**Bridging Activity**

1. **Read the biography of W. Somerset Maugham and write:**

**How is his life reflected in our story?**

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| **W. Somerset Maugham, Writer** |

**W. Somerset Maugham**

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| [Source](http://www.answers.com/main/source_info_frames.jsp?sourceURL=http://www.costumes.org/pages/tmportraits.htm&imageURL=http://content.answcdn.com/main/content/img/webpics/W_Somerset_Maugham.jpg&imgSrcURL=http://www.costumes.org/history/20thcent/1900s/theatremag1908/maugham.jpg&flavor=AC) |

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* **Born:** 25 January 1874
* **Birthplace:** Paris, France
* **Died:** 16 December 1965 (natural causes)
* **Best Known As:** The author of *Of Human Bondage*

Name at birth: William Somerset Maugham

W. Somerset Maugham's passionate semi-autobiographical novel *Of Human Bondage* was published in 1915 and remains his most famous book. As a young man Maugham trained to be a doctor and his experiences as an intern in the London slums led him to write *Liza of Lambeth* (1897). The novel was a success and Maugham quickly traded the surgeon's knife for the writer's pen. Maugham wrote plays, novels, criticism and essays, and soon became one of Britain's most popular authors; in 1908 he had four plays running simultaneously on London stages. In later years Maugham became known as a master of the short story. He travelled extensively and based many of his tales in exotic locales, particularly the South Seas. "Rain," the tale of a straitlaced missionary who becomes obsessed with reforming a prostitute, is probably his best-known short story. His other books include the novels *The Magician* (1908) and*Cakes and Ale* (1930) and the essay collection *A Writer's Notebook* (1949).

Maugham worked in the British intelligence department during World War I, and based his 1928 novel *Ashenden* on his experiences. The book is considered a forerunner to many later spy novels of the 20th century, including the [James Bond](http://www.answers.com/main/ntq-dsid-1648-dekey-jamesbond) stories of [Ian Fleming](http://www.answers.com/main/ntq-dsid-1648-dekey-ianfleming)... Maugham's 1919 novel *The Moon and Sixpence* was based loosely on the life of painter Paul Gauguin... *The Razor's Edge* was made into a 1984 feature film starring [Bill Murray](http://www.answers.com/main/ntq-dsid-1648-dekey-billmurray).

Read more: <http://www.answers.com/topic/w-somerset-maugham#ixzz1M2CEn96y>

Taken from:

<http://www.answers.com/topic/w-somerset-maugham>

1. **Read the following quotes by W. Somerset Maugham and decide whether they are connected to the story and in what way?**
2. "Only a mediocre person is always at his best."
3. You can do anything in this world if you are prepared to take the consequences.

<http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/authors/w/w_somerset_maugham_5.html>
4. [Like all weak men he laid an exaggerated stress on not changing one's mind.](http://www.quotationspage.com/quote/24988.html)

**W. Somerset Maugham**, *"Of Human Bondage", 1915*

1. "People ask you for criticism, but they only want praise."
— [W. Somerset Maugham](http://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/4176632.W_Somerset_Maugham) ([Of Human Bondage](http://www.goodreads.com/work/quotes/2547187))
2. There is no cruelty greater than a woman's to a man who loves her and whom she does not love; she has no kindness then, no tolerance even, she has only an insane irritation."
3. "Unfortunately sometimes one can't do what one thinks is right without making someone else unhappy."
— [W. Somerset Maugham](http://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/4176632.W_Somerset_Maugham)
4. "The fact that a great many people believe something is no guarantee of its truth."
— [W. Somerset Maugham](http://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/4176632.W_Somerset_Maugham) ([The Razor's Edge](http://www.goodreads.com/work/quotes/2095259))

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