

Fra datid til nutid – Novellen ”Mum”

Opgaven ligger under: Materiale til print – Gruppe 3: Øvelser for 9.-10. klasse/1. HF/1. g

Teksten er omsat fra datid / førdatid til **nutid / førnutid**

Nel **is** a young and newly married girl of 20. She **has** married Ted 6 months ago, and they **have** moved into two rooms on the top floor of Ted's parents' house in the North of England. Nel **is** economic and she **manages** quite well on Ted's wages. They **are** very happy with each other, but Ted's mother, Mum, **is** a problem. She **has** ignored Nel right from the start.

Mum **is** never satisfied with Nel. Often when Nel **is** cooking for Ted and Mum **is** prowling about, Mum **says** that Ted **doesn't** like that kind of food. Nel **has** sewn lovely yellow curtains for the sitting room, and Mum **says** that they **are** not right, and when Nel **has** bought oranges as a special treat, Mum **says** that they **are** a waste of money. When Nel **has** knitted woollen socks for Ted as a surprise, Mum **says** that Ted **won't** like them. The colour **isn't** right. Of course she also **has** a disheartening remark when she **discovers** that Nel **has** bought a lottery ticket in a charity lottery. Nel **feels** angry with Mum, and she **wants** Ted to take her side and stand up for her, but she **can't** make him. He **is** evasive when she **complains**.

Ted's father **is** a self-employed carpenter with a workshop in the back yard. He **is** a bad-tempered man, and from her rooms she **can** hear how he **scolds** the apprentices. Nel **doesn't** have much to do with Father as they **call** him. No, Mum **is** her problem.

Things **become** really bad when Ted **loses** his job at the works and they **have** to live on Ted's parents. They **have** to eat downstairs, and Nel **feels** they **are** being treated like children.

A short moment of joy **comes** when they **find** out they **have** won £100 in the lottery. It **is** a lot of money, and it **will** mean better conditions for them for a long time. Ted, however, **says** they **will** have to give the money to his father. She **thinks** it **is** most unfair, but Ted **comforts** her and **says** that he **is** sure he **will** soon get a job.

A few days later when Ted **is** to collect the prize, he **comes** home very late. He **says** he **has** lost the money and **asks** Nel to say that *she* **has** lost it. He **is** afraid of Father and that Mum **will** be dragged into it as well if he **hears** Ted **has** lost the ticket. But Father **will** not harm Nel, he **says**.

The parents **have** to be told about the loss, and Nel **makes** up a story about how she **has** lost the money. Everybody in the family **is** extremely upset and tense. Ted **goes** out a lot in the days that

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follow, and she **is** on her own. She **thinks** of her miserable situation and how she **is** never going to be happy ever again in that house. But it finally **dawns** on her that nobody **can** help her but herself.

After dinner the following evening she **goes** down to Mum who **is** working in the kitchen. Nel **does** not say much, but when Mum **makes** a critical remark about her, she **can** stand it no longer and **bursts** out with everything that **is** on her mind. She **tells** her the truth, that it **is** Ted who **has** lost the money and not her. She **gets** all her anger out on Mum, how sick and tired she **is** of her harshness and criticism and **ends** in loud sobbing. Mum **does** not say anything. She **turns** her back on Nel and **goes** on with her work.

Just then Father **comes** in. He **bangs** the door against the wall and **shouts**, “What’s that I hear at the pub?”... Nobody’s going to say I can’t control my own household... I won’t be laughed at, d’y’ hear? They say you didn’t lose the money as you told...” He **grabs** hold of Nel’s arm and **would have beaten her, had Mum not interfered***. Mum **tells** him to stop. Nel **is** a grown woman, she **says**. Without stopping, Father **turns** to her and **gives** her the blow he **has** intended for Nel. He **hits** Mum in the face several times. Nel **is** all confused. She **is** shocked, but she **pulls** herself together. She **gets** very angry. She **will** not allow that. She **manages** to get him away from Mum and she **pushes** him violently against the cupboard. Some crockery **falls** noisily to the floor. The crashes **seem** to wake him, and he **leaves** when Nel **screams**, “Get out, get out, you...”

Mum **is** very upset. Nel **can** see her red cheeks, but she only **asks** Nel to pick up the broken things from the floor. She **is** about to continue her work, but Nel **makes** her sit down beside her for a cup of tea. The tea **seems** to warm her up. Something **melts** in her. She **seeks** Nel’s eyes and hesitantly she **says**, “I’m too old to be beaten... he ought not to have done it... it’s several years since he last did it... I’m ashamed for him... he ought not to have done it in front of you... You are one of the family now... he went for you... but you will manage better with that temper of yours.”

** Disse hypotetiske sætninger skal ikke omsættes til nutid. Direkte tale ændres heller ikke.*