tree
 - c taking it out of the garden
 - d giving him a different tulip
- 3 When he takes Rosa's hand, Van Baerle explains ...
 - a why he is attached to his tulips
 - b that he prefers her to the tulips
 - c that he will give her the tulip to prove his love
 - d why he needs both her and the tulips

4 **OPEN QUESTIONS** Answer the questions.

- 1 Why does Rosa feel that she and Van Baerle might not be meant for each other?
- 2 Give two reasons why Van Baerle is too sad to touch his food.
- 3 Why does Rosa visit Van Baerle after three days have passed?
- 4 What does Rosa want to hear when she says that the tulip "is the thing that worries you most"?

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WORDS FROM THE TEXT



5 Find words or expressions in the text that mean:

- 1 terrible and painful (lines 26-32)
- 2 a place (lines 36-45)
- 3 hurried (lines 36-45)
- 4 connected (lines 50-57)
- 5 took one deep breath in and out (lines 65-68)

6 Choose the correct answer. Pay attention to the words in colour.

- 1 **Tears** come out of your eyes when you are *crying / sleeping*.
- 2 If you **come to a conclusion**, you *finish / realise* something.
- 3 You might be **breathless** when you feel *excited / calm*.
- 4 When you **point** something **out**, you want to give someone a *gift / information*.
- 5 If you **deprive** someone **of** food, they will feel *hungry / satisfied*.

EXPRESSIONS WITH OVER

The word **over** is used in many English expressions.

*He heard the clock strike **over and over**, knowing she would not come.*

(over and over = again and again)

7 Complete the expressions with **over** using one of the words below.

moon | mad | head | backwards | heels | get

- 1 Thomas has fallen **head over** ... in love with Ann.
- 2 If you want to break up, let's do it now and ... **it over with**.
- 3 She wants to make a commitment, but I'm not ready. I think I'm **in over my** ...
- 4 Susan was **over the** ... when she heard the good news.
- 5 My brother has **gone** completely ... **over** that girl.
- 6 I always **bend over** ... to give you everything you want.



YOUR OUTLOOK CRITICAL THINKING

Why do you think Rosa insists that they don't speak about the tulip? Do you think she is right?

At this point ...
more than you love me!" she cried.
sleepless night of regrets. Rosa cried all night. She
that Van Baerle, who was a rich and educated man,
her, the simple uneducated daughter of a jester. "I
anymore," she decided.
Van Baerle woke up the next morning more in
He found himself holding his breath until the
until midnight, when he heard the cl
could not come.
Baerle was too sad to
been ...
coming warmer, and
If Rosa didn't come
great loves forever wa
three days later, Rosa returned
you that your tulip is well. Con
I know is the thing that worr

The Black Tulip

By Alexandre Dumas

The Black Tulip takes place in the 17th century, when tulips were so fashionable in Holland that one flower cost more than a house. The hero, Cornelius van Baerle, is a successful tulip grower whose goal in life is to grow the world's first black tulip. Falsely accused of a serious crime by his jealous rival, Jacob Boxtel, Van Baerle is arrested. He falls in love with the jailer's daughter, Rosa, who helps him continue his efforts to develop the black tulip. The two soon discover that Boxtel is trying to steal his precious bulbs.

10 "If you discover that you're being followed, and that your father or Jacob is becoming suspicious about the tulip, then don't come to see me any more!" Van Baerle instructed Rosa when she visited him in his cell.

At this point, Rosa's eyes filled with tears. "I see that you love your tulip more than you love me!" she cried, and ran away, leaving Van Baerle to a sleepless night of regrets. Rosa cried all night. She came to the conclusion that Van Baerle, who was a rich and educated man, could never really love her, the simple uneducated daughter of a jailer.

20 "I'm not visiting Cornelius any more," she decided. Van Baerle woke up the next morning more in love with Rosa than ever. He found himself holding his breath until the time of her usual visit. He waited until midnight, when he heard the clock strike over and over, knowing she would not come.

The next day, Van Baerle was too sad to touch his food. He realised that Rosa's visits had been everything to him. In addition, he now saw that the April sun was becoming warmer, and the day for planting the bulbs was coming closer. If Rosa didn't come back, the day for planting would pass. Losing both great loves forever would be an unbearable fate for him!

30 Three days later, Rosa returned to his cell with news. "I've come to tell you that your tulip is well, Cornelius, which I know is the thing that worries you most," she said.

"But for a time, it was in great danger! The day after we spoke, Jacob followed me to the garden, and I pretended to plant the bulb. Then I found a spot behind a tree where I could watch him without being seen. Jacob rushed out of his hiding place and turned the flowerbed upside down, desperately trying to find it. I then planted the bulb in a pot in my room. Don't worry, I'll care for our 'daughter' like a mother! It's only by becoming her mother that I can stop being her rival!"

Breathless with emotion, Van Baerle said, "I'm anxious for the daughter, but I'm far more interested in the mother! Will I see you again tomorrow?"

50 Rosa replied coldly, "I'm not sure I can come tomorrow. I've got a lot to do."

"While I've got only one thing," Van Baerle pointed out. "What? To love your tulip?" said Rosa.

"No. To love YOU, Rosa!" said Van Baerle. "But why are you so angry that I am attached to my tulips?"

"I'm not," said Rosa. "I'm envious because you love them more than me!"

Van Baerle took Rosa's hand in his and said, "Oh, my dear beloved! Listen to my heart beating! It doesn't beat for the black tulip – it beats for you, Rosa my love. Destroy the black tulip, let there be no more flowers! Take them all away from me, but don't deprive me of your voice or the fire of your eyes. Forgive me, Rosa, because I truly love only you."

65 Rosa sighed, allowing his lips to touch her hand through the iron bars. Now that their dispute was over, Rosa insisted they mustn't speak about the tulip for the next three days. Van Baerle agreed.



LOOKING AT LANGUAGE

- 1 Look at the false friend underlined in the text. How do you say it in your language?
- 2 The expression *upside down* means that the top of an object is facing the bottom.
He held the box upside down, so everything fell out.
It can also mean that something has been turned into a total state of confusion or disorder.
Jacob rushed out of his hiding place and turned the flowerbed upside down, desperately trying to find it. (lines 40-41)

PRONUNCIATION

- 3 Listen and repeat the words from the text.
spot /ɒ/ goal /əʊ/
- 4 Match the bolded letters in each word to the correct phonetic symbol /ɒ/ or /əʊ/. Then listen and check your answers.
spoke | c**l**ock | e**o**tion | o**o**ly | h**o**ro | g**o**t

