

Unit 3 A Dill Pickle

—Katherine Mansfield

About the author: Katherine Mansfield



- **1888–1923, British author, born in New Zealand**
- Her original name was *Kathleen Beauchamp*. She is regarded as one of the masters of the short story.
- A talented cellist (大提琴演奏家), she did not turn to literature until 1908.

I. Author

Her Works

- ***In a German Pension (1911)***, her first published book.
- ***Bliss (1920)*** which collected Mansfield's family memoirs and secured her reputation as a writer.
- ***The Garden Party (1922)***, her finest work written during the final stages of her illness which established her as a major writer.
- Later volumes of stories include ***The Dove's Nest (1923)*** and ***Something Childish (1924; U.S. ed. *The Little Girl*, 1924)***.
- Other collections and poems: journal, letters, and scrapbook (edited by her husband) .

I. Author

Her Adventurous Spirit

- **Famously, Mansfield remarked "risk, risk everything".**
- **It was largely through her adventurous spirit, her eagerness to grasp at experience and to succeed in her work, that she became ensnared in disaster. . . . If she was never a saint, she was certainly a martyr, and a heroine in her recklessness, her dedication and her courage.**

I . Author

Her Adventurous Spirit

- **Her last words were: "I love the rain. I want the feeling of it on my face."**

I. Author

Her Style

Mansfield's stories, which reveal the **influence of Chekhov, are simple in form, luminous and evocative in substance. With delicate plainness they present elusive moments of decision, defeat, and small triumph.**



I . Author

Her Quotes

- **Make it a rule of life never to regret and never to look back. Regret is an appalling waste of energy; you can't build on it; it is only good for wallowing in...**
- **I always felt that the great high privilege, relief and comfort of friendship was that one had to explain nothing...**

I . Author

Her Quotes

- **Whenever I prepare for a journey I prepare as though for death. Should I never return, all is in order...**

II. Dill Pickle

Dill pickle



- **Cucumber reserved in salty and spicy water with such ingredients as pepper, garlic, dill and vinegar.**
- **In Russia, it is eaten with hamburger as an appetizer.**

III. pictures

Kew Gardens



Kew Gardens, on the banks of the River Thames in southwest London, represents 250 years of landscape and garden history. The site also houses 40 historically significant buildings, including Kew Palace, Queen Charlotte's Cottage, and the Palm House.

III. pictures

🍁 ***Kew Palace*** was the home of Augusta, Princess of Wales in the 18th century.



III. pictures

- ***The Palm House*** has 10 miles (16 kilometers) of stainless steel glazing bars.



III. pictures

- The *Volga River* is the longest river in Europe, about 2,300 miles (3,700 km). It originates at an elevation of only 740 feet (225 m) in the Valdai Hills northwest of Moscow, and connects with the Rybinsk Reservoir. The river heads east past Yaroslavl, Nizhny Novgorod and Kazan. From there it turns south past Samara and Volgograd. At Volgograd, it links, through canals, with the Don River and Black Sea. Since the initial elevation is so low, the river flows slowly, and finally enters the Caspian Sea, below sea level in a wide delta near Astrakhan.

III. pictures



III. pictures

- ***The Black Sea*** (known as the Euxine Sea in antiquity) is an inland sea between southeastern Europe and Asia Minor. It is connected to the Mediterranean Sea by the Bosphorus and the Sea of Marmara, and to the Sea of Azov by the Strait of Kerch.
- The most important river entering the Black Sea is the Danube. The Black Sea has an area of 422,000 km² and a maximum depth of 2,210 m.

III. pictures

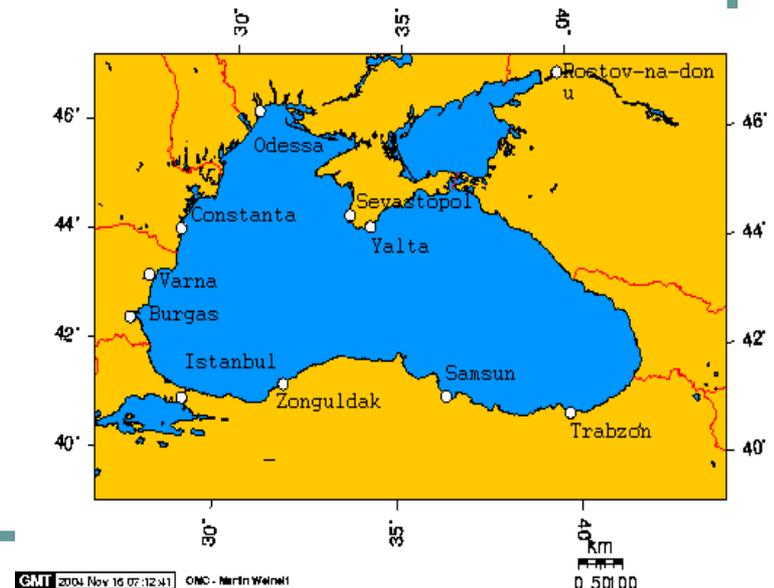
-  **The Bulgarian coastline of the Black Sea doesn't have many islands. Those that exist are mostly small, uninhabited and covered with algae.**



III. pictures

The Black Sea

- Countries bordering on the Black Sea are Turkey, Bulgaria, Romania, Ukraine, Russia and Georgia.
- From this map, we can see that important cities along the coast include: Istanbul, Burgas and so on.



III. pictures

Siberia

- ***Siberia*** is the biggest part of Russia. It occupies two third part of Russia. It stretches from the borderline of Europe in the Ural Mountains to the very East of Russia at the Pacific Ocean and from the Arctic Ocean to the borders with China and Mongolia.
- ***Siberia*** is the land of taiga's and tundra's wilderness, thousands of rivers and lakes.

III. pictures

Siberia

- ***Siberia*** has many big cities with history, intense cultural life, and theaters. The cities of Tomsk, Irkutsk, and Novosibirsk are famous for their colleges and research institutions.

III. pictures

Siberia

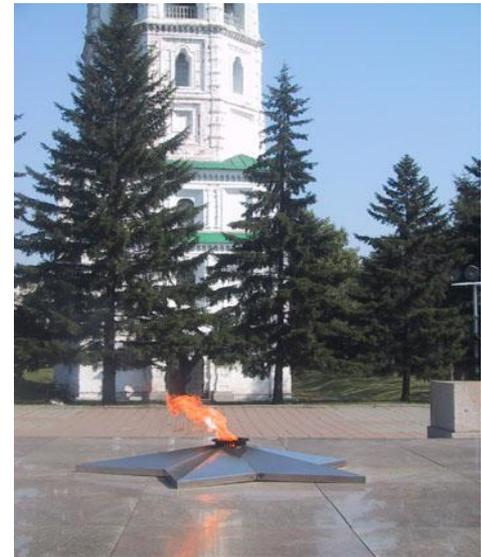
- **Baikal** is a beautiful lake located in the southeastern part of **Siberia**. It is the deepest freshwater lake on the earth and the largest reservoir of fresh surface water.



III. pictures

Siberia

 ***Irkutsk*** kept the spirit of a 19th century Russian city. In the center, there are blocks of traditional wooden buildings with typical carvings.



Word Study

1. apart

- **a.** separate by a distance
- **b.** into parts
- **c.** other expressions: to tell apart; to pull apart; to drift apart; to fall apart; to come apart; to grow apart

For example:

- The two schools are only a few blocks **apart**.
- He is now living **apart** from his family.
- You need special equipment to take this machine **apart**.
- The economy has fallen **apart**.

Word Study

2. fix

- **v. a.** to repair/mend, cure
- **b.** to put in order; to adjust or arrange
- **c.** to fasten firmly or make firm, stable; to place definitely

For example:

- **If it is not broken, don't try to fix it.**
- **Fix your hair.**
- **He fixed the picture on the wall.**
- **If you don't fix the lid on properly, the milk will spill out.**

Word Study

3. pare

- v. **a.** to cut off or trim the outer coating, layer, edge or part of...
- **b.** to cut the nails of your fingers or toes
- **c.** to reduce, diminish, decrease gradually (often fol. by down)

For example:

- to pare an apple 削苹果
- to pare one's nails 修剪指甲
- to pare down expense 削减开支

Word Study

4. peel

- v. to strip sth. off the skin, rind, and bark, etc.

For example:

- The wall was **peeling**.
- Too much heat will make the bark wrinkle and **peel**.
- Sun the nose till it **peels**.

Word Study

5. quake

- *v.* to shake violently from shock or instability

For example:

- He stood there **quaking** with fear.
- The earth was **quaking**.
- The boughs **quaked** at every breath.

Word Study

6. quiver

- **v.** to shake with a slight but rapid motion, close to tremble

For example:

- **quiver** with age
- His voice/fingers **quivered** uncontrollably.
- The blades of grass **quiver** in the wind.
- His lips were **quivering** with emotion.
- Leaves **quiver** in the breeze.

Word Study

7. shake

v. to make lots of quick small movements up and down, or side to side

For example:

- **shake** with cold
- By that time the building is **shaking** violently. We could not even stand up.
- The house **shakes** when the train goes by.
- He **shakes** with emotion.
- He was so angry that his whole body **shook** .

Word Study

8. shatter

- **v. a.** to break sth. into pieces, as by a blow
- **b.** to damage, as by breaking or crushing; impair or destroy (health, nerves)
- **c.** to weaken or refute (an idea or opinion)
- **d.** to surprise or astonish

For example:

- She was **shattered** by the news of his death.
- Our hope was **shattered**.
- A long illness **shattered** his health.
- An explosion of gunpowder **shatters** a rock.
- Suddenly the silence was **shattered**.

Word Study

9. Tremble

v. It implies slight or quick movement, for uneasy or nervous reasons. It does not go with violent movement.

For example:

- He **trembled**/shook with anger when he heard that news.
- To tell you the truth, I was so frightened that I **trembled** like a leaf.
- The old bridge **trembled** under the train.

Word Study

10. Stretch

- **v. a.** to lengthen, widen
- **b.** to spread out fully, extend from one place to another or across a given space or time
- **c.** to reach out

For example:

- The forest **stretches** for miles.
- His memory **stretches** back to his early childhood.
- The beggars all **stretched** out their hands. But he had nothing to give.
- The wool coat **stretched** when it was washed.

About the Text:

- **Focus:** Interpretation of the theme or themes linked to understand the two characters (what happened to them 6 years ago & why don't they live together since both of them are single).
- **Difficulty:** use of symbols.
- **Content and theme:** a) learn to piece together the plot of a fragmentary story. b) give character sketches of the 2 people in the story and find out evidence from the text to support the sketches. c) discuss the major themes of the story.
- **Techniques and Languages:**
 - Use of metaphors and symbols
 - Use of stream of consciousness (Para. 16 --- 21)
 - Use of point of view/perspective.
 - Mansfield's style.

Questions for preview:

- 1. The first series of questions are related to the plot of the story.
- What is the plot of the story? How is the plot revealed? Is there much action in the story? Do you like this way of telling stories?
- 2. The second series of questions are related to the understanding of the character.
- How could you describe the two characters and why? How are they portrayed? Do you like these kinds of people? Is the man insensitive, or is the woman oversensitive?
- 3. What are some of the major symbols?
- 4. Work in pairs and imagine yourselves to meet former lovers who haven't seen each other for 6 years. Now you supposed to design the dialogue with your former lovers.

- **Part One (para. 1 --- 12): The greeting of the two former lovers.**
- **Part Two (para. 13 --- 64): The meeting of the two former lovers.**
- **Part Three (para. 65): The unexpected final.**

Details of the Text and Language Points:

- **Part One (para. 1 --- 12):** The greeting of the two former lovers.
- **Q:** What do you think of the beginning?
- **A:** Arousing the reader's curiosity: What is their relationship? How do you think the story would go on in your imagination?
- **Q:** Don't you know your former boyfriend/girlfriend only six years later?
- **A:** No. He/She should be the person at the bottom of my heart, should never be forgotten.
- **Q:** What do you think of the trick of interrupting?
- **A:** His habit of interrupting her, disrespectful, self-involved, showing little interest in bearing what she wants to say or how she feels perhaps is one of the reasons for her to leave him --- selfish.

- (1)Daffodil: n. a bulbous plant with showy, usually yellow flowers with a trumpet-shaped central crown. 黄水仙(一种球茎状的植物，开有艳丽的，通常为黄色的花和喇叭状的花冠)。
- The ancient Greeks believed the narcissus plant originated from the vain youth, Narcissus. He died after becoming so obsessed with his reflection in a pool he could not leave. The Greeks say that the gods turned his remains into the Narcissus flower. This also led to the daffodil's being a symbol of unrequited love.

- **(2)Light up:**

- 1. to become or cause to become animated or cheerful.
(使) 变得容光焕发或振奋

The sun lights up the sky and the earth.

You light up my life.

- 2. to start smoking a cigarette, cigar, or pipe. 点香烟, 开始吸香烟或雪茄、烟斗。

He lit up a cigarette.

- **(3)Exclaim: vi.**
- to cry out suddenly or vehemently, as from surprise or emotion. 喊叫，由于惊奇或激动而突然或强烈地喊叫：
- The children exclaimed with excitement. 孩子们激动地喊了起来。

- **(4)Loathe: v.**
- to dislike (someone or something) greatly; abhor. 厌恶，很不喜欢（某人或某事）；憎恶。
- [+v-ing]
I loathe the smell of burning rubber.

She loathes watching television.

- be loath to do
- dislike, hate, resent, abhor

- **(5) Exasperate:**

- **v. 1.** to make very angry or impatient; annoy greatly. 激怒, 使生气或不耐烦; 非常令人恼怒。

- [(+by/at)]

She was exasperated to find nobody at home.

It exasperated me that they never kept their promises.

I was exasperated by/at his stupidity.

- **2.** to increase the gravity or intensity of. 使加剧, 增加严重性或紧张程度。

a scene . . . that exasperates his rose fever and makes him sneeze"

- **Part Two (para. 13 --- 64):** The meeting of the two former lovers. **His memory: Sunshine flower, her beautiful voice vs. Her memory: his absurdness, chasing wasps among those elegant people, her embarrassment.**
 - **(6)Haunting: adj.** continually recurring to the mind; unforgettable. 萦绕心头的, 经常出现在脑中的; 不能够忘怀的: a haunting melody. 萦绕心头的旋律。
 - Haunt
 - To inhabit, visit, or appear to in the form of a ghost or other supernatural being.
 - To visit often; frequent:
 - To come to mind continually; obsess
- revisit the haunts of one's school days
- I'm haunted with gloomy thoughts and sad memories.
- 我常为悲观的思想和悲痛的追念所困扰。

- **(7)Maniac: n.** an insane person. 疯子，不理智的人。
- **(8)Flap: v.** to hit with something broad and flat; slap. 拍打，用宽而扁平的物体击打；拍击。
- **(9)Infuriate: v.** to make furious; enrage. 使生气；激怒。
It infuriated me to read that he had been indicated.
读到他被控告的消息我火冒三丈。

- **Para. 16 --- 21: The second episode** in their memory: the man: madly in love, having a sweet tongue, yet still immature and impractical, a kind of mother and children relation with Vera.
- “warm sunshine” use of stream of consciousness
- **(10)Lean over:** 弯下身子; 俯身于...之上。

(11) Moan: n. a low, sustained, mournful cry, usually indicative of sorrow or pain. 呜咽，一种很低，痛苦的悲伤的哭，通常表现悲伤或痛苦 呻吟声；呜咽声[C]

Each time she moved her head she let out a moan.
Vi.

- The sick man moaned all night.
病人通夜呻吟。

- 2. 发出萧萧声

The wind came moaning through the trees.
风发着呼啸声穿过树林。

- 3. 【口】悲叹；抱怨[(+about)]

He is always moaning about how tired he is.
他总是抱怨如何如何累。

- **Para. 22:** Her **present judgment** of the man: **the sharp comparison --- lost all that dreamy vagueness and indecision.**
- **Q:** “the air of a man who has found his place in life. He must have made money, too. His clothes were admirable....” What is the further meaning of the sentence?
- **A:** **He is successful and financially able to help her realize her dreams. Yet she leaves him again because she recognizes that he has not changed --- he was too egotistical.**

- **(12)Air: n.** personal bearing, appearance, or manner; mien. 气质，风度，个人的举止、外表或行为方式；态度。
- 样子,神态[C]
He came into the room with an air of importance.
他带着一副了不起的神情走进室内

- **Para. 23 --- 31:** His sharp transition to talk about his trip to Russia.
- **(13)Hover:** **1.** To remain floating, suspended, or fluttering in the air: gulls hovering over the waves.
- **2.** To remain or linger in or near a place: hovering around the speaker's podium.
- **3.** To remain in an uncertain state; waver: hovered between anger and remorse.
- *n.* The act or state of hovering: a helicopter in hover.

- **(14)Slumber:**1. sleep. 睡觉。
- n. He awoke from a deep slumber.
他从沉睡中醒来。
- 静止，处于休眠的或静止的。
- 2. a state of quiet (but possibly temporary) inaction 静止状态, 休眠 The volcano erupted after centuries of slumber/dormancy.
- vi. 1. She gazed with affection at his slumbering form. 她深情地凝视着他那熟睡的身影。
- 2. To be dormant or quiescent. 静止, 不活跃
- vt 用睡眠打发; 用睡眠消除[(+away)]
He slumbered away a hot afternoon.

- **(15) Stir: vt.** to excite strong feelings in. 激起, 激起对...的强烈感情。
- "His wrath so stirred within him, that he could have struck him dead" (Charles Dickens).
- **vi.** to be roused or affected by strong feelings. 激动, 被强烈的感情激发或影响。

- **(16) Prick up: v. raise** 竖起, (风)加剧。
- The dog's ears pricked up at the soft sound.
一听到这轻微的声音,狗的耳朵就竖了起来。
- prick up oneself
- 打扮自己; 炫耀自己

- **Para. 32 --- 44:** The man's Russian traveling experience.
- **Q:** Why does author remark their traveling plan?
- **A:** Traveling is a form of freedom, a way of expanding one's horizon. The obstacles for Vera no traveling are her being a woman, her deteriorating financial status and her health condition.
- **Q:** Why does the man "let it go at that (para. 40)"?
- **A:** The third evidence (para. 34 --- 40) that he is not interested in knowing her life. Maybe his lack of interest in knowing her present life comes partly from his intention to snub冷落 her for revenge.

- **Q:** What is the literary technique of Para. 32, 41 and 43?
- **A:** Author describes Vera's great power of imagination --- able to visualize things and her sensitivity to natural beauty, to music and art. Also notice her great imagination to fantasize or daydream --- to indulge herself in some idealistic, romantic, aesthetic, yet impractical imagination.

(17)become of To be the fate of; happen to:

What has become of the rainforest

No scientists yet could explain what had become of the
Yellow Stone.

- **(18)Grimace: n.** a sharp contortion of the face expressive of pain, contempt, or disgust. 鬼脸，怪相，脸的极端扭曲以表示痛苦、轻蔑或厌恶。Thomas made a grimace after he had tasted the wine.

vi. 作怪相,扮鬼脸[(+at/with)]

The acrobat grimaced at the children during the circus performance.

那杂技艺人在马戏表演时对孩子们做鬼脸。

- **(19) let go:**

- Let go: to cease to employ; dismiss. 解开,释放; 不再雇用,解雇:
 - had to let 20 workers go.
 - 必须解雇二十名工人。
- 2. Let sb/sth go; let go of sb/sth: release one's hold of
 - let the rope go/ let go of the rope
- 3. Let go at that: say or do no more about sth
 - e.g. I don't agree with all you say, but I'll let it go at that.
 - I thought she was hinting at sth, but I let it go.

(20)Impulsive: adjadj. Inclined to act on impulse rather than thought有推动力的; 冲动的; 刺激的; 任性的(不考虑行为的适合性和后果)

- a man of impulse易冲动的人
- act on impulse凭冲动行事

● **(21)Coachman: n.** a man who drives a coach or carriage. 车夫, 驾驶四轮大马车或马车的人

● **(22)Rippling: adj.** 起涟漪的, 潺潺流水般声音的

- **Para. 45 --- 46:** The contrast between now and then: there used to be a deep bond between them but **now he has apparently withdrawal from this emotional involvement.** That is why Vera is not sure if he is just **mocking her** when he says she is a marvelous listener.
- **(23)Content: adj.** 1. desiring no more than what one has; satisfied. 满意的，不再有所求的。
- 2. ready to accept or acquiesce; willing. 情愿的，愿意接受或默认的；甘愿的：
She was content to step down after four years as chief executive. 她在担任了四年主管之后甘愿让位。

- **(23) Marvelous: adj.** of the highest or best kind or quality; first-rate. 最佳的，在性质或品质上最好的或绝妙的；一流的：
 - has a marvelous collection of rare books. 拥有一流珍本书籍的收藏。

(24) Breathe

- To be manifested or suggested, as an idea or feeling:
- 显露：思想、感情吐露出来：
- A sense of calm breathed from the landscape.
- 那景色中透着平静

- **Para. 47 --- 52:** Once again he seems to be playing with her --- **a sentimental episode:** to arouse her loving response and then humiliating her by saying how he has forgotten the past, how he has moved on in his own life.
- **(25) Miserable:** adj. very uncomfortable or unhappy; wretched. 痛苦的，非常不舒适或不快乐的；可怜的。

(26) snap sth to

- Into a shut or closed position: 处于关上的状态: pushed the door to. 把门关上

(27) Picture:

- **n.** a person or an object bearing a marked resemblance to another. 酷似, 化身, 与另一人或物具有极明显相似性的人或物:
- She's the picture of her mother. 她酷似她的妈妈。

- **Para. 53 --- 56:** Vera still has preserved a tender spot for his man, however, the man perhaps truly insensitive and unaware that he has hurt her or perhaps purposefully mocking her.
- **(28)clutch at: v.** to seize with or as with the hands or claws; snatch抓住。
- A drowning man will **clutch at** a straw .
- 溺水之人不放过一根救命稻草。

- **(29) Barbarian:** n. 1. a member of a people considered by those of another nation or group to have a primitive civilization.

原始人，未开化的人，被其他民族或群体视为拥有原始文化的人。

- 2. a fierce, brutal, or cruel person. 凶暴、粗野或残酷的人。
- 3. an insensitive, uncultured person; a boor. 粗鲁不文，感觉不灵敏，没有文化的人；乡巴佬。

- **(30) die down:** to lose strength; subside. 渐弱，消退，没劲了；平静了：

- The winds died down.

- 风渐渐平息了。

Para. 57 --- 64: The last dramatic turn of their relationship.

- Para. 57: His honeyed tongue.
- Para. 58: Her awakening love for him.
- Para. 59: His paradoxical insights.
- Para. 60: She regrets to pop up.
- Para. 61 --- 63: The possibility for the two to understand each other and renew their relationship.

- **(31)Throw away:** 1. to get rid of as useless. 抛弃，扔掉，作为无用而除去：threw away yesterday's newspaper. 扔掉昨天的报纸。
- **(32)Scrape: vt.** 1. to rub (a surface) with considerable pressure, as with an edged instrument or a hard object. 摩擦，使劲用带梭或坚硬的物体磨（表面）。
- **(33)Wrapped up in:** completely immersed or absorbed in. 全神贯注于，完全沉浸于或专注于：She is wrapped up in her studies. 她埋头苦读。
- **(34)Naive: adj.** simple and credulous as a child; ingenuous. 天真的，如同孩子般简单和易轻信的；天真的。
- **(35)Hearty: adj.** expressed warmly, exuberantly, and unrestrainedly. 热心的，热烈地、奔放地和毫无拘束地表达的：a hearty welcome. 热烈的欢迎。

- **Part Three (para. 65):** The unexpected final.
- Many questions left here: 1. If he were playing out his little revenge, then why is he astonished beyond words after Vera leaves? 2. Has he ever thought that Vera would want to renew the relationship after his honeyed tongue? 3. And why does Vera leave?
- “thunder-struck, astounded beyond words” shows his total incomprehension of Vera’s thoughts and feelings.
- **(36)thunderstruck: adj.** affected with sudden astonishment or amazement. 大吃一惊的，吓坏了的，被突然的吃惊或诧异所震动的。

V. Questions for students to think:

- 1. Do you agree with the man's conclusion?
- 2. How do you explain Vera's loneliness?
- 3. What is your definition of love?
- 4. How do you understand the title --- the Dill Pickle?