

Worksheet 1

The Drifter

Main Character Analysis

The author of *The Drifter* provides us with critical information about the main character Meredith Burgess that allows us to deepen our understanding of the type of person she is and how she reacts to the events she encounters. By providing us with background details, we develop a strong sense of empathy for her unfortunate situation and witness how the choices she makes impacts on the outcome of the story.

Task 1: Answer the following questions about Meredith Burgess.

1. Why is she trying to repair the fence?
2. How is she feeling as the stranger approaches?
3. Why does she ask Molly to go and see to the baby?
4. What was her childhood like?
5. How did she cope when her husband went to war?
6. What are her first impressions of the filthy stranger?
7. Why does she decide to help him?
8. How does she help him?
9. What prompted her to give him her horse?
10. Describe her reaction to the letter from the War Department.
11. How do you think she felt when Kidman's men turned up to help her with the farm?

Task 2: Meredith Burgess is described in the story as having an 'indomitable spirit'. What does this mean? Identify someone whom you may or may not know personally that you think has an indomitable spirit. Explain why you think this.

Extension Activities:

- The main idea is the most important idea, opinion or message in a text and can help improve our understanding of a text's purpose and content.
 1. What do you think the main idea of *The Drifter* is?
 2. How does the main idea help improve your understanding of this text's purpose?
 3. Identify other texts you have read or viewed that share a similar main idea.
 4. Write your own imaginative text that reflects a similar main idea to *The Drifter*.