

A King's Story

What is the role of "character" in A King's Story? Does the character that the narrator reveals in his text agree with the character that he attributes to himself?

What does he present as the role of a prince (and a king) in a democratic society? (254)
Is it reasonable or unreasonable for him to think of himself as his own master? (254)
Of the king as having a private life that is total independent of his public position? (321)
Do you think that in a sense he felt his abdication as a liberation? (408)

What is the business of being King like? (Two different accounts of sample days: 319 and 352)

Does the initial description of their meeting give a persuasive sense of why he found Mrs. Simpson so wonderful? Does he do this anywhere? (254-6)

What do you think about his discussion of divorce on 257?
Does Edward present his views on divorce as changing in the light of his own experiences? If not, why not?
Why does he claim on 258 that his intended wife was beyond reproach?

What is the force and purpose of his comparison of his brother the Duke of York to their father George V on 258? (See also 319)

The narrator makes many references to the closeness among members of his original nuclear family. Are these claims supported by the text?
How would you describe his relations with his father? His mother? (311) His brother Bertie? (410) His other brothers? His sister? (For family reaction to his plans: 334-6)

Do you agree with his assessment and explanation of the reticence of the British press with regard to the private life of the monarch? (314-5)

What do you think of Edward's use of the following metaphors?
Prime minister as Procrustes: 317
Royal minuet: 321
Baldwin's car as sinister black beetle: 332
Himself as Eliza in Uncle Tom's Cabin: 332
His mother's position as a fortress: 334

What do you think of Edward's behavior and the Prime Minister's during their first discussion of the Wallis issue? (317-8)
Why does he respond to the communication from Alec Hardinge as though it was a personal challenge? (326-7)

Do you agree that Edward and the archbishop of Canterbury were equally fighting for principles? (331)
What does Edward mean when he says that "Men do not all live by the same rules."? (331)
Why does he characterize his decision to abdicate as a "spiritual struggle"? (336)

Do you think that he gave up the struggle too easily? (354)

How does he characterize his own performance when he opened Parliament? Why does he focus on the trivial symbols office? (322-3)

Why was he worried about signing the Declaration of Protestant faith? (324)

What is the role of external political issues in this narrative?

Germany: Ribbentrop 321-2

South Wales miners: