

Task: describe the cause of the main conflict. Give examples from the text
Show how the setting impacted on the action in the story. Give
examples from the text. Hear 9 student name withheld.

Blackmore, R D 2003, Lorna Doone, Hinkler Books, Victoria.

Lorna Doone

There are many conflicts in the classic Lorna Doone and all are linked to the main conflict at the beginning of the story. The Doones were living in Scotland and the King decided to give their land to Sir Ensor Doone's cousin, the Earl of Lorne. Sir Ensor became so outraged that the king had given his land to his cousin, he killed one of the King's men and was banished from Scotland forever. The Doones were then forced to move south to Exmoor and settle in Doone Valley. The locals of Exmoor were kind to the Doones when they arrived but they soon learned that the Doones were not to be meddled with. They murdered anyone and everyone who wouldn't give them their money. This is the main conflict of the story.

Another main source of conflict is when a young farmer, John Ridd, sworn to avenge his father's death when he was killed by Carver Doon, falls in love with Lorna Doone, from the Doone family. He grows up and one day smuggles her and her servant out of Doone Valley and onto his farm. When the Doones realise that Lorna has gone they come after John Ridd and his family and announce war on them and their village. The locals prepare an army but when it came to the fight they were

defeated. Lorna is then taken to London to live with her uncle where she finds out that she is not a Doonee at all. The locals of Exmoor prepare for war again and they organise a surprise attack on the Doones which they win. These conflicts were caused because of Sir Ensor's greed and his viciousness.

The historic setting of the story impacts the characters' actions which take place in the 1600's. The mode of land transport was by horse which meant that it took a long time to travel distances. This meant that John Ridd's enemies had an advantage in that they had a long time to prepare for the next attack they would make on him and his family. The setting also impacts on how the locals attacked the Doones. The Doones lived in a valley so it was more difficult to attack them than if it were on a flat plain because they were protected by the valley. The setting is wild and lawless as the King takes no action in preventing the Doones from plundering their neighbours who were victims of their frequent attacks. This meant that the Doones could do whatever they wanted until the locals informed the King that there was talk about them trying to overpower him and his claim to the throne.

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