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The Full Nelson: A Case of English Pride

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Oral Presentation O4.1

THE FULL NELSON: A CASE OF ENGLISH PRIDE

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What comes to mind when someone mentions England?

Tea?

Crumpets?

A one-armed, one-eyed admiral known for his vanity, cockiness, and infidelity?

On October 21, 1805 during the Battle of Trafalgar a musketball shot through the body of Lord Admiral Horatio Nelson, eventually ending his life. The Royal Navy won that day but they also lost one of their greatest fleet commanders. The public found itself much aggrieved over the incident and a large state funeral was held. 200 years later, the English have not stopped loving Nelson. Huge celebrations were held in England during the fall of 2005 in honor of the battle as well as the man who led it. He was a devoted seaman, as well as an effective leader and a tactical genius. Yet, he was also known for his cockiness, vanity, and debauchery. Why has a man like Nelson "survived" as a hero in England all these years and what does it say about the English national character?