



ABOUT YOU

Answer the questions and compare your ideas.

- 1 Would you like to study in another country one day? Why / Why not?
- 2 Do you expect to keep in touch with your current school friends after you have left school?
- 3 How important is it for a group of friends to share the same interests?

Willa Cather’s short story *The Namesake* takes place in Paris at the beginning of the twentieth century.

1 Read the text. As you read the text think about this question.

How does this group of Americans feel about living in France?

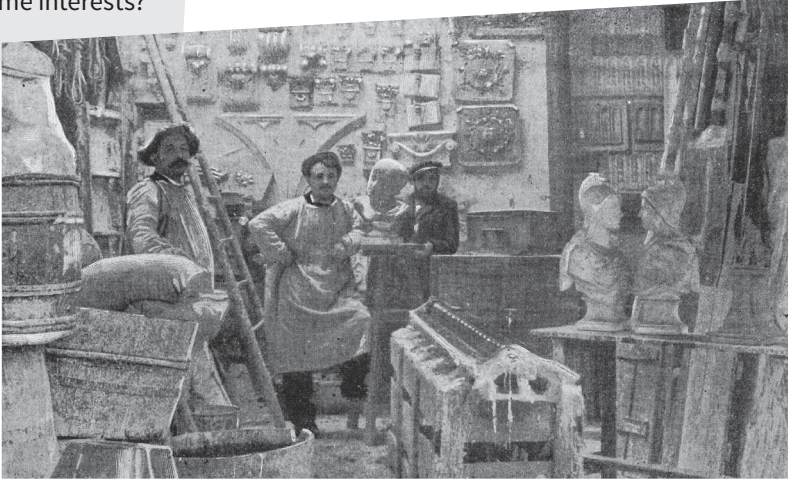
The Namesake
Willa Cather

Seven of us, students, sat one evening in Hartwell’s studio on the Boulevard St. Michel. We were all fellow Americans; one from New Hampshire, one from Colorado, another from Nevada, several from the farm lands of the Middle West, and

- 5 I myself from California. Lyon Hartwell, though born abroad, was simply, as everyone knew, “from America”. He seemed, almost more than any other one living man, to mean all of it — from ocean to ocean. When he was in Paris, his studio was always open to the seven of us who were there that evening,
- 10 and we **intruded** upon his leisure as often as we could.

Although we were good friends, and although the great **sculptor**, even when he was more than usually silent, was at all times the most welcoming of hosts, on that long remembered evening, as the sunlight died on the shiny brown of the trees below the windows, a heaviness yawned through our conversation.

- 15 We were, indeed, somewhat low in spirit, for one of our group, Charley Bentley, was leaving us **for good** due to an urgent **summons** from home. Tomorrow his studio, just
- 20 across the hall from Hartwell’s, was to pass into other hands, and Bentley’s luggage was even now piled before his



door. The various bags and boxes seemed literally to **weigh upon** us as we sat in his neighbor’s **hospitable** rooms, sadly passing the time until he would leave us to catch the ten

- 25 o’clock express for Dieppe.
- Bentley had said very little about it, but we all knew what it meant to him to be called home. Each of us knew what it would mean to himself, and each had felt something of that sudden sense of opportunity which comes at seeing another
- 30 man leave the race. Never had the game seemed so **enchancing**, the chance to play it such unbelievable good fortune.

It must have been, I think, about the middle of October, for I remember that the trees were almost bare in the

- 35 Luxembourg Gardens that morning. The sunny autumn air was all day full of the movement of people and carriages and of the sound of greetings of students, returned **tanned** from their holiday. Everywhere, there was the happiness of return, the beginning again of life and work and play.

GLOSSARY

intruded	became involved in a situation that people want to be private
sculptor	someone who makes art from stone, wood, clay, etc.
for good	forever
summons	official order for someone to come to a place
weigh upon	make a person feel worried and unhappy because of problems, responsibilities, and duties
hospitable	friendly and welcoming to guests and visitors
enchancing	very pleasant
tanned	having darker skin than usual because you have been in the sun

2 Read the text again and answer the questions.

- 1 This is the beginning of the story. Which of the characters mentioned do you think is going to be the main character in the story? Give reasons for your choice.
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.....
- 2 What does the narrator mean when he says, "The various bags and boxes seemed literally to weigh upon us ..."?
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.....
- 3 What do we learn about Hartwell? How is he different from the others?
.....
.....
- 4 What atmosphere is created in the final paragraph?
.....
.....

VOCABULARY

3 Find a word or phrase in sentences 1–4 that can be changed for a word or phrase from the box. There is one word or phrase you do not need to use.

a summons enchanting for good
sculptor weighs upon

- 1 Janet doesn't know what to study next year and this worries her.
.....
- 2 All the players received an order from the coach to attend a team meeting.
.....
- 3 Their new flat has lovely views of the sea and mountains.
.....
- 4 When he was forty, Ronald stopped playing professional football forever.
.....

4 Choose the correct word in italics to complete the text.

One day, Ali got a ¹ *sculptor* / *summons* from his grandmother to have tea with her. This was unusual. She was a very private, formal person who never ² *intruded* / *tanned* in his life. When he arrived at her house, he found her very ³ *intruded* / *hospitable* and friendly. She was looking well and ⁴ *tanned* / *enchanting* from being all week in the sun, sitting in her garden.

"As you know," she said, "your grandfather was a very good ⁵ *summons* / *sculptor*, and wanted to give you this ⁶ *hospitable* / *enchanting* sculpture of you as a child."

WRITING

5 You have seen the following announcement, inviting letters of application for a residential photography course. Write your letter (180–200 words).

Would you like to spend two weeks in England? Are you interested in learning how to take great photographs? We are inviting young people to apply for a free place on our residential course. Tell us about why you like photography, what attracts you to this course and how you feel about working in a small group doing a lot of practical photography.

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SPEAKING

6 Work in a small group. Look at the following statements and decide whether you *strongly disagree*, *disagree*, *agree* or *strongly agree*. Discuss reasons for your opinions with the rest of the group.

- 1 I am more productive working alone than working in a group.
- 2 Group work is a great way of sharing ideas.
- 3 A group always needs a leader.
- 4 It's more fun doing a team sport like basketball than an individual sport like tennis.
- 5 If you come from a big family you are probably better at working in a group.
- 6 Five is the best number of people in a project group.
- 7 Some people think working in groups is an excuse to be lazy.