

Katherine Mansfield (1888-1923)

- Was one of the most sensitive and talented practitioners of the short story in the 20th century. She was born in Wellington, New Zealand, her real name being Kathleen Mansfield Beauchamp.
- She was educated at Queens College, London, where she was editor of the college magazine.
- Her first career was that of a cellist, but she gave up music for writing.
- Her short stories began to appear in magazines just before WW1, and brought her to the attention of the editor and critics, John Middleton Murry, whom she eventually married.
- With Murry and D.H. Lawrence, she collaborated in founding a literary magazine, *The Signature*.
- The publication of *Bliss and Other Stories* (1920) established her reputation, and it was confirmed by the story *The Garden Party* (1922).
- Her health, however, was rapidly deteriorating and she died of tuberculosis at the age of 35 in a French sanitarium where she had gone in the hopes of discovering a cure.
- The core of almost all Miss Mansfield's stories is her compassion for the poor, the lonely or the outsider, and her contempt for the over-rich, the smug and the snobbish. She finds her material in the ordinary lives of ordinary people.

ASSIGNMENT:

- ❖ **This story can be read as a commentary on social issues and how stereotyping is a learned behavior.**
- ❖ **In a well-written response discuss the truth of this statement and use examples from the story to support this statement.**

Vocabulary:

1. Congealed

2. Exquisite

3. Traipsing

4. Quill

5. Horrid

6. Pinafores

7. Wattles