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| 1  5  10  15  20  25  30 | As she puts the key in the front door she experiences a little lift of the spirits when she remembers that Joe will be home and is always good at looking after her when she needs it.  When she steps into the hall, he is waiting for her by the door of his study. He has a wild look about him that she has not seen in some time. She associates this look with over-ambitious schemes, excited and usually stupid plans that very occasionally afflict the calm, organised man she loves. He's coming towards her, talking before she's even through the door. Without a kiss or any form of greeting, he's off on a tale of harassment and idiocy behind which there appears to be some kind of accusation, perhaps even anger against her, for she was quite wrong, he says, but now he is vindicated. Before she can ask him what he's talking about, in fact before she has even put down her bag, he is on another tack, telling her about a conversation he's just had with an old friend in the Particle Physics Unit on Gloucester Road, and how he thinks that this friend there might wangle him an appointment with the professor. All Clarissa wants to say is, *Where's my kiss? Hug me! Take care of me!* But Joe is pressing on like a man who has seen no other human for a year.  He is for the moment conversationally deaf and blind, so Clarissa raises both hands, palms turned outward in surrender and says, 'That's great, Joe. I'm going to take a bath.' Even then, he does not stop, and probably has not heard. As she turns to go towards the bedroom, he walks behind her, and follows her in, telling her over and over in different ways that he has to get back into science. She's heard this before. In fact, last time round, a real crisis two years ago, he ended by concluding that he was reconciled to his life, and that it wasn't a bad one after all - and that was supposed to be the close of the matter. He's raising his voice over the thunder of the taps, back now with the harassment tale and she hears the name Parry, and remembers. Oh yes, that. She thinks she understands Parry well enough. A lonely inadequate man, a Jesus freak who is probably living off his parents, and dying to connect with someone, anyone, even Joe. |
| **Guiding Questions**  What is conveyed through the choice of narrative perspective in this extract?  How are ideas surrounding communication explored in this extract? | |