Love reversed the character of Marvin Macy. For two years he loved Miss Amelia, but he did not declare himself. He would stand near the door of her premises, his cap in his hand, his eyes meek and longing and misty gray. He reformed himself completely. He was good to his brother and foster mother, and he saved his wages and learned thrift. Moreover, he reached out towards God. No longer did he lie around on the floor of the front porch all day Sunday, singing and playing his guitar; he attended church services and was present at all religious meetings. He learned good manners: he trained himself to rise and give his chair to a lady, and he quit swearing and fighting and using holy names in vain. So for two years he passed through this transformation and improved his character in every way.

Then at the end of the two years he went one evening to Miss Amelia, carrying a bunch of swamp flowers, a sack of chitterlings, and a silver ring — that night Marvin Macy declared himself. And Miss Amelia married him. Later everyone wondered why. Some said it was because she wanted to get herself some wedding presents. Others believed it came about through the nagging of Miss Amelia's great-aunt in Cheehaw, who was a terrible old woman. Anyway, she strode with great steps down the aisle of the church wearing her dead mother's bridal gown, which was of yellow satin and at least twelve inches too short for her. It was a winter afternoon and the clear sun shone through the ruby windows of the church and put a curious glow on the pair before the altar. As the marriage lines were read Miss Amelia kept making an odd gesture — she would rub the palm of her right hand down the side of her satin wedding gown. She was reaching for the pocket of her overalls, and being unable to find it her face became impatient, bored and exasperated. At last when the lines were spoken and the marriage prayer was done Miss Amelia hurried out of the church, not taking the arm of her husband, but walking at least two paces ahead of him.

The church is no distance from the store so the bride and groom walked home. It is said that on the way Miss Amelia began to talk about some deal she had worked up with a farmer over a load of kindling wood. In fact, she treated her groom in exactly the same manner she would have used with some customer who had come into the store to buy a pint from her. But so far all had gone decently enough; the town was gratified, as people had seen what love had done to Marvin Macy and hoped that it might also reform his bride. At least, they counted on the marriage to tone down Miss Amelia's temper, to put a bit of bride-fat on her, and to change her at last into a calculable woman.

They were wrong. The young boys who watched through the window on that night said that this is what actually happened: the bride and groom ate a grand supper prepared by Jeff, the old Negro who cooked for Miss Amelia. The bride took second servings of everything, but the groom picked with his food. Then the bride went about her ordinary business — reading the newspaper, finishing an inventory of the stock in the store, and so forth. The groom hung about in the doorway with a loose, foolish, blissful face and was not noticed. At eleven o'clock the bride took a lamp and went upstairs. The groom followed close behind her. So far all had gone decently enough, but what followed after was unholy.

Within half an hour Miss Amelia had stomped down the stairs in breeches and a khaki jacket. Her face had darkened so that it looked quite black. She slammed the kitchen door and gave it an ugly kick. Then she controlled herself. She poked up the fire, sat down, and put her feet up on the kitchen stove. She read The Farmers Almanac, drank coffee, and had a smoke with her father's pipe. Her face was hard, stern, and had now whitened to its natural color. Sometimes she paused to jot down some information from the Almanac on a piece of paper. Towards dawn she went into her office and uncovered her typewriter, which she had recently bought and was only just learning how to run. That was the way in which she spent the whole of her wedding night.
1. Find in the text all the words expressing family relationships. Which of them do not express a permanent state?

2. Using the context, select the most plausible meaning of the following words:
   a) meek (l. 2): hilarious - timid - aggressive.
   b) foster mother (l. 3): the lady who… bore him - abandoned him - looked after him.
   c) thrift (l. 4): economy - extravagance - prodigality.
   d) nagging (l. 12): prayer - suggestion - irritating insistence.
   e) calculable (l. 28): educated - reliable - good at math.
   f) blissful (l. 33): euphoric - tense - miserable.
   g) decently (l. 35): in a morally acceptable way - successfully - chastely.

3. Examine the following examples:
   A calculable person is a person on whom you can count.
   A terrible person is a person who is able to inspire terror.
   A blissful face is a face full of bliss / filled with beatitude.
   The "bridal gown" is a gown which is worn by, which is in relation with the bride.

Considering the meanings of the suffixes in the examples, fill in the blanks in the sentences below with adjectives based on the following words: fashion - form - help - like - option - responsibility - success.

a) Marvin, who used to be a pest, had finally turned into a .........................and ......................... person.

b) Amelia's great-aunt was said to be ........................................... for Amelia's decision to marry Marvin.

c) Though the couple were not dressed in the most ........................................way, it was quite a .................................ceremony.

d) Hymns are not indispensable at a wedding ceremony, they are only .......................

e) At first sight, their marriage did not promise to be .............................................

ANALYSIS

1. Find four expressions which show that love had a good influence on Marvin.
2. What is said and what is suggested about his former bad habits?
3. Why has he waited for two years before proposing? What do you think of the way he does it?
4. What do we know about Miss Amelia's age, profession, character and lifestyle? Did she know about Marvin's love?
5. What is revealed by Amelia's attitude during and after the ceremony? What is "unholy" (= wicked, sinful, evil) in the last part of their wedding day? What visual detail in the church may be considered as premonitory?
6. What is suggested by the word "later" in "Later, everyone wondered why" (l. 11) and by the expression "so far" in "So far all had gone decently enough" (l. 35)?
7. It can be said of Marvin that it is his wife who "wears the breeches". Show that it is true in the literal as well as the metaphorical sense. Pick out elements from the text to justify your point.
8. Where is the presence of the narrator obvious in the text? Through what linguistic device? Does the narrator hold more, less, or just as much information as either of the characters?
TRANSLATING

There are several "faux-amis" in this text. Find at least two of them and translate the sentences in which they occur.

WRITING

Bride and groom face each other at breakfast on the following morning. Imagine their conversation.

WOULD "FRÉQUENTATIF"

"She would rub the palm of her right hand down the satin wedding gown." (l. 17-18)

1. Cet énoncé représente-t-il
   a) un nouvel événement?
   b) une reformulation plus explicite de l'événement mentionné antérieurement?

2. Quelle est la marque de ponctuation qui le signale?

3. Qu'indiquait le verbe keep dans l'énoncé précédent?

4. A quel temps était-il ?

5. A quel temps est le modal utilisé maintenant (présent ou passé)?

6. Supprimez ce modal et mettez le verbe rub au prétérit. Étant donné le contexte antérieur, l'énoncé obtenu est-il tout aussi acceptable ?

7. Would était-il nécessaire pour marquer la répétition de l'événement ?

LE GERONDIF (OU NOM VERBAL)

1. Les mots se terminant en -ING peuvent avoir quatre différentes NATURES: noms, adjectifs, participe présent, gérondif (aussi appelé "nom verbal")
   Identifiez-les dans les phrases suivantes.

   a) He no longer lied on the floor, singing and playing guitar. (l. 5): .........................................................

   b) He quit (= stopped) swearing and fighting and using holy names in vain. (l. 7): .................................

   c) He went one evening to miss Amelia. (l. 9): .........................................................................................

   d) Miss Amelia kept making an odd gesture. (l. 17): ..............................................................................

   e) She was reaching for the pockets of her overalls. (l. 18): .................................................................

   f) She had worked up with a farmer over a load of kindling wood. (l. 24): ...........................................

2. Le gérondif, nom verbal, est un verbe qui peut prendre les trois FONCTIONS d'un nom: sujet, complément, attribut du sujet.

   ➢ He quit (= stopped) swearing. La fonction de Swearing, ici, est ..........................................................

   ➢ Reading the newspaper is what she did that night. La fonction de Reading, ici, est ..........................

   ➢ His favorite pastime was playing his guitar. La fonction de Playing, ici, est .................................
GERONDIF OU INFINITIF?

1. Traduisez:
   a) He stopped playing his guitar. .................................................................
   b) He stopped to play his guitar. .................................................................

2. Quelle est l'action chronologiquement première en (a) et en (b)?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>He stopped playing his guitar.</th>
<th>He stopped to play his guitar.</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>stop</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>play his guitar.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

3. Qu'en déduisez-vous?
   a) V-ING s'utilise quand l'activité est .................................................... commencée ou expérimentée.
      Ceci explique pourquoi V-ING permet souvent d'exprimer un commentaire, une appréciation, un jugement sur un fait passé. (ex.: He liked / loved / enjoyed / was keen on / was fond of playing his guitar; she hated / couldn't bear / couldn't stand listening to his music.)
   b) TO BV s'utilise quand l'activité n'est pas ........................................ commencée ou expérimentée.
      TO est un opérateur de visée. Il permet d'exprimer un désir, un souhait, une volonté (ex. He would have liked / wanted to play his guitar again.)

∅ BV

1. DO / DID, tous les auxiliaires modaux, HAD BETTER et WOULD RATHER sont toujours suivi de ∅ BV;
2. On emploie aussi ∅ BV dans les propositions subordonnées infinitives introduites par MAKE, LET, HAVE. Ex.: She didn't let him play his guitar.
3. On rencontre aussi ∅ BV dans une infinitive introduite par un verbe de perception quand on ne s'intéresse pas à l'activité (c'est alors V-ING) mais seulement à l'événement. Ex.: I saw him playing his guitar: he looked happy. (qualité de l'activité) ≠ I saw him play twice: he didn't play often. (quantité d'événements)

V-ING / TO BV / ∅ BV

Complete the following sentences with the correct forms (∅ BV, TO BV, or V-ING) of the verbs (provided in the correct order):

1. (attract - swear - fight) Because he wanted .................................................. Amelia, Marvin Macy stopped ........................................ and ..........................................

2. (be - transform - change) Amelia sometimes admitted ...................................... bad-tempered. The villagers counted on marriage ........................................ her manners, but there is no ........................................ a person like her.

3. (wear - buy) Before the ceremony Amelia asked herself: "Why not ............................. Mother's wedding-gown, instead of ........................................ a new one?"

4. (get - share) Though she desired ................................................ married, Amelia couldn't stand ...................... her daily life with another person.

5. (smoke - practice) When Marvin woke up in the middle of the night, he found his wife ...................... her father's pipe and ................................. on her new typewriter.

6. (do) In fact, she spent her whole wedding night ................................. rather unexpected things.

7. (understand - behave) Marvin was indeed a very meek husband: though he found it difficult ................................. her, he let Amelia ................................. as she liked.