Today we are going to look closely at the characters of Mr and Mrs Foster and how things develop in the story to the exciting end.

**First of all, let’s look at the characters at the beginning of the story again.**

Mr. Foster may possibly have had a right to be irritated by this foolishness of his wife’s, but he could have had no excuse for increasing her misery by keeping her waiting unnecessarily. Mind you, it is by no means certain that this is what he did, yet whenever they were to go somewhere, his timing was so accurate - just a minute or two late, you understand - and his manner so bland that it was hard to believe he wasn’t purposely inflicting a nasty private little torture of his own on the unhappy lady. And one thing he must have known - that she would never dare to call out and tell him to hurry. He had disciplined her too well for that. He must also have known that if he was prepared to wait even beyond the last moment of safety, he could drive her nearly into hysterics. On one or two special occasions in the later years of their married life, it seemed almost as though he had wanted to miss the train simply in order to intensify the poor woman’s suffering.

Assuming (though one cannot be sure) that the husband was guilty, what made his attitude doubly unreasonable was the fact that Mrs. Foster was and always had been a good and loving wife. For over thirty years, she had served him loyally and well. There was no doubt about this. Even she, a very modest woman, was aware of it, and although she had for years refused to **let herself believe that Mr. Foster would ever consciously torment her, there had been times recently when she had caught herself beginning to wonder.**

**Key words**

**Insecure- not confident in your actions or beliefs.**

**Well- disciplined- made sure someone does exactly what you want them to do.**

**Hysterical- overly emotional, not able to control your behaviour**

**Intensify- make something stronger**

**Unreasonable- not very caring to others**

**Torment- purposely annoy/hurt someone for your own amusement**

**Modest- someone who doesn’t show off/boast about themselves. Opposite of arrogant**

**Consciously- doing something on purpose.**

**Remember to look at the key words if there are words you don’t understand**

Write at least 3 adjectives to describe Mr Foster.

1)

2)

3)

How does he treat his wife?

Where do we see evidence that Mr Foster makes her late/anxious on purpose?

Write at least 3 adjectives to describe Mrs Foster.

What kind of wife is she?

Look at the underlined sentence- what is she starting to suspect about her husband?

Select a quotation that you think BEST shows each character’s personality.

You are now going to answer the question: **How are Mr and Mrs Foster presented at the beginning of the text?**

Use the sentence starters to help you.

At the beginning of the text Mr Foster is presented as………………………………….

This is shown in the quote ‘…………………..…’

This shows Mr Foster is…….... because………..

The word ‘……..….’ shows Mr Foster is….. because….

The reader will think Mr Foster is………. And will like/dislike him because…..

However at the beginning of the text, Mrs Foster is presented as ………………………………………….

This is shown in the quote ‘………….…’

This shows Mrs Foster is………….. because…..

The word ‘……….’ Shows Mrs Foster is….. because….

The reader will think Mrs Foster is…. And will lie/dislike her because….

Now look at this piece of text- this is from later on in the story when Mrs Foster has just left her husband to go to the airport after he has died in the elevator.

The chauffeur, had he been watching her closely, might have noticed that **her face had turned absolutely white and that the whole expression had suddenly altered**. There was no longer that rather soft and silly look. **A peculiar hardness had settled itself upon the features.** The little mouth, usually so flabby, was now tight and thin, the eyes were bright, and the voice, **when she spoke, carried a new note of authority.\***

“Hurry, driver, hurry!”

“Isn’t your husband traveling with you?” the man asked, astonished.\*

“Certainly not! I was only going to drop him at the club. It won’t matter. He’ll understand. He’ll get a cab. Don’t sit there talking, man. Get going! I’ve got a plane to catch for Paris!”

With Mrs. Foster urging him from the back seat, the man drove fast all the way, and she caught her plane with a few minutes to spare. Soon she was high up over the Atlantic, reclining comfortably in her aeroplane chair, listening to the hum of the motors, heading for Paris at last. The new mood was still with her. She felt **remarkably strong and, in a queer sort of way, wonderful**. She was a trifle breathless with it all, but this was more **from pure astonishment at what she had done than anything else**, and as the plane flew farther and farther away from New York and East Sixty-second Street, a great sense of calmness began to settle upon her. By the time she reached Paris, she was just as strong and cool and calm as she could wish.

\*authority – powerful

\*astonished - surprised

Select two quotations that show Mrs Foster has changed.

1)

2)

What adjectives could you use to describe Mrs Foster now?

Use the sentence starters to answer the question: **How has Mrs Foster changed at the end of the story?**

*At the end of the text, Mrs Foster is presented as ………………………………………….*

*This is shown in the quote ‘……………’*

*This shows Mrs Foster is………….. because…..*

*The word ‘……….’ Shows Mrs Foster is….. because….*

*The reader will think Mrs Foster is………. And will like/dislike her because….*