

READING & TRAINING

Anthony Hope

The Prisoner of Zenda



GROZDI



Editors: Alex Smith, Monika Marszewska
Design and art direction: Nadia Maestri
Computer graphics: Sara Blasigh
Illustrations: Ivan Canu

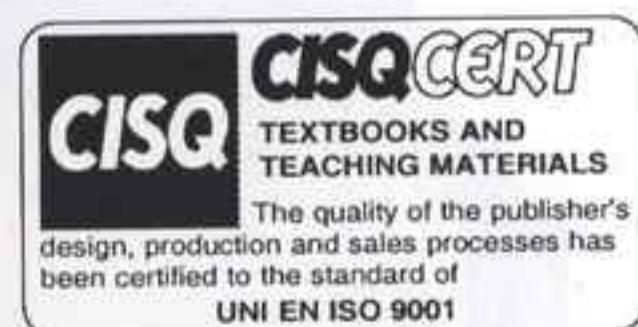
© 2003 Black Cat Publishing,
an imprint of Cideb Editrice, Genoa, Canterbury

First edition: April 2003

Picture Credits: Mary Evans Picture Library: 5; © Tate, London 2003: 38;
Private Collection: 77

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the written permission of the publisher.

We would be happy to receive your comments and suggestions, and give you any other information concerning our material. Our email and Web site addresses are:
editorial@blackcat-cideb.com
www.blackcat-cideb.com
www.cideb.it



ISBN 978-88-7754-994-5 Book
ISBN 978-88-7754-911-2 Book + CD

Printed in Italy by Litoprint, Genoa

Contents

	A Note on the Author	5
CHAPTER ONE 	Rassendylls and Elphbergs	8
	ACTIVITIES	13
CHAPTER TWO 	The Journey to Ruritania	18
	ACTIVITIES	24
CHAPTER THREE 	The Cousins Rudolf	28
	ACTIVITIES	33
	Popular fiction in the late-19th century	37
CHAPTER FOUR 	The Game Begins	43
	ACTIVITIES	47
CHAPTER FIVE 	Coronation of a King	51
	ACTIVITIES	55
CHAPTER SIX 	Kingship and Love	60
	ACTIVITIES	66

CHAPTER SEVEN	A Dangerous Meeting	69
	ACTIVITIES	73
	Film versions of <i>The Prisoner of Zenda</i>	77
CHAPTER EIGHT	A King's Love	82
	ACTIVITIES	86
	Internet Project	88
CHAPTER NINE	Return to Zenda	90
	ACTIVITIES	96
CHAPTER TEN	Rescue	99
	ACTIVITIES	106
CHAPTER ELEVEN	Epilogue	111
	ACTIVITIES	116
	Love and duty in <i>The Prisoner of Zenda</i>	120
	EXIT TEST	122
	Key to the Exit test	128

PET

Cambridge Preliminary English Test-style exercises

T: GRADE 5/6 Trinity-style exercises (Grade 5/6)

This story is recorded in full.



These symbols indicate the beginning and end of the extracts linked to the listening activities.

A Note on the Author

Anthony Hope (1863-1933)



Anthony Hope's real name was Sir Anthony Hope Hawkins. He was born in London and studied at Oxford University. He qualified as a barrister¹ in 1887, but his real interest was in developing a career as a writer.

After writing articles for various magazines, he published his first book, *A Man of Mark*, in 1890. He gave up the law² in 1894, and published his most famous book, *The Prisoner of Zenda*, in that year. The book was an immediate success with the public, and has remained popular ever since. Part of the secret of the novel's

1. **barrister** : lawyer who presents cases in court.
2. **gave up the law** : stopped working as a lawyer.

popularity is that it plays on the very real political fears of the period concerning the instability of central European countries, in a light-hearted and romantic way. Another reason for its popularity is that it combines the traditional values of the adventure story – physical courage, self-sacrifice and patriotism – with a light-hearted, worldly¹ and tolerant view of sexual relationships. Rassendyll is not shocked by the love affair between the Ruritanian prince and his ancestor. It is the story and its consequences that amuse him. This is a very unusual attitude for a late-Victorian popular novel. Hope went on to write other novels, as well as plays and short stories.

Anthony Hope is best known for his two novels set in the imaginary country of Ruritania, *The Prisoner of Zenda* and *Rupert of Hentzau* (1898). Both novels deal with the adventures of Rudolf Rassendyll.

1 Answer the following questions.

- a. What was Anthony Hope's real name?
- b. What did he study to be?
- c. What did he want to be?
- d. Why was the year 1894 so important for Anthony Hope?
- e. What political situation of the period does *The Prisoner of Zenda* present?
- f. What was unusual about the way this book deals with love?
- g. What is the name of the sequel to *The Prisoner of Zenda*?

1. worldly : practical.

Before you read

1 Read the following sentences and then listen to the first part of Chapter One.



Decide if each sentence is correct or incorrect.

If it is correct, tick (✓) A. If it is not correct, tick (✗) B.

- | | A | B |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Rose thinks that Rudolf should get a job. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Rudolf, too, thinks that he should get a job. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Robert works very hard. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Rudolf has red hair. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Rose likes the picture of Countess Amelia very much. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. Rudolf is angry about his red hair and his nose. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. Rudolf thinks that the scandal that happened in his family is very interesting. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8. The scandal took place in 1713. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

T: GRADE 6

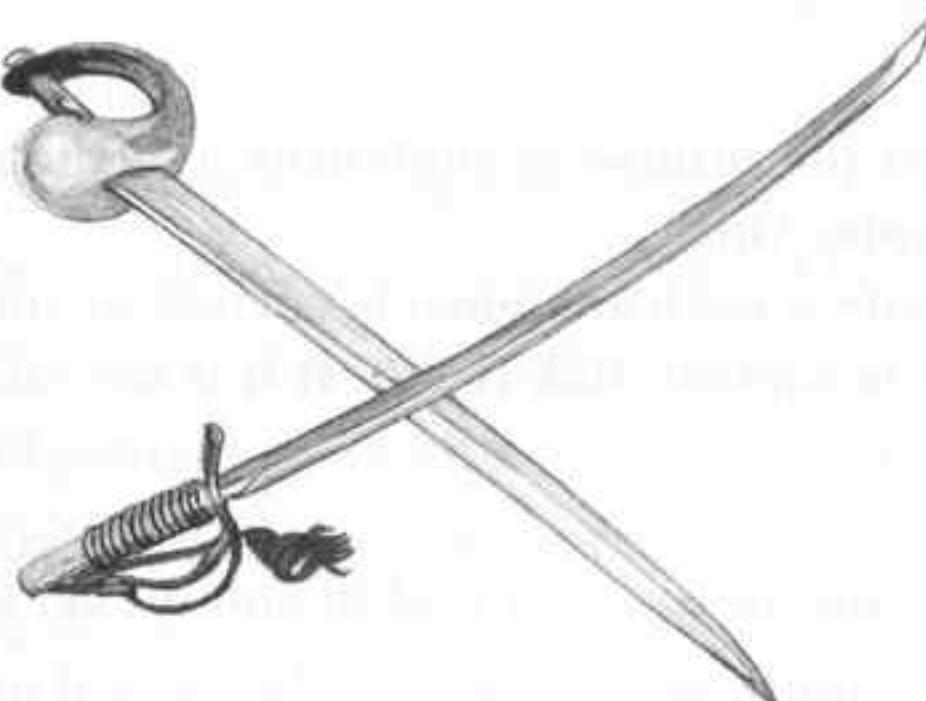
2 Topic – Travel

Bring in a photo or a postcard from a holiday or a place you travelled to recently.

Tell the class about your trip. Use the following questions to help you.

- a. Where did you go?
- b. Who did you travel with?
- c. How did you travel there?
- d. How long did you stay there?
- e. What did you do there?
- f. Will you return to this place if you are given the opportunity?

CHAPTER ONE



Rassendylls and Elphbergs

2

When are you going to do something, Rudolf?' my sister-in-law asked me one day.

'What do you mean, Rose?'

'When are you going to find some work?'

'Work!' I replied. 'I don't need to work. I'm a Rassendyll. My family is one of the best in England. I'm rich – I don't need to do anything.'

'Your brother works,' Rose reminded me crossly.¹ 'He works very hard.'

Just at that moment my brother Robert came into the room. He looked at his wife. He could see that she was angry about something.

1. **crossly** : angrily.

Rassendylls and Elphbergs





The Prisoner of Zenda

'What's wrong, dear?' he asked.

'Rose is angry because I don't do anything,' I explained. 'I told her I don't need to work. We Rassendylls don't need to do anything.'

I looked at my sister-in-law again. She was looking at my red hair.

'Perhaps she's also angry because I've got red hair,' I joked. Rose blushed.¹

'Don't be silly!' she told me. 'That's not your fault.'² But all the same,' she went on, 'your red hair does remind³ people of that story about the Rassendylls. It's a pity.'⁴

Robert smiled at me.

'Of course it's not his fault,' he said cheerfully. 'He's got the nose as well,' he added thoughtfully.⁵

'I like my nose, and I like my hair,' I told them.

I turned to look at the picture of Countess Amelia on the wall.

Rose saw where I was looking. She became angry again.

'That picture!' she complained to Robert. 'People will never forget the story if you don't take that picture down.'

'People will never forget the story while Rudolf's here,' Robert said. 'Look at his red hair – and that nose!'

Then I decided to annoy⁶ Rose a little.

'Actually,' I said, 'I like being an Elphberg.'

'Rudolf!' Rose cried. 'How can you say that?'

1. **blushed** : went red in the face.

4. **pity** : shame.

2. **fault** : responsibility.

5. **thoughtfully** : carefully.

3. **remind** : make people remember.

6. **annoy** : make angry.

Rassendylls and Elphbergs

I'm sure you want to know why Rose was so angry about my red hair and my nose. I'll tell you the whole story.

We Rassendylls are a very old family. Old families have scandals, and we have a very interesting one. It all happened a long time ago – in 1733.

The young prince of Ruritania came to England that year. Prince Rudolf Elphberg was a tall man, and he had red hair and a long nose. He was a dashing¹ figure, and was popular everywhere he went. He was a good linguist, he could ride well, and he was an excellent marksman² and swordsman.³ The Prince stayed in England for a long time, and then something strange happened. One day he fought a duel with an Englishman. The Englishman's name was James Rassendyll. Rassendyll wounded⁴ the Prince. The Prince was not badly hurt, but he returned to Ruritania after the duel.

A few months later James Rassendyll died. His wife, the Countess Amelia, had a son who was born after Rassendyll's death. The baby looked exactly like Prince Elphberg. He had red hair and a long nose. Now everybody understood why Rassendyll and the Prince had fought a duel!

Ever since that time, there have always been some Rassendylls who have red hair and long noses. We call them 'Elphberg' Rassendylls. I'm an 'Elphberg' Rassendyll myself, you see.

END

1. **dashing** : attractive and energetic.

2. **marksman** : could shoot well.

3. **swordsman** : could fight well with a sword.

4. **wounded** : hurt, injured.



The Prisoner of Zenda

Rose did not like the old story of Countess Amelia and the Prince of Ruritania. It embarrassed her. Almost as much as my Elphberg features embarrassed her. She thought that my features showed the weakness of character and the uselessness of my life. However, I thought that I had learnt quite a lot. I spoke fluent German, my French was very good, and my Italian was acceptable. I was good enough with a pistol, but not excellent. I could also ride any horse you gave me.

I started to think about Ruritania over the next few days. I thought about Countess Amelia and the Prince. It was a romantic story. I knew that the old King was dead. His son, another Prince Rudolf, was going to be the next King. I decided to visit Ruritania. I wanted to see the coronation of the young Prince Rudolf.

I did not tell my brother Robert of my plan to visit Ruritania. I told him I was going to the Tyrol for a short holiday.

I was very excited when I left England. I did not know that I was going on a great adventure – the greatest adventure of my life!

Go back to the text

1 For each question, mark the letter next to the correct answer – A, B, C or D.

1. Which of the following phrases best expresses Rudolf's feelings about work?
A Work is too difficult for men with red hair.
B If you don't need to work why do it.
C Work makes you a better man.
D I am from an old family, but I still want to work.
2. What is Rudolf's attitude towards his family's scandal?
A He thinks that it is a good story and should be told.
B He thinks it explains his feelings about work.
C He thinks it should be kept a secret.
D He thinks that it shows that his family has a long history.
3. Why did James Rassendyll fight a duel with the Prince of Ruritania?
A Because the Prince had a love affair with the Countess Amelia.
B Because he did not like the Prince's red hair and long nose.
C Because the Prince did not work.
D Because the Prince was very good-looking.
4. What is Rose's attitude towards his family's scandal?
A Scandals distinguish important families from the rest of the world.
B A brother-in-law who is related to a prince is a great honour.
C It is embarrassing and it would be best to forget it.
D It is not an interesting scandal and it should be kept secret.

5. Which of the following was not one of Prince Rudolf Elphberg's skills?
- A He was good at learning languages.
B He was good at riding horses.
C He was good at shooting guns.
D He was good at making swords.
6. Which of the following titles best summarises this chapter?
- A Not even my brother knows
B A holiday in the Tyrol
C An exciting past and an exciting future
D All noble families are the same

2 Pretend that you are Rose and write a letter to your best friend, the Countess Julia, asking her advice about your lazy brother-in-law.

In your letter include the following information:

- your husband's attitude towards work
- your brother-in-law's attitude towards work
- the family scandal and its connection with your brother-in-law's laziness
- your brother-in-law's attitude towards the scandal

You can begin like this.

Dearest Countess,

You have been my closest friend for many, many years, and I have always been able to turn to you for good advice.

I am very worried about Rudolf, my dear brother-in-law, because...

Write your letter in about 100 words.

I don't need to work.

Look at the following sentences:

***I don't need to work.* = It is not necessary for me to work.**

***You needn't run.* = It is not necessary for you to run.**

- 3** Write sentences with 'don't need to' or 'needn't' using the verbs below to complete the sentences.

buy	cook	explain	sleep	repeat
call	work			

Example: ... *I don't need to work*... because I'm rich.

- I the doctor because I feel much better.
- I because I am not hungry.
- I because I am not tired.
- You it because I understand the exercise.
- You the sentence because I heard you the first time.
- You more clothes because your winter clothes from last year are still good.

Compare the difference in use between 'mustn't' and 'don't need to' (or 'needn't').

***You don't need to phone him.* = It is not necessary to phone him.**

***You mustn't call him.* = Don't call him.**

4 Complete the sentences with 'mustn't' or 'don't need to' according to the context.

Example: You *mustn't* open that door because the cat will run away.

- You cook dinner for them because they are going out to a restaurant this evening.
- They study that chapter because it won't be on the test.
- You touch that pot because it is very hot.
- You run around the swimming pool because you could slip and fall.
- I tell you about Harry's character because he is your brother!
- We bring coats because it will be warm tonight.

Before you read



- 1** Read the text below and choose the correct word for each space. For each question, mark the letter next to the correct word – A, B, C or D.

I decided to (0) in Paris for a night on my (1) to Ruritania. Paris is a lively city, and I enjoyed myself a lot. I spent the evening with two friends. One of them, George, worked in the British Embassy.

We were three young men, and we talked (2) the beautiful women in Paris. (3) mentioned Antoinette De Mauban.

'I've heard of her,' I said excitedly. 'She's a famous beauty. What does she (4) like?'

'She's the most wonderful woman in Paris,' George (5)

me. 'You won't see her, I'm afraid,' he added. 'She's
(6) Paris tonight.'

He spoke quietly now.

'The Duke of Strelsau visited here in Paris,' he said.

'Really,' I replied. 'I wonder where she's going.'

I knew that the Duke of Strelsau was the half-brother of Prince Rudolf of Ruritania. Perhaps Antoinette De Mauban was going to Ruritania as well!

George went to the railway station with me the **(7)** day. I did not tell him I was travelling to Ruritania **(8)** I did not want anyone to know. I told him I was going to Dresden.

There was a smartly dressed lady on the platform **(9)** we arrived.

'Excuse me, Rudolf,' he said. 'I know that lady. I'll just go and **(10)** hello to her. I won't be long.'

- | | | | |
|---------------|-------------|--------------|-----------|
| 0. A be | B visit | C stay | D last |
| 1. A way | B road | C street | D path |
| 2. A on | B regarding | C concerning | D about |
| 3. A Somebody | B Anybody | C One | D Anyone |
| 4. A sound | B see | C look | D show |
| 5. A said | B reported | C responded | D told |
| 6. A moving | B departing | C leaving | D going |
| 7. A after | B next | C then | D later |
| 8. A for | B so | C but | D because |
| 9. A since | B while | C until | D when |
| 10. A say | B tell | C give | D offer |

 3 Now listen to the first part of Chapter Two to check your answers.



CHAPTER TWO

The Journey to Ruritania

3

I decided to stay in Paris for a night on my way to Ruritania. Paris is a lively¹ city, and I enjoyed myself a lot. I spent the evening with two friends. One of them, George, worked in the British Embassy.

We were three young men, and we talked about the beautiful women in Paris. Somebody mentioned Antoinette De Mauban.

'I've heard of her,' I said excitedly. 'She's a famous beauty. What does she look like?'

'She's the most wonderful woman in Paris,' George told me. 'You won't see her, I'm afraid,'² he added. 'She's leaving Paris tonight.'

He spoke quietly now.

'The Duke of Strelsau visited here in Paris,' he said.

1. **lively** : energetic, amusing.

2. **I'm afraid** : I'm sorry.

The Journey to Ruritania

'Really,' I replied. 'I wonder ¹ where she's going.'

I knew that the Duke of Strelsau was the half-brother ² of Prince Rudolf of Ruritania. Perhaps Antoinette De Mauban was going to Ruritania as well!

George went to the railway station with me the next day. I did not tell him I was travelling to Ruritania because I did not want anyone to know. I told him I was going to Dresden.

There was a smartly ³ dressed lady on the platform when we arrived.

'Excuse me, Rudolf,' he said. 'I know that lady. I'll just go and say hello to her. I won't be long.'

He went to talk to the lady. He was smiling when he came back.

'You're in luck!' he joked. 'That's Antoinette De Mauban, and she's travelling on your train. She's going to Dresden as well.'

I did not see Antoinette De Mauban again until the train arrived at Dresden. I got off the train there because I wanted to take the train for Ruritania. Then I saw her! Antoinette De Mauban got on the same train as me. She was travelling to Ruritania as well. Perhaps she was going to visit the Duke of Strelsau.

As soon as we reached the Ruritanian border, ⁴ I went to buy some newspapers and the officer in charge of the customs house gave me such a stare ⁵ that I was surer than ever of my resemblance to the Elphbergs.

1. **wonder** : want to know.

2. **half-brother** : has one of the same parents as you but the other parent is different.

3. **smartly** : elegantly.

4. **border** : frontier.

5. **stare** : long look.

END

The Prisoner of Zenda

The train journey to Ruritania was a long one. I read some of the Ruritanian newspapers during the journey. There were lots of articles about Prince Rudolf and the coronation. The capital city, Strelsau, was full of people who wanted to see the ceremony. I did not want to stay in a crowded hotel, so I decided not to go to Strelsau. There is a little town called Zenda about fifty miles from the capital. I decided to stay there until the day of the coronation.

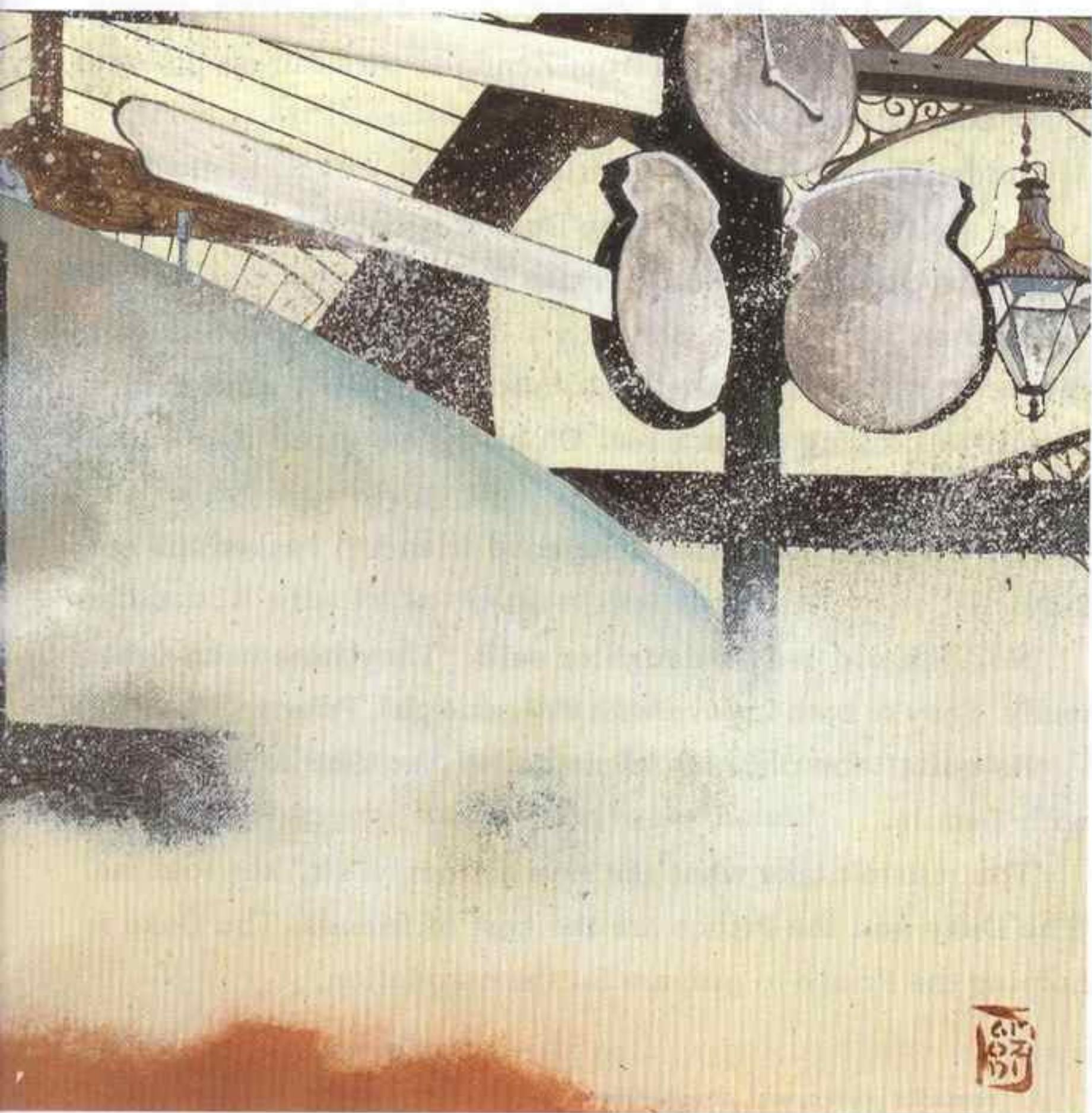


The Journey to Ruritania

'I can travel into Strelsau every day on the train,' I said to myself. 'I can come back to Zenda every night. It's not very far.'

I got off the train at Zenda. There was a good hotel in the town. I was comfortable there.

There was a lot of excitement in Zenda because of the coronation. Everybody was talking about Prince Rudolf and his half-brother, the Duke of Strelsau. I learned that the Duke owned the castle in Zenda.



The Prisoner of Zenda

Everybody spoke very well about the Duke. They made less friendly remarks¹ about Prince Rudolf. He had spent a long time away from the country, and very few people even knew what he looked like. I heard that he had also shaved off his famous beard which made it even more difficult for people to recognise him.

The old lady who owned the hotel was excited about the coronation like everybody else.

'Prince Rudolf is here in Zenda!' she told me. 'He's staying near the castle. He'll travel from Zenda to Strelsau on the day of the coronation.'

Suddenly she looked very serious.

'It's a pity,' she told me. 'The Duke's a good man – he'd be a very good king for Ruritania. Prince Rudolf's –'

'Mother!' one of the old lady's daughters cried. She was angry. 'The Duke's a bad man, you know that. I want Prince Rudolf to be king. He's a real Elphberg, with red hair and a long nose.'

'Are the Prince and the Duke good friends?' I asked the old lady.

'No,' the old lady's daughter said. 'They hate each other really. They're both in love with the same girl, Princess Flavia.'

'Be quiet!' the old lady commanded her. She turned to me with a smile.

'You mustn't take what she says seriously, sir,' she told me. 'The Duke and the Prince are the best of friends. The Duke is helping the Prince to prepare for the coronation.'

1. **remarks**: comments, observations.

The Journey to Ruritania

'You know that's not true!' the old lady's daughter interrupted once again. 'The Duke hates Prince Rudolf. Black Michael -'

The door of the room opened and a man came in. He looked very angrily at the girl.

'I've told you before not to call him 'Black Michael',' he shouted angrily. 'He's the Duke of Strelsau!'

The man saw me in the room now and he was suddenly silent. He seemed shocked for a moment. The old lady explained who I was.

'This is Mr Rassendyll,' she said. 'He's come from England to see the Prince's coronation.'

She turned politely to me.

'This is Johann,' she said. 'He works for the Duke of Strelsau.'

The man was still silent. He stared at me in a very strange way. I did not understand what was troubling¹ him.

The girl began to laugh.

'You've got red hair, sir,' she said to me. 'He doesn't like red hair. It's the Prince's colour, you see.'

The man laughed.

'I'm sorry, sir,' he said. 'You look -'

He was silent again and then he said, 'You surprised me. I didn't know anyone was staying in the hotel.'

1. **troubling** : disturbing, upsetting.

Go back to the text

1 Answer the following questions.

- a. Why did Rudolf and his friends begin talking about Antoinette De Mauban?
- b. Why did Rudolf think that Antoinette De Mauban might be going to Ruritania?
- c. Why did the customs officer stare at Rudolf?
- d. Why did Rudolf decide to stay in Zenda?
- e. Where was the Duke of Strelsau's castle?
- f. Why was it hard for people to recognise Prince Rudolf?
- g. Where was Prince Rudolf staying just before the coronation?
- h. According to the girl at the hotel, why did the Duke and the Prince hate each other?
- i. Who was nicknamed 'Black Michael'?
- j. According to the girl at the hotel, why didn't Johann like red hair?

'You won't see her, I'm afraid.'

The future with 'will' in English has several uses:

1. It can be used to make predictions about the future. Often with this use we use the expressions and words: *I think, I believe, I expect, I'm afraid, I'm sure, I'm certain, probably, maybe.*

He will probably be here by nine o'clock.

I expect that she will bring her friend.

2. It can be used when we decide to do something while we are speaking. With this use we generally use the contracted form, ('ll). *Louis: Someone is knocking at the door.*

Billie: I'll go and see who it is. (NOT I go and see who it is.)

3. We can use 'will' when we promise, agree or refuse to do something.

I'll be back by nine o'clock. You can count on it.

I'll help you with your homework tomorrow.

I won't tell you where the money is hidden.

The computer won't go on.

4. It can be used when we offer to do something.

Simon: Oh no! I don't have a bus ticket!

Sylvia: Don't worry. I'll give you one.

The negative of 'will' is 'won't' or 'will not'.

- 2** A. Look at the following sentences with 'will' from this chapter and decide which use they best represent according to the context.

- a. You won't see her, I'm afraid.
- b. I'll just go and say hello to her.
- c. I won't be long.
- d. He'll travel from Zenda to Strelsau on the day of the coronation.

- B. Construct sentences with 'will', using the contracted forms ('won't' and 'll), and then decide from the context which of the four uses listed above they represent.

Example: **Susan:** I have to go to the airport tomorrow but my car is at the mechanic's.

Hillary: Don't worry. I / take / you.

.....
I'll take you......

Use 4

1. **Waiter:** Today we have vegetable soup and chicken soup.
Customer: Well, I / have / chicken soup.

2. **Mother:** Jimmy, you know how I worry about you when you travel.
Son: Don't worry, Mum. I / call / you as soon as I arrive.
.....
3. I expect that they / not come / to your party.
.....
4. Oh no! The car / not / start!
.....
5. **Christian:** The phone is ringing.
Jack: I / get / it.
.....
6. **Dylan:** Can you help me repair my bicycle?
Jack: Of course, I / help / you tomorrow.
.....
7. **Kenneth:** The kitchen is a complete mess and I have to go out.
Sarah: Don't worry, I / wash up.
.....
8. **Policeman:** Tell me who did this.
Criminal: I / not tell / you.
.....

T: GRADE 5

3 Topic – Celebrations

Rudolf travels to Ruritania for the Prince's coronation. Find some information/a picture about a coronation or another big celebration. Tell the class about the celebration. Use the following questions to help you.

- a. What was the celebration?
- b. Where and when did it take place?
- c. Who attended on the day?
- d. Describe what people did.
- e. Have you ever attended a similar celebration? Can you describe it?

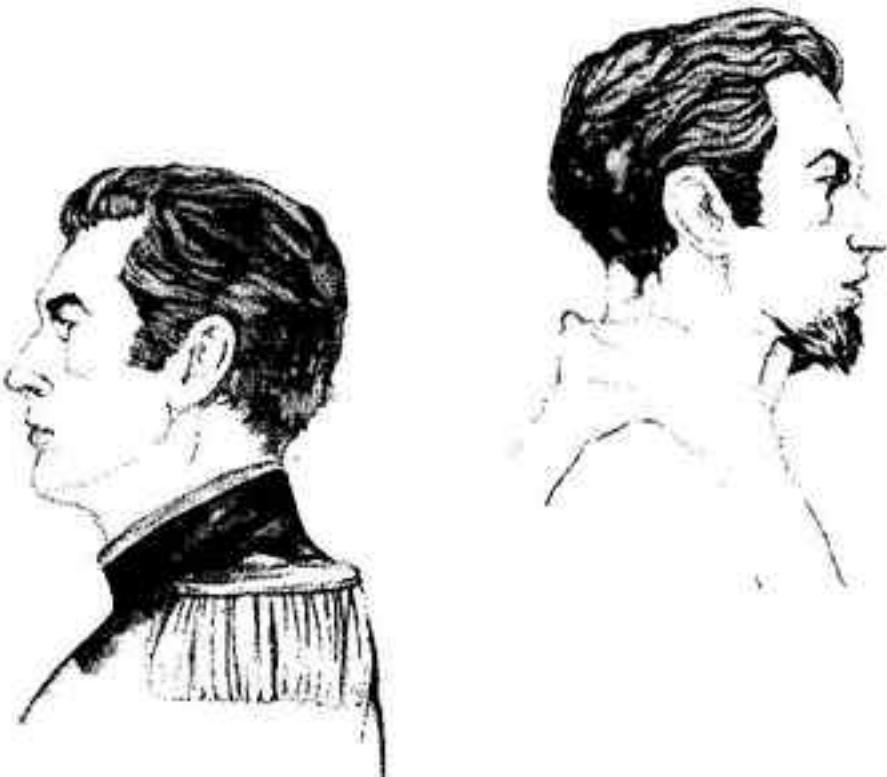
Before you read



1 Listen to the first part of Chapter Three.
For each question, put a tick (✓) in the correct box.

1. Where did the older part of the castle stand?
A On an island.
B By a river.
C Near a lake.
2. What did Rudolf dream?
A That he was the Duke of Strelsau.
B That he looked just like the King of Ruritania.
C That he was married to Princess Flavia.
3. Who was the old man with the grey moustache?
A Fritz von Tarlenheim.
B Colonel Sapt.
C The Duke of Strelsau.
4. Who was calling Fritz von Tarlenheim from behind some trees?
A Colonel Sapt.
B Princess Flavia.
C Prince Rudolf.
5. Why did Prince Rudolf look at Rudolf Rassendyll in great surprise?
A Because he did not expect to see his cousin.
B Because they were almost identical in appearance.
C Because they had very similar names.

CHAPTER THREE



The Cousins Rudolf

4

I went for a walk in the forest the next morning. I walked near the castle. The old part was very imposing and still in good condition. I noticed that it stood on an island, and there was a moat¹ full of water surrounding it. The water looked deep and cold. On the other side of the moat there was an elegant modern chateau, the country home of the Duke of Strelsau. I walked for a long time. I decided to lie down and rest for a while. I fell asleep in the forest.

I dreamt I was married to Princess Flavia and we lived in the castle of Zenda. I was about to kiss the Princess when I heard someone say, ‘This man looks just like the Prince except for his beard.’

1. **moat** : channel of water around a castle.

The Cousins Rudolf

I opened my eyes and saw two men looking at me with great curiosity.

Then the other man said, 'He's the same height as the Prince, as well. Really, it's very odd!' ¹

I stood up now and looked at the two men. One of them was quite an old man. He had a square head and a grey moustache, and he looked serious. The other one was young. He had dark skin, and he seemed friendlier than the older man. The young man smiled at me.

1. **odd** : strange.



The Prisoner of Zenda

'What's your name?' he asked politely.

'Rassendyll,' I told him. 'Rudolf Rassendyll.'

'I'm Fritz von Tarlenheim,' he said. He pointed at the older man. 'And this is Colonel Sapt,' he told me. 'We work for the Prince.'

Colonel Sapt smiled at me now.

'So you're a Rassendyll,' he said happily. 'You know the old story about the Prince of Ruritania and the Countess Amelia, I suppose?'

I smiled as well.

'I know the story very well,' I told him.

There was a noise behind some trees, and a man began to shout.

'Fritz! Fritz! Where are you?'

'It's the Prince,' Fritz von Tarlenheim said. 'He's calling me.'

Now the man came forward. I looked at him in great surprise. He looked at me in great surprise. Prince Rudolf of Ruritania and Rudolf Rassendyll looked the same – except for my beard.

I studied the Prince carefully. The likeness was remarkable. He was a little shorter than me, and his face was a little fatter than mine. I also noticed that his mouth did not look as determined as mine. But for all that,¹ we were nearly identical!

For a moment no one spoke. Then the Prince turned to Fritz and Colonel Sapt.

1. **But for all that** : despite those differences.

The Cousins Rudolf

Colonel Sapt whispered¹ something in the Prince's ear. The Prince listened carefully, and then he began to smile. Suddenly he laughed very loudly.

'We're cousins!' he said to me. 'I'm very pleased to know you, cousin,' he added. 'Come and dine² with me tonight. We'll talk of old times together. And you will stay at my house tonight, of course.'

Colonel Sapt stepped forward to speak to the Prince again. He spoke seriously.

'The coronation is tomorrow morning, sir,' he said. 'There is a lot to do before then. We have a lot of things to talk about. It's not the evening for a dinner with Mr Rassendyll.'

Prince Rudolf looked angrily at Colonel Sapt. He did not seem pleased with the Colonel's advice.

'I want to dine with Mr Rassendyll!' he said crossly. 'I want to drink wine with him. He's my cousin – and I don't meet a new cousin every day.'

That is how I came to dine with Prince Rudolf. We ate well, and we drank a lot of wine. Prince Rudolf drank more wine than anyone else. He was very happy because of the wine. It was a long dinner.

I thought the evening was finished, but I was wrong. The servant, Joseph, brought another bottle of wine to the table.

'This bottle comes from the Duke of Strelsau,' he told Prince Rudolf. 'He told me to give you this message: "Drink

1. **whispered** : spoke very quietly.

2. **dine** : have dinner.

The Prisoner of Zenda

this wine because you love me." That's what he told me to say, sir.'

'What a good brother Michael is!' Prince Rudolf cried joyfully. 'I'll certainly drink his wine.'

He reached for the bottle and poured a glass of the wine. He drank the glass quickly. Then he put his head on the table and fell asleep.

Nobody else touched the wine from the Duke of Strelsau.

I looked at Fritz von Tarlenheim and Colonel Sapt. I did not say anything, but the Prince of Ruritania was a disappointment to me. He seemed a selfish young man – a selfish young man who was too fond of wine. I remember nothing else about that evening. I, too, had drunk too much wine. I fell asleep at the table.

Go back to the text

1 Answer the following questions.

- a. What surrounded the Prince's castle?
- b. Who lived in the chateau near the castle?
- c. What did Fritz von Tarlenheim and Colonel Sapt find odd about Rudolf Rassendyll?
- d. What was the main difference in appearance between Rudolf Rassendyll and Prince Rudolf?
- e. What were some of the minor differences in appearance between them?
- f. What were the differences between Colonel Sapt and Fritz von Tarlenheim?
- g. Who drank the wine from the Duke of Strelsau?
- h. Why was Rudolf Rassendyll disappointed with the Prince?

He seemed friendlier than the older man.

The comparative form in English is formed by adding '**er**' or '**more**' to the adjective.

The Duke is stronger than the Prince.

Ruritania is more dangerous than England.

We add '**er**' to those adjectives with one syllable.

strong → stronger

fast → faster

When an adjective with one syllable ends with a vowel followed by a consonant, we double the last syllable.

big → bigger

hot → hotter

We add 'er' to adjectives with two syllables that end with 'er', 'ly' and 'y'.

Notice, that in this case, the 'y' becomes an 'i' in the comparative form.

friendly → *friendlier*

funny → *funnier*

clever → *cleverer*

We use '**more**' for adjectives with two or more syllables.

difficult → **more difficult**

complex → **more complex**

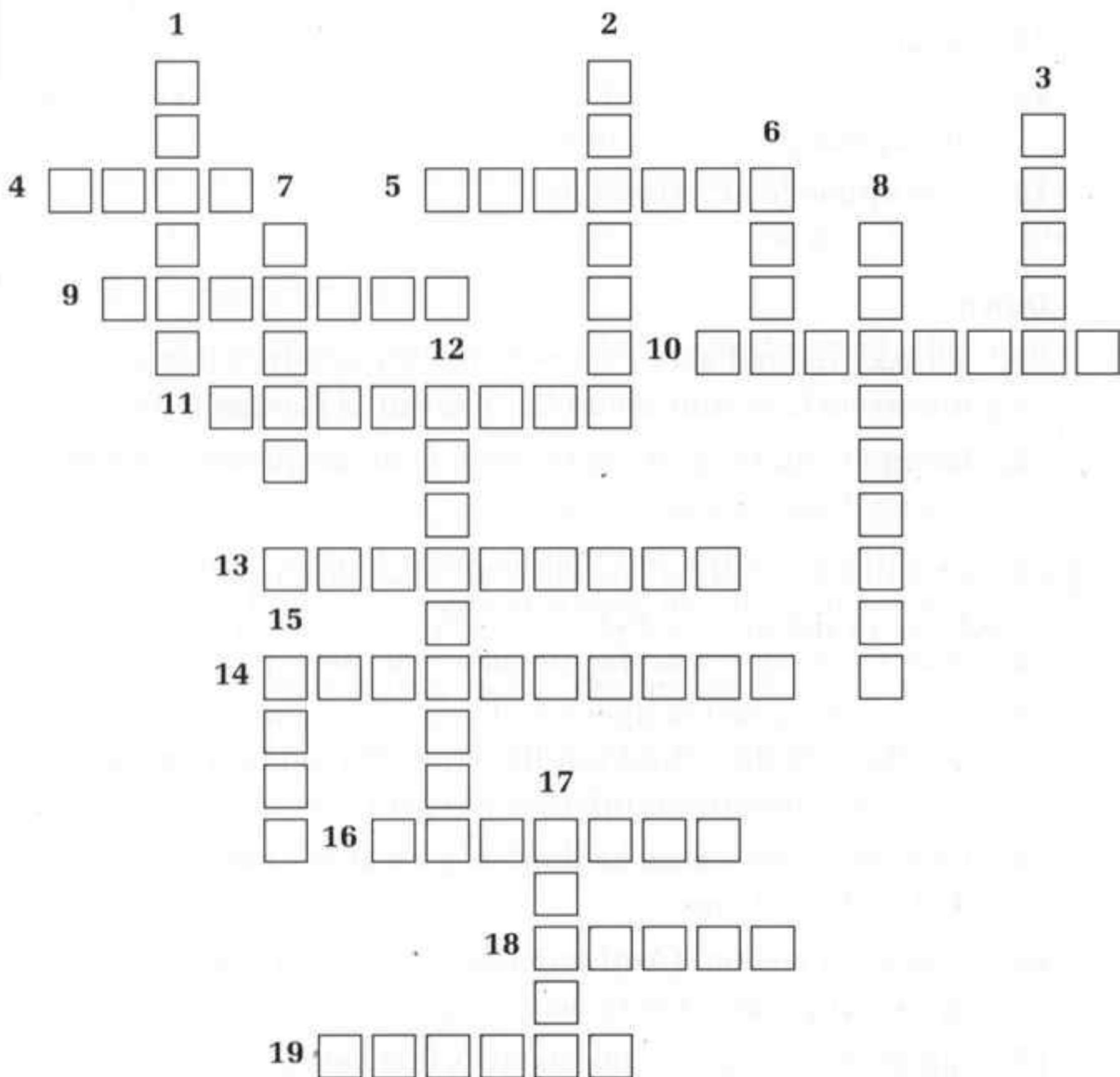
2 Complete the sentences with the comparative form of the adjectives in the box to make true sentences in the context of the story.

young	long	thin	beautiful	modern	tall
<u>determined</u>	lazy	crowded			

Example: Rudolf Rassendyll's mouth looked than the Prince's.

- Rose thinks that Rudolf is than Robert.
- Rudolf's nose is than Robert's.
- Antoinette De Mauban is than Rose.
- Strelsau was than Zenda the days before the coronation.
- The country home of the Duke of Strelsau was than the castle.
- Fritz von Tarlenheim is than Colonel Sapt.
- Rudolf Rassendyll is than Prince Rudolf.
- Rudolf Rassendyll's face is than Prince Rudolf's.

3 Vocabulary



ACROSS

4. To eat the principal meal of the day.
 5. She became red in the face because she was embarrassed; in other words, she
 9. Comments, observations. (The people of Ruritania did not make friendly ... about Prince Rudolf.)
 10. Rose caused Rudolf to remember that his brother worked. In other words, Rose ... him that his brother worked.
 11. Rudolf Rassendyll gets his long nose and red hair from the ... family.

13. Someone who fights with swords.
14. Robert and Rose's surname.
16. Angrily.
18. To bother, to irritate. (Rudolf tells Rose that he likes being an Elphberg just to ... Rose.)
19. The opposite of 'remember'.

Down

1. To ask yourself about something. (Rudolf does this when he discovers that Antoinette De Mauban is leaving Paris.)
2. Energetic and full of confidence. (This word describes the young Prince Rudolf Elphberg.)
3. Rudolf Rassendyll felt that he knew how to do many things. For example, if you gave him any ... he could ride it.
6. 'Black Michael' was the nickname of the ... of Strelsau.
7. If something bad happens and you are responsible, it is your (Even if Rose does not like Rudolf's red hair and long nose, she does not think they are his)
8. He said it very softly so that only I would hear him; in other words, he ... to me.
12. A kind of lawyer. (Anthony Hope could have been one of these but he decided to become a writer.)
15. Rudolf Rassendyll's sister-in-law's first name.
17. He looked at me fixedly; in other words, he gave me a long

Popular fiction in the late-19th century

The market for popular fiction of all types grew considerably from the 1850s onwards. There were several factors behind this sudden increase in readers.

The British education system expanded, with the result that more people were now able to read than ever before. The new readers did not have the same education as the middle and upper classes. They had not been brought up on Latin and Greek literature, and they did not have the same leisure for 'serious' reading as these classes. They wanted easily accessible and stimulating stories.

The Industrial Revolution made producing books easier. This meant that books became cheaper and available to everybody. Average income also increased during the Industrial Revolution and the Victorian Age saw a huge increase in 'popular', cheap editions of novels and poetry.

Finally, the development of railway travel created a new market for 'light' books that could be read on train journeys. Firms like W.H. Smith began to open railway bookstalls that sold a range¹ of reading materials for this kind of reader, from magazines to novels.

Authors and publishers were quick to respond to the demands of the new reading public. This was the age when genuinely popular fiction established itself.

1. range : variety.



Poster for the stage version of *The Woman in White* (1871) designed by Frederick Walker.

Early in this period popular fiction tended to be centred on mystery and crime. Wilkie Collins enjoyed enormous success with his novel, *The Woman in White*, published in 1860. The novel tells a complicated story of insanity, mistaken identity, crime and conspiracy.

The crime novel was later developed by Arthur Conan Doyle in his short stories and

novels about the most famous detective in English fiction. Sherlock Holmes solves crimes because he is able to think more logically and clearly than other people. In the Sherlock Holmes stories, crime is seen as a kind of intellectual puzzle; the function of the detective is to 'think his way' through the evidence until he arrives at the truth. While the great detective often works on important crimes involving national security or murder, he also solves some very unimportant cases. What fascinates the reader is not the crime itself, but the detective's infallible 'method'. There was also demand for adventure stories. The 19th-century adventures tended to have an exotic setting and fast-moving

action. Ryder Haggard's *King Solomon's Mines*, for example, tells the story of a treasure hunt in Africa. Robert Louis Stevenson's *Treasure Island* is also about a hunt for treasure. The setting is doubly historic, because it deals with 18th-century pirates and a tropical island.

The Prisoner of Zenda does not fit easily into the late Victorian adventure category. The setting is an imaginary country, Ruritania, rather than Africa or an exotic tropical island. The book draws on¹ very real anxieties about the instability in central European countries such as the Balkans. (Events in the Balkans were very important in the months before the outbreak of World War One.) The book is also unusual for an adventure story of this

period because it satirises Victorian seriousness. This is very clear in the opening pages. Rassendyll's sister-in-law is shocked by the love story of Countess Amelia and the Prince of Ruritania. Her reaction to the story is a typically Victorian one. Young Rassendyll himself, however, regards the story with



Cover of *The Strand Magazine* (January 1927) featuring a new Sherlock Holmes story.

1. draws on : makes use of.

amusement. The sister-in-law is also shocked by his failure to 'do' something, to make a proper career for himself. Once again she shows that she is true to the Victorian ideal of seriousness and moral purpose, and once again, the young Rassendyll opposes her with a more light-hearted and worldly attitude.

1 Say which of the following statements are true or false.

Tick (✓) A for the true statements and B for the false ones.

A B

- a. Starting from the middle of the nineteenth century the popular-fiction market began to increase greatly.
- b. The market for popular fiction increased because the lower classes could read Latin and Greek.
- c. Another reason that the market for popular fiction increased was that people began to earn more money.
- d. Some companies began to produce reading material for train travel.
- e. Books about criminals and crimes were popular in this period.
- f. Sherlock Holmes wrote many popular mystery stories.
- g. *The Prisoner of Zenda*, *King Solomon's Mines* and *Treasure Island* are all examples of 19th-century adventure stories.
- h. Young Rudolf Rassendyll's reaction to the love story between Countess Amelia and the Prince of Ruritania is not typical of the period.

Before you read

PET 1

Listen to Chapter Four.

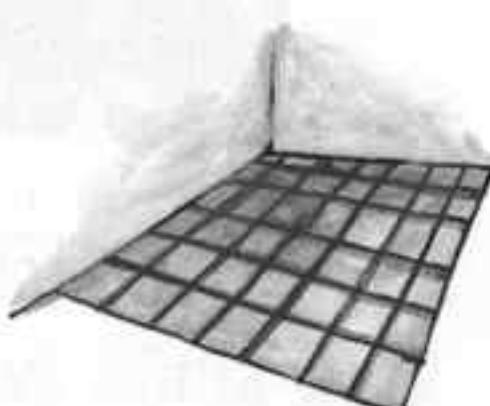


For each question there are three pictures. Choose the correct picture and put a tick (✓) in the box below it.

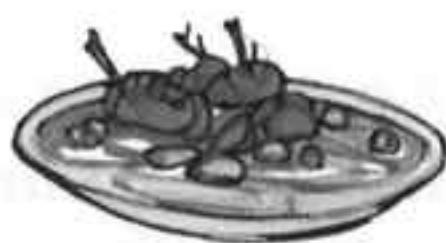
1. How did they wake Rudolf up?

A B C

2. Where was the Prince sleeping?

A B C

3. How did the Duke drug the Prince?

A B C

4. What did Rudolf do while the Colonel told him his plan?



A

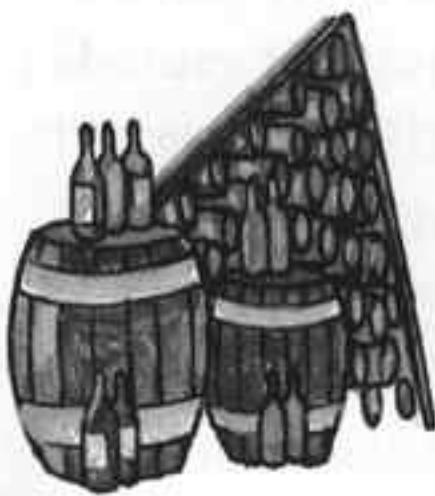


B



C

5. Where did they hide the King?



A



B



C

CHAPTER FOUR



The Game Begins

5 I woke suddenly the next morning. Someone had thrown water over me! I opened my eyes angrily and looked up at Fritz and the Colonel.

'That wasn't a good joke!' I said angrily.

'Be quiet,' Colonel Sapt ordered angrily. 'We had to wake you up. There's something wrong.' He pointed to the floor. The Prince was lying there. 'The Prince is still sleeping. We've tried to wake him, but we can't.'

'We think the Duke put something in that bottle of wine,' Fritz explained. 'Something that will make the Prince sleep all day.'

'It's a crisis for Ruritania,' Colonel Sapt said. 'The coronation is this morning. If Prince Rudolf does not go to Strelsau today, he'll never be king!'

'What do you mean?' I asked.

The Prisoner of Zenda

'The Duke wants to be king,' Colonel Sapt told me. 'Prince Rudolf is not popular. I think the Duke will seize the crown!'¹

'What are you going to do about it?' I asked him.

'There's only one chance,' Colonel Sapt explained. 'The coronation is today. Prince Rudolf must go to Strelsau this morning!'

'But if he's asleep - ' I began.

'You can go,' Colonel Sapt said. 'You can be Prince Rudolf for the day.'

'Me!' I cried. 'But that's ridiculous. I don't know how to behave like a prince. I can't pretend to be the Prince of Ruritania!'

'You look like the Prince, except for your beard,' Colonel Sapt said slowly. 'You can do it, Rassendyll, I know you can.'

I did not say anything.

'If you don't do it, the Duke will be the next King of Ruritania,' Colonel Sapt went on. 'And he'll kill Prince Rudolf.'

Then I decided. I was young and I liked excitement and adventure.

'Very well,' I told the Colonel. 'I'll help you. I'll be the Prince for a day.'

'Well done!' the Colonel cried excitedly. He shook my hand. 'There's a lot to do. Let's make a start.'

I got up and began to shave off my beard while the Colonel told me his plan.

'I'll hide the Prince in the wine-cellar,' he said excitedly. 'Then we all go to Strelsau together to the coronation, and you

1. **seize the crown** : become King illegally.

The Game Begins

become King. Then we come back to Zenda. We wake the real King. He goes back to Strelsau with us the next day. And you, Mr Rassendyll, you leave Ruritania very secretly.' He paused then he clapped his hands together. 'Yes! It's a good plan,' he cried.

The Colonel picked up the Prince and carried him to the door. He was very strong. He opened the door suddenly – and then stopped. Johann's mother was standing on the other side of the door.

'Was she listening?' Fritz asked quickly.

'I'll make sure she's quiet!' the Colonel said grimly.¹

1. grimly : very seriously.



The Prisoner of Zenda

The Colonel carried the Prince into the wine cellar. Then he came upstairs again and seized hold¹ of Johann's mother. He put a handkerchief in her mouth and tied her up. Then he carried her down to a coal-cellar² and locked her in.

Then Colonel Sapt, Fritz and I continued to make our plans.

'No one will ever know,' Fritz said. 'It'll work – and you'll save Ruritania from disaster, Mr Rassendyll.'

'All we've got to do is hide the real Prince while we're all in Strelsau,' the Colonel said. 'Fritz and I will do that while you're getting ready, Mr Rassendyll. Joseph will guard him while we're away.'

Colonel Sapt hurried out of the room to make all the arrangements with the servant.

1. **seized hold** : took hold of, using force.

2. **coal-cellar** : large container for storing coal.

Go back to the text

1 Answer the following questions.

- How did Rudolf react when Fritz and the Colonel woke him up?
- Who wants to seize the crown?
- Who will go to the coronation in Prince Rudolf's place?
- What arguments did Colonel Sapt use to convince Rudolf to accept his plan?
- For what personal reasons did Rudolf accept the plan?
- What exactly was this plan?

If Prince Rudolf does not go to Strelsau today,
he'll never be king.

We use 'will' and the present for the first conditional. The first conditional is used to talk about things which will probably happen. Notice that the present simple is used after 'if' or 'when'.
If + present simple, 'will'

If Prince Rudolf does not go to Strelsau today, he will never be king.

2 Use elements from A and elements from B to form first conditional sentences which are true within the context of the story. You must choose which elements must be used to make the if-clause.

Example: If Anthony likes romantic, adventure stories,
he will like The Prisoner of Zenda.

- A a. ~~he/like The Prisoner of Zenda.~~
- Rudolf/get/job
 - the Duke of Strelsau/become/King

- d. Prince Rudolf/drink/too much wine
e. he/look/almost exactly like Prince Rudolf
f. Rudolf/talk about Countess Amelia
g. they/talk/about beautiful women
- B**
1. Rudolf and his friends/have dinner/in Paris
.....
2. he/fall/asleep
.....
3. Rose/get/angry
.....
4. Rudolf/not pretend to be the Prince
.....
5. Anthony/like/romantic, adventure stories
.....
6. Rudolf/shave off/beard
.....
7. Rose/be/happy
.....

3 Number the paragraphs of the summary of Chapters One to Four in the right order.

- A The next day, Rudolf went for a walk near the Duke's castle, and decided to sleep for a while in a forest. He was woken up by two men, Fritz von Tarlenheim and Colonel Sapt. Both these men agreed that Rudolf resembled the Prince. Just then the Prince came up to Rudolf. He was very happy to meet his English cousin and invited Rudolf to dine with him.
- B The next day, George and Rudolf went to the train station. Rudolf told George he was going to Dresden. George and Rudolf said goodbye, and Rudolf went on to Dresden, where he got the train for Ruritania. In Dresden he saw

Antoinette De Mauban, who was also going to Ruritania. The train arrived in Strelsau, the capital of Ruritania. Rudolf wanted to stay somewhere more peaceful, so he decided to get a hotel in a little town called Zenda, near the capital.

- C Rose Rassendyll was angry with her brother-in-law, Rudolf, because he did not have a job. Rudolf told her that he did not need to work because his family was wealthy. Rudolf then teased Rose about his red hair and long nose, the result of an old family scandal: a love affair between Countess Amelia of their family and Prince Rudolf Elphberg of Ruritania.
- D In Zenda everybody was talking about the coronation. The Prince of Ruritania was not very popular and not many people knew what he looked like because he had been away. In his hotel, Rudolf learned more about the Prince and his brother, the Duke of Strelsau. Both of them were in love with Princess Flavia, and the Duke was also known as 'Black Michael'.
- E Thinking about this story, Rudolf decided to go to Ruritania for the coronation of the present Prince Rudolf. He took a train to Paris first, where he saw his friend George. He and George had a pleasant evening together talking about beautiful women, and the most beautiful woman in Paris was Antoinette De Mauban.
- F The two cousins ate and drank together, and at the end of their meal a special bottle of wine arrived, a present from the Duke. Only the Prince drank a glass of this wine, and then he fell asleep. The next day someone threw water over Rudolf to wake him up. There was an emergency: they could not wake up the Prince. They had a plan, however. Rudolf Rassendyll would pretend to be the Prince for the coronation.

Before you read

1 Below are the notes of a newspaper reporter who was present at the coronation day in Ruritania.

Listen to the first part of Chapter Five.

For each question, fill in the missing information in the numbered space.

Notes for Coronation Day

Arrival:

He arrived in the capital city at (1)

*He was accompanied the entire time by
(2)*

*Waiting for him at the train station were important
people, such as the commander of the Ruritanian army.*

The people's opinion of their new King:

*The people in the new part of Strelsau were
(3) to Prince Rudolf.*

*The people in the old part of Strelsau
(4) Prince Rudolf.*

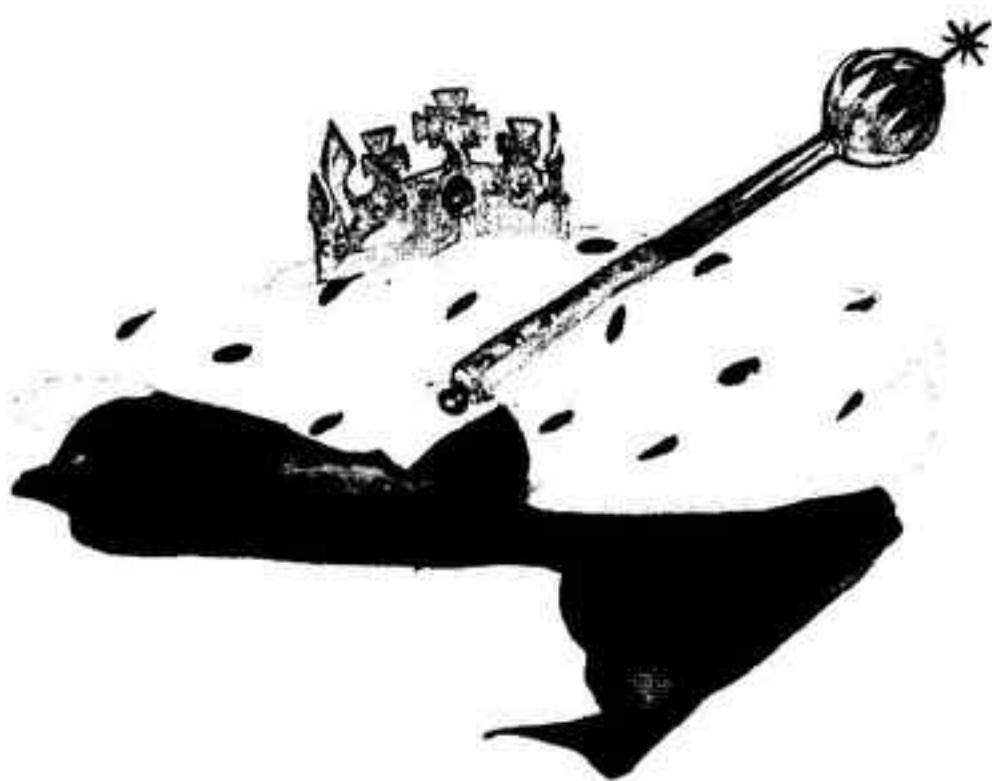
The procession to the cathedral:

The marshal wanted the soldiers to (5)

*Prince Rudolf wasn't afraid, however, and told the
marshal 'I'll (6)'*



CHAPTER FIVE



Coronation of a King

6 It was now six o'clock in the morning. I dressed in one of Prince Rudolf's uniforms. Colonel Sapt, Fritz and I took our horses and rode towards Strelsau.

It was a beautiful ride that early morning, and I will never forget it. The Colonel gave me advice about how to behave when we reached Strelsau. He told me about the things that Prince Rudolf liked, and the things he did not like.

'Don't worry,' he said. 'I'll stand next to you all the time. I'll tell you what to say.'

We reached the railway station at eight o'clock. At nine-thirty we were in the capital city.

'Are you frightened?' Colonel Sapt asked me.

'Don't worry about me,' I told him. 'I'll manage.'¹

1. **manage** : succeed.

The Prisoner of Zenda

'I think you will,' the Colonel replied. 'You're a real Elphberg, Mr Rassendyll.'

When we got off the train, the people surrounded us. They were excited to see their Prince in front of them. They began to cheer¹ and shout. Soon the station was full of noise and shouting. A party² of important people were waiting for us. The commander of the Ruritanian army, an important-looking marshal,³ was also there with some soldiers. We all rode towards the cathedral together.

First we rode through the new part of Strelsau. The Colonel told me that the people in this part of the city were loyal to Prince Rudolf. They wanted him to be king. The crowds in the street cheered as we rode past. Suddenly I looked up at one of the buildings. Antoinette De Mauban was standing in the window watching the procession. For a moment I was very nervous. I was sure she would recognise me and tell everyone that I was not the real Prince. She did not do anything, however.

Then we rode through the old part of the city. The people in this part of Strelsau did not like Prince Rudolf. They wanted his brother, the Duke of Strelsau, to be king. The marshal made a sign to the soldiers who were riding with us. He wanted them to stay close to me. He wanted them to protect me from the crowd.

I decided that a real prince would be a brave man.

'Why did you tell the soldiers to ride close to me?' I asked the marshal.

1. **cheer** : give a shout of approval and encouragement.
2. **party** : group.

3. **marshal** : senior military commander.

Coronation of a King



'For your safety, sir,' the marshal replied.

'I'm not afraid,' I told the marshal. 'I'll ride in front of the soldiers. I'm not afraid of my own people!'

Colonel Sapt put a hand on my arm. He did not like what I was doing.

'I'll ride in front,' I repeated. 'Tell the soldiers to go away, marshal.'

I rode out in front of the soldiers. For a few moments I felt like a real king. It was a wonderful feeling.

Soon we arrived at the cathedral. It was a splendid building, and it was full of people. Everyone was wearing their best clothes for the coronation of their king.

END



The Prisoner of Zenda

I do not remember much about the ceremony. It was long, and Colonel Sapt stood very close to me throughout it. He whispered to me all the time, telling me what to do.

I saw Prince Rudolf's brother, the Duke of Strelsau, in the cathedral. He was very surprised to see me – he looked quite ill for a moment! He looked at me as if he had seen a ghost. I also saw a beautiful young woman. Colonel Sapt told me she was Princess Flavia. She was the most beautiful woman I had ever seen. She had the red hair of the Elphbergs.

The coronation was a great success. No one recognised that I was not the real Prince Rudolf. When it was over¹ Fritz, Colonel Sapt and I went to the palace. We laughed and joked together. The day had gone well for us.

I did think about the real Prince Rudolf – or King Rudolf, as he now was. I wondered what he was doing.

1. over : finished.

Go back to the text

1 Choose the best answer, A, B, C or D, for the following questions.

1. How did Rudolf reach Strelsau?

- A On foot and by train.
- B By horse and by train.
- C On foot and by horse.
- D In a carriage and by train.

2. Why did the Colonel have faith in Rudolf Rassendyll?

- A Because the people in the new part of Strelsau liked Prince Rudolf.
- B Because the Duke would be too shocked to do anything.
- C Because Rudolf had the best characteristics of the Elphberg family.
- D Because the Duke would not know that Rudolf Rassendyll was not really the Prince.

3. Why did the marshal order his soldiers to stay close to Rudolf Rassendyll?

- A Because they were in the part of town that wanted the Duke to be king.
- B Because people would see he wasn't the Prince if they got too near.
- C So the soldiers could tell him how to behave as a king.
- D Because a real prince is always surrounded by soldiers.

4. What made Rudolf feel as if he were really the king?

- A The crowds of cheering people.
- B Riding bravely in front of the procession.
- C The presence of many important people dressed in their best clothing.
- D Antoinette De Mauban watching him from the window.

5. Which of the following things did Colonel Sapt not do on the day of the coronation?
- A Tell Rudolf about the Prince's preferences.
 B Tell Rudolf what to do during the ceremony.
 C Tell Rudolf about the people of Strelsau.
 D Tell Rudolf not to worry about Antoinette De Mauban.

He looked quite ill.

Look at this sentence and its equivalent.

He looked ill. = *He seemed ill.*

Sometimes the verb 'to look' means 'to seem', and in this case it is followed by an adjective.

- 2 A. Write a sentence using 'to look' and one of the adjectives below to describe the five pictures of the Prince.

happy	angry	sad	ill	tired	hot
-------	-------	-----	-----	-------	-----



a.



b.



c.



d.



e.



f.

Other verbs in English are commonly followed by adjectives.

This soup tastes good.

You sound upset. (Here, 'to sound' generally refers to the impression someone gives you when they speak.)

Your sweater feels soft. (Here, 'to feel' refers to the impression an object gives you when you touch it.)

I feel happy when I see a pretty flower. NOT I feel happily.)
(Here, 'to feel' refers to your emotional state.)

That perfume smells good. (Here, 'to smell' refers to the impression an odour gives you.)

B. Complete the sentences below with the correct form of 'to look', 'to taste', 'to sound', 'to feel' or 'to smell'.

Example: I talked to the Duke yesterday about the coronation, and he sounded rather angry.

- a. Henry phoned me this morning, and he very happy about his holiday.

- b. I always nervous before an important English test.
- c. 'Diane, you great! What perfume do you use?'
- d. Those steaks fabulous. Let's eat!
- e. This stone smooth. I found it at the seaside last summer.
- f. This wine sweet.

3 Pretend you are a journalist who was present at the coronation. Describe the event for your readers and include the following information:

- description of the day
- physical description of the Prince and how he behaved
- the reaction of the crowd and how they felt about the Prince
- famous people present
- the coronation itself
- your feelings about the new King

You can begin like this:

Today Ruritania has a new King. It all began early this morning when the young Prince of Ruritania arrived at the station at 9.30...

Write your article in about 100 words.

Before you read



4 Listen to the first part of Chapter Six and fill in the gaps.

Colonel Sapt and I waited in the palace (1) very late that night. We talked together about the ceremony, and about the Duke of Strelsau.

'He's a (2) man,' the Colonel told me. 'But we've defeated him this time – thanks to you, Mr Rassendyll.'

At last (3) was asleep. We went outside to the stables. We found our horses, and put on their saddles.

'Let's go,' the Colonel said (4)

We jumped on the horses and (5) out of the palace grounds. It was exciting to ride through the sleeping (6)

We rode all night on our way (7) to Zenda.

Suddenly we heard two horses following us in the (8) – the Duke and one of his men! We rode on very quickly and managed to lose them at a cross-roads in a forest.

We arrived at Zenda very (9) in the morning.

We went straight to the house – and there we

(10) a terrible tragedy. At first there seemed to be no one in the house. Then we saw some (11) coming from under the locked door of the wine-cellar, where we had left the King. Perhaps the King was dead! We opened the door to the room. The servant Joseph was lying there – he was (12) We looked everywhere for the King, but we could not find him.

CHAPTER SIX



Kingship and Love

7

Colonel Sapt and I waited in the palace until very late that night. We talked together about the ceremony, and about the Duke of Strelsau.

'He's a dangerous man,' the Colonel told me. 'But we've defeated him this time – thanks to you, Mr Rassendyll.'

At last everyone was asleep. We went outside to the stables.¹ We found our horses, and put on their saddles.²

'Let's go,' the Colonel said quietly.

We jumped on the horses and rode out of the palace grounds. It was exciting to ride through the sleeping city.

We rode all night on our way back to Zenda. Suddenly we heard two horses following us in the darkness – the Duke and

1. **stables** : building where horses are kept.

2. **saddles** :

Kingship and Love



one of his men! We rode on very quickly and managed to lose them at a cross-roads¹ in a forest.

We arrived at Zenda very early in the morning. We went straight² to the house – and there we found a terrible tragedy. At first there seemed to be no one in the house. Then we saw some blood coming from under the locked door of the wine-cellar, where we had left the King. Perhaps the King was dead! We opened the door to the room. The servant Joseph was lying there – he was dead. We looked everywhere for the King, but we could not find him.

‘The Duke of Strelsau!’ the Colonel said angrily. ‘He’s been here.’ He pointed at the body of the servant on the floor. ‘This is the Duke’s work!’ he exclaimed.

‘But where’s the King?’ I asked. ‘Do you think the Duke has killed him, too?’

‘No,’ the Colonel replied. ‘I think the King is a prisoner in his brother’s castle.’

‘What do we do?’ I asked.

‘Everything’s changed now,’ the Colonel said thoughtfully. ‘We must change our original plan.’

He thought for a moment.

‘Ruritania needs her King,’ he told me. ‘You will have to be the King for a while longer, Mr Rassendyll.’

‘You want me to go back to Strelsau?’ I asked. ‘But what about the real King? What will happen to him?’

‘You’re the only King we’ve got,’ the Colonel said grimly.

1. **cross-roads** : a place where two roads meet and cross each other.

2. **straight** : without stopping.

The Prisoner of Zenda

'Go back to Strelsau, Mr Rassendyll. You are the King of Ruritania again.'

'But the Duke of Strelsau knows that I'm not the real King,' I said. 'He knows I'm a fake!' ¹

'That's true,' the Colonel admitted. 'He knows you're not the real King, because the real King is his prisoner in the castle here at Zenda. But the Duke can't tell anyone that you're a fake. He can't tell anyone that the real King is a prisoner, can he?'

I nodded ² my head. The Colonel was right.

'Do you think the King is in danger?' I asked. 'Will the Duke kill him?'

Colonel Sapt looked at me very seriously for a moment.

'The King's life is in great danger,' he said slowly. 'The Duke has already killed once. But if he does kill the King,' he went on, 'you'll have to stay here. You're an Elphberg, after all!'

Colonel Sapt and I went outside to our horses. We rode back to the capital. No one saw us enter the palace.

The next day the Colonel and Fritz told me more about the King.

'Do you remember Princess Flavia?' the Colonel asked me. 'She was at the coronation.'

I remembered her very well. She was the beautiful girl I had noticed in the cathedral.

'The King's in love with her,' Colonel Sapt told me.

1. **fake** : impostor.

2. **nodded** : moved his head up and down as a sign of agreement.

Kingship and Love

'Princess Flavia is very popular with the people. Everyone hopes the King will marry her.'

Fritz looked impatiently at Colonel Sapt. He was young and very loyal to the King. He always wanted to be busy, to be doing something to help the King. The older man was also very loyal to the King, but he knew how to wait, how to be patient until the time for action came.

'When are we going to rescue the King?' he asked impatiently. 'We can't sit here in the palace for ever, Colonel!'

'We must be patient,' Colonel Sapt told him. 'The Duke won't kill the King while Mr Rassendyll is here pretending to be the King. He'll wait and see what we do. We must wait, too.'

'You know that some of the Six are here in Strelsau?' Fritz asked.

The Colonel nodded.

'Yes,' he replied. 'The Duke sent them here to spy¹ on Mr Rassendyll.'

'Who are the Six?' I said.

'They're the Duke's favourite soldiers,' Fritz told me. 'They're the most dangerous men in the country, and they're very loyal to the Duke. They do everything he tells them to.'

'Three of them are Ruritanians,' the Colonel explained. 'There's also a Frenchman, a Belgian and an Englishman. But the most dangerous of the Six is Rupert Hentzau.'

The three of us talked for a long time. Fritz and I wanted to

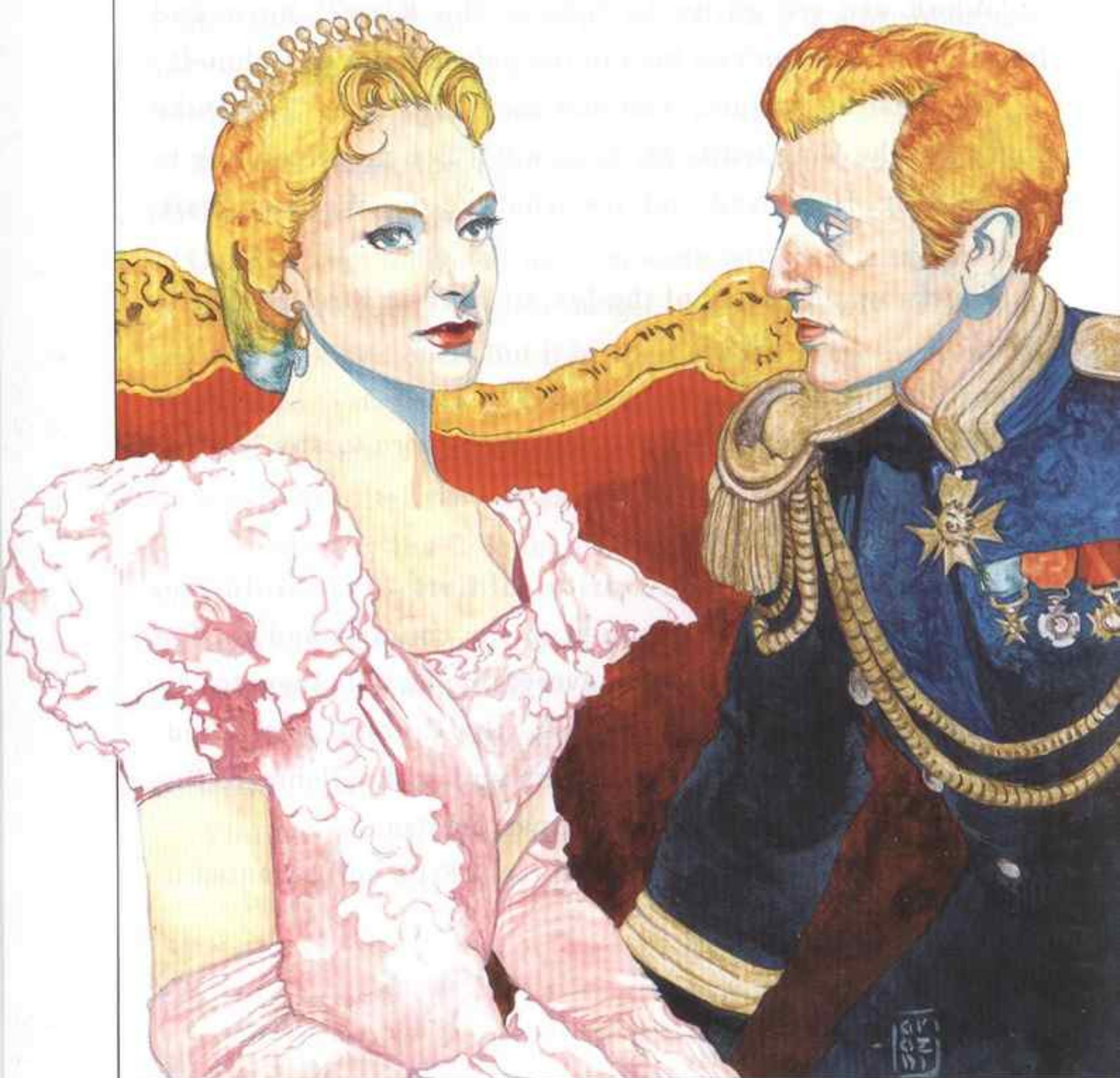
1. **spy** : secretly watch.

The Prisoner of Zenda

do something to help the King, but Colonel Sapt told us to be patient. He said we could do nothing until we knew what the Duke was planning.

'Be patient, my friends,' he said. 'The time for action will come soon.'

'Very well,' I agreed. 'We'll do nothing until you tell us,



Kingship and Love



Colonel. But meanwhile, I'm the King of Ruritania. Let's enjoy ourselves this evening!'

We all went out that evening to visit Princess Flavia. Fritz told me that he was in love with one of the Princess's ladies-in-waiting.¹

'Countess Helga is very beautiful,' he said. 'We'll see her when we arrive.'

Princess Flavia was very happy to see me. She did not realise that I was not the real King. She seemed worried about something, though, and I asked her what was the matter.

'It's your brother,' she said. 'I think Michael is dangerous. Please be careful, Your Majesty!'

'I'm not frightened of Michael,' I told her.

She looked at me very seriously.

'Your life is important to Ruritania,' she told me. 'And to your friends, as well,' she added with a tender² look.

I began to fall in love with Princess Flavia that evening. It was difficult for me not to tell her the truth. I wanted to tell her who I really was. But I was playing a dangerous game – and the King's life depended on me. I kept silent.

1. **ladies-in-waiting** : ladies who serve a princess.

2. **tender** : affectionate.

Go back to the text

- 1** Look at the statements below about Chapter Six.
 Decide if each statement is correct or incorrect.
 If it is correct, tick (✓) A. If it is not correct, tick (✗) B.

A B

1. Colonel Sapt and Rudolf rode all night back to Strelsau.
2. The Duke and his six most trusted men followed Colonel Sapt and Rudolf.
3. When Colonel Sapt and Rudolf arrived at the castle they discovered that the servant Joseph had been killed.
4. They also discovered that the King was sleeping in the wine-cellar.
5. Rudolf now had to continue being the King.
6. The Duke could now tell everybody that Rudolf Rassendyll was not the real King.
7. Princess Flavia was not worried about the King's safety.

We'll do nothing until you tell us.

Look at the following sentences.

Notice how the present tense and 'will' are used in these sentences with **if**, **until**, **as soon as** and **when**.

We'll do nothing until you tell us.

If you go to Ruritania you will see the new king.

As soon as I arrive in Zenda I will send you a telegram.

When Rose arrives I will ask her about that picture.

What tense is used in the part of the sentence with 'if', 'until', 'as soon as' and 'when'?

What tense is used in the main clause of the sentence?

2 Form sentences with the Present Simple and the future with 'will' using the elements given.

Example: Rudolf/not go back/to England/until/the real King/return

Rudolf will not go back to England until the real King returns.

- a. as soon as/I/arrive in London/I/call/you.

.....
.....

- b. you/understand why Rose is upset/when/you/see/the painting of Countess Amelia.

.....
.....

- c. if/the Duke of Strelsau/become/king/he/kill/you.

.....
.....

- d. I/do/nothing/until/I/hear from you.

.....
.....

- e. when/enter/the station/you/see/a statue of the King of Ruritania.

.....
.....

- f. he/never/help/you/if/you/not give/him/some money.

.....
.....

- g. as soon as/they/understand that you are here/they/call the guards.

.....
.....

Before you read

1 What do you think will happen next?

We saw on page 24 that we use 'will' for predictions. With your partner discuss what you think will happen in the story, and then present your opinions to the class, using 'will'. You should comment on:

- what will happen to the kidnapped Prince
- what will happen between Princess Flavia and Rudolf
- who will become the King of Ruritania
- what will happen to the Duke of Strelsau



2 Read the following sentences and then listen to the first part of Chapter Seven.

Decide if each sentence is correct or incorrect.

If it is correct, tick (✓) A. If it is not correct, tick (✗) B.

A B

1. The morning after the coronation Colonel Sapt brought Rudolf a letter.
2. The letter was from Princess Flavia.
3. The letter asked him to come to an old house.
4. Colonel Sapt thought that the Duke's men wanted to kill Rudolf.
5. Rudolf did not want to go.
6. Colonel Sapt and Rudolf both brought pistols with them.
7. Rudolf entered the house alone.

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

CHAPTER SEVEN



A Dangerous Meeting

The next morning Colonel Sapt came into my room at the palace. He was carrying a letter for me. He looked at the writing on the envelope before he gave me the letter.

'From a woman, I think,' he said with a smile. 'I wonder who it is?'

At first I thought the letter was from Princess Flavia. I opened it excitedly and began to read.

Your Majesty,

I have important news for the King. Come to the old house in New Avenue tonight. Do not come with anyone else.

Antoinette De Mauban

I handed the letter to the Colonel. He read it quickly.

The Prisoner of Zenda

'You can't go,' he decided. 'Antoinette De Mauban is a friend of the Duke's. They want to catch you alone and kill you.'

'I must go,' I argued. 'She says she has important news. Perhaps she wants to help us.'

'I forbid it,' the Colonel said angrily. 'The Duke's men will kill you if you go to this meeting tonight.'

'I'm going,' I announced firmly.¹ 'If you try to stop me, I'll go straight back to England!'

Colonel Sapt looked at me in surprise. He was beginning to understand me. We Rassendylls can be very stubborn!²

'All right,' he agreed at last, 'you can go if you want to – but I'm going with you, Mr Rassendyll!'

The Colonel and I left the palace very secretly that night. We were both carrying pistols in our pockets. We went to the old house in New Avenue and I left Colonel Sapt at the gate. I entered the grounds of the house, and saw someone in the summerhouse.³

I walked across the garden to the summerhouse. Antoinette De Mauban turned to greet me when I entered. She was very pale and nervous.

'You're in danger, Mr Rassendyll,' she told me quickly. 'Michael forced me to write that letter to you. I didn't want to do it. His men will be here in a few minutes. They want to kill you. Then they're going to say the King is dead. They'll arrest

1. **firmly** : decisively.

2. **stubborn** : determined.

3. **summerhouse** :



A Dangerous Meeting

all your friends, and Michael will be the new King. You must escape from here. Go quickly!"

I did not move.

"Why are you telling me this?" I asked her. "Michael's your friend, isn't he?"

She looked at me unhappily.

"I love him," she said sadly. "But I know he'll marry Princess Flavia if he becomes King. That's why I'm helping you, Mr Rassendyll."

Suddenly I heard a noise outside in the garden. I turned towards the door of the summerhouse and locked it. I could see three men standing outside in the garden – three of the



The Prisoner of Zenda

Six! One of them began speaking softly in English. It was the Duke's man, Detchard.

'We just want to talk,' he said. 'We've come from Duke Michael. He wants to make you an offer, Mr Rassendyll.'

'What kind of an offer?' I asked.

'The Duke wants you out of the country,' the man said. 'He'll give you fifty thousand pounds if you leave Ruritania.'

Antoinette De Mauban moved close to me. She put her hand on my arm.

'Don't trust ¹ them,' she whispered urgently.

I moved very quietly away from the door of the summerhouse. I picked up a small tea table.

'All right,' I called. 'I'm coming out now.'

I held the tea table in front of me and ran out of the summerhouse into the garden. I pushed two of the Duke's men onto the ground as I ran past them. Then I heard Detchard shouting. He fired a pistol ² at me, but it missed. I turned and fired my pistol. He gave a cry of pain. I continued running.

Colonel Sapt was waiting for me when I reached the road.

'What happened?' he asked. 'I thought you were dead when I heard the shooting.'

We went back to the palace. When we arrived, I told him everything that had happened in the summerhouse.

1. **trust** : believe.

2. **fired a pistol** : shot.

Go back to the text

1 Answer the following questions.

- What did Colonel Sapt learn about the character of the Rassendylls?
- What did Antoinette De Mauban look like when Rudolf met her in the summerhouse?
- Why did Antoinette De Mauban write the letter to Rudolf?
- What were the Duke's plans?
- Why did Antoinette De Mauban reveal the Duke's plan's to Rudolf?
- What did Detchard say was the Duke's offer?
- Who was wounded by a pistol?

The Man with a *Velvet*¹ Voice

Our mystery actor was one of the greatest stars of Hollywood from 1930 to 1949. He was born in Richmond, Surrey, England on February 9, 1891 to a wealthy² family. He attended a boarding school³ in Sussex, where he discovered the amateur theatre, but he was planning to become an engineer. However, his father's early death made this plan impossible. During the First World War, he was sent to fight in France, where he was severely wounded. He then decided he wanted to enter the diplomatic service, but instead he won a small role in a London play. From then on, he worked to become an actor.

In 1920, he decided to go to New York. After a couple of years he landed⁴ a starring role on Broadway, and then in 1923 he had a starring role in an important film.

This was the period of silent films. Our actor was especially famous for his roles in adventure films, but he really became famous when

- Velvet** : (here) deep and soft.
- wealthy** : rich.
- boarding school** : a school where students also eat and sleep.
- landed** : (here) was given.

talking films were introduced at the end of the 1920s. Our actor's smooth,¹ British voice made many young women fall in love with him. Our actor's first memorable role was as Sydney Carton in the film version of Charles Dickens' novel *A Tale of Two Cities*. This was a historical film with, 'a cast of thousands'. It takes place in Paris during the French Revolution.

In 1937 our actor played the roles of Rudolf V of Ruritania and Rudolf Rassendyll in the film version of *The Prisoner of Zenda*.

Also in 1937, our actor appeared in another classic, *Lost Horizon*, the

story of a diplomat whose plane crashes in the mountains of Tibet. The passengers survive and walk to a strange land called Shangri-La, a land of peace and prosperity where people live to be extremely old. The diplomat falls in love with a woman, and is even chosen to replace the religious leader of the community.

In the 1942 film *The Talk of the Town* he played a law professor who decides to spend his holidays

in a peaceful little cottage in the countryside. Unfortunately, in the same house is a young man who has escaped from prison. This young man is falsely accused of murder and of burning down a factory. The young man tries to convince the professor that laws are made for people. This film is not a drama, though, but an entertaining social comedy.

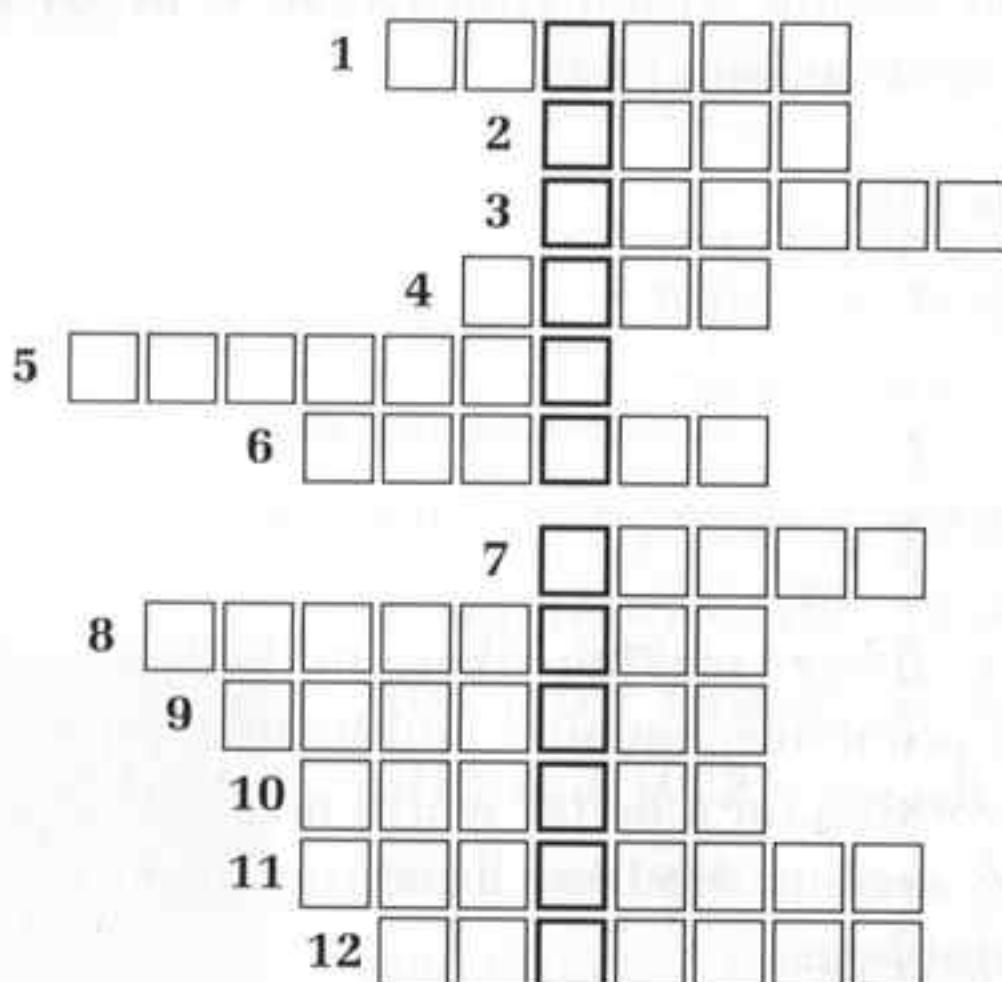
Finally, our actor won an Academy Award in 1948. The film was called *A Double Life*, and he played Anthony John. Anthony is a schizophrenic actor who believes that his plays are reality. The situation of the film is especially frightening since he is about to play Othello, the jealous general who kills his wife.

Our actor died in 1958, but his charm and velvet voice live on in his great films.



1. smooth : (here) soft.

2 Complete the puzzle below to discover the name of the mystery actor.



1. I prohibit you to do that. = I ... you to do that.
2. The game has ended. = The game is
3. He moved his head up and down to show me that he agreed with me. = He
4. That is not a real ten euro banknote. = That ten euro banknote is a
5. That man is the most important officer in the army of Ruritania. = That man is the ... of the Ruritanian army.
6. Something you sit on when riding a horse.
7. Something special a king wears on his head.
8. When Rudolf Rassendyll decides to do something, it is very difficult to convince him not to do it. = Rudolf Rassendyll is
9. That is the building where the horses stay. = Those are the
10. Rudolf told them decisively that he was going to see Antoinette De Mauban. = Rudolf told them ... that he was going to see Antoinette De Mauban.
11. We rode to Zenda without stopping. = We rode ... to Zenda.
12. Rudolf rode so quickly that he succeeded in losing the Duke. = Rudolf rode so quickly that he ... to lose the Duke.

PET 3 The four people below all want to see a film. Look again at the description of the four famous films in 'The Man with a Velvet Voice'. Then decide which film (A, B, C or D) would be most suitable for each person (1-4).

- A *A Double Life*
- B *The Talk of the Town*
- C *A Tale of Two Cities*
- D *Lost Horizon*

1. Jorge is always making jokes, but he is very interested in world problems, equality and justice. Jorge doesn't think that working for a better world means that you have to be always serious. He likes humorous films that talk about real problems.
2. Susan is the manager of a big company and sometimes works twelve hours a day. She is always busy, so when she goes to see a film she likes it to take her away from this world. She likes fantastic stories in strange imaginary places. For her, going to the cinema is like a holiday.
3. Janet works in a bank. Her favourite part of her job is not working with money, but studying the people around her. In fact, her dream is to go to university to study psychology. She often goes to films that present unusual character studies.
4. Harry is from Houston, Texas, one of the most modern cities in the world. Perhaps this is the reason he enjoys films about history, especially European history. He likes to see the important events he has read about come to life.

Film versions of The Prisoner of Zenda

The Prisoner of Zenda was Sir Anthony Hope's only truly successful novel, and like *Dracula*, Bram Stoker's only successful novel, it has gone on to become a kind of a modern myth. It has been presented many times, first as a play and then

in numerous film versions. The first three film versions of 1912, 1915 and 1922 were all silent. The third one was a huge success. It was directed by Rex Ingram, who one year earlier had made one of the great blockbusters of film history, *The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse*. The star of this film was a little-known supporting actor who went on to become the greatest lover of the silver screen, Rudolf Valentino. When Ingram first began thinking about making *Zenda* he wanted a thirty-year-old, German-looking, blond actor who was at least six feet tall for the role



Poster of Selznick's film version of *The Prisoner of Zenda* (1937).

Stewart Granger
and Deborah Kerr
in a scene from the
1952 version of
*The Prisoner of
Zenda*.



of Rupert Hentzau. Instead, he chose a short, 23-year-old, dark-haired, little-known actor named Ramon Samaniego. Once again Ingram was right: Ramon Novarro, as he was later known to filmgoers, became another idol of silent films.

However, the screen life of *The Prisoner of Zenda* had only just begun. In 1937 the best film version of this story came out. It was produced by David O Selznick for MGM studios, and it was done with all the artful precision of Selznick's other films (*Gone With the Wind* of 1939, which won eight Oscars, is his most famous). All the actors in this film were already stars, but once

again, the role of the lovable villain Rupert of Hentzau almost stole the show. It was played by Douglas Fairbanks Jr, the son of the man who made the most successful swashbucklers of the silent era, Douglas Fairbanks Sr. This film is now considered one of the best films of Hollywood's 'Golden Age' (the 1930s and 1940s), and it was honoured in 1991 by the United States government's National Film Preservation Board.

Zenda continued to tempt film producers. In 1952, Hollywood did another version of *Zenda*. Although it was not as successful as the 1937 version, it was still a big success. It is interesting to note that this film starring the British actor Stewart Granger as Rudolf Rassendyll/Rudolf V, does not even mention the infidelity of Rudolf Rassendyll's dashing ancestor. Rose Rassendyll would have been happy with this version of her family's history!

Then in 1979, the British produced a comic version of the film with Peter Sellers playing a cockney cab driver who is the Rudolf Rassendyll of this film. There was even a science-fiction version of the story, the 1978 television series *The Androids of Tara* (originally entitled *The Androids of Zend!*) and a children's animated film version in 1998.

But why has this 1894 novel become a kind of a modern legend? First of all, any successful film will be remade sooner or later: this is almost a natural law of Hollywood. Secondly, swashbuckling has never gone out of fashion: historic and even science-fiction swashbucklers are still popular. But maybe it is the story of the dissolute king and his heroic double which really fascinates us? Or perhaps, it is because this story shows us that it

is strength of character that makes great leaders. Therefore, anyone, even a humble filmgoer, might turn out to be the best king and win the heart of a princess, or as Anthony Hope wrote, 'God does not always make the right men kings.'

1 Answer the following questions.

- a. What do the novels *Dracula* and *The Prisoner of Zenda* have in common?
- b. When did *The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse* come out?
- c. Why was Ramon Samaniego a strange choice for the role of Rupert Hentzau?
- d. Which is considered the best film version of *The Prisoner of Zenda*?
- e. When was the 'Golden Age' of Hollywood?
- f. Why would Rose Rassendyll be so happy with the 1952 film version of *Zenda*?
- g. Why has *The Prisoner of Zenda* been so popular?

Before you read

- 1** Fill in the gaps with the words in the box. Then listen to the first part of Chapter Eight to check your answers.

each	much	behaved	remember	
new	who	too	very	followed
		pretend	one	once

The days that (1) were very difficult for me. I saw Princess Flavia (2) often. (3) time I saw her I loved her more. She, (4), seemed to love me more each time we met. I (5) that there was a ball one night, and I gave Princess Flavia a red rose.

I (6) like all young men when they are in love. 'You're different, Rudolf,' she told me (7) 'You changed when you became King. You're a (8) man!'

I wanted to tell her (9) I really was. I wanted to tell her that I was not the King of Ruritania. I wanted her to love Rudolf Rassendyll, not the King of Ruritania!

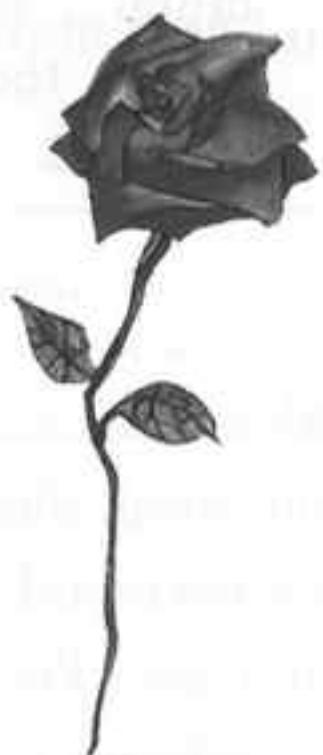
Sometimes I imagined the future.

'Will I always have to (10) to be the King? Will I marry Princess Flavia? Will she become my queen?'

(11) day she and I were talking. She said to me, 'You are the King. Why can't you be an ordinary man? Then I'd show you how (12) I love you!'

CHAPTER EIGHT

A King's Love



9

The days that followed were very difficult for me. I saw Princess Flavia very often. Each time I saw her I loved her more. She, too, seemed to love me more each time we met. I remember that there was a ball one night, and I gave Princess Flavia a red rose. I behaved like all young men when they are in love.

'You're different, Rudolf,' she told me once. 'You changed when you became King. You're a new man!'

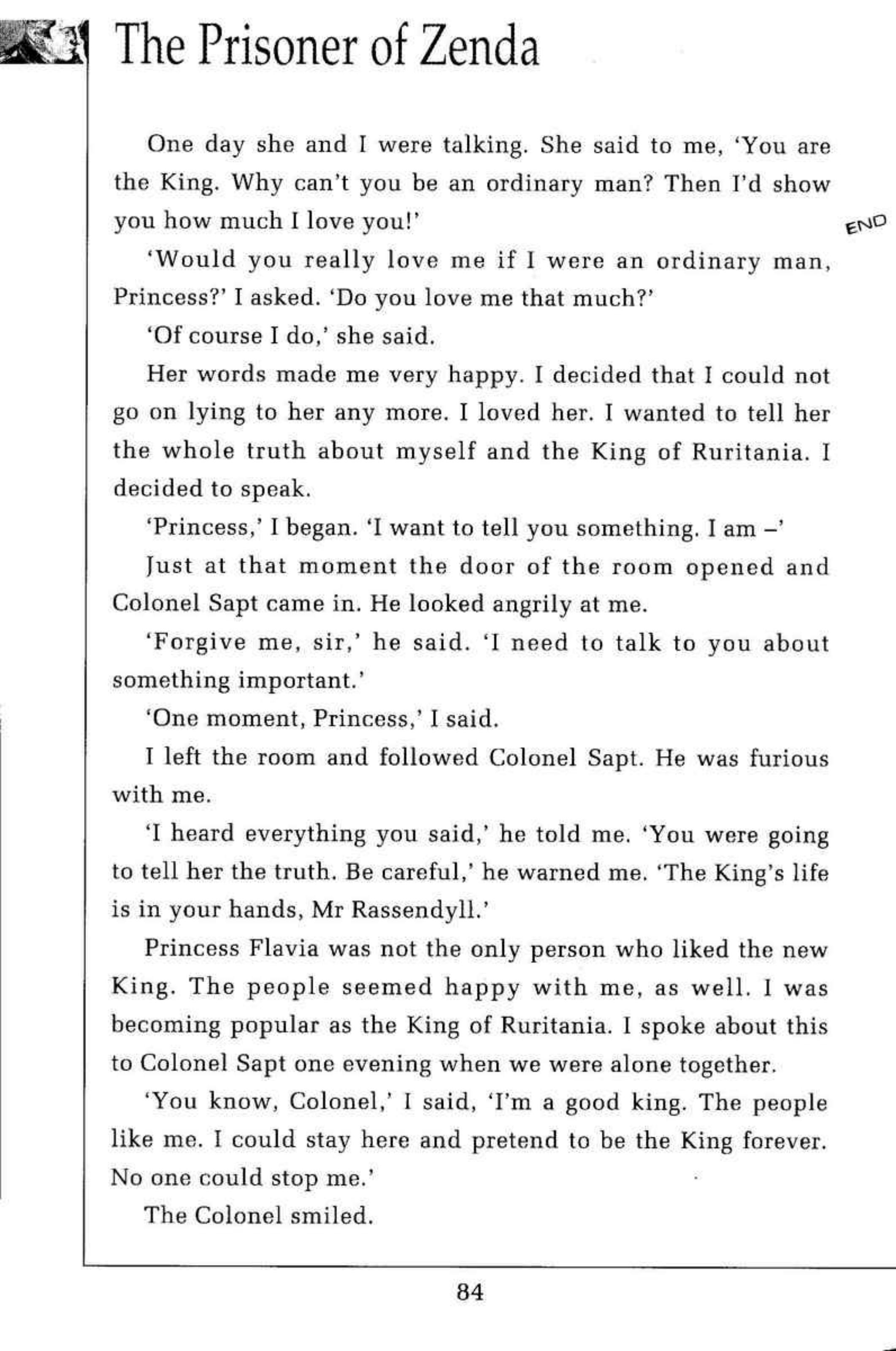
I wanted to tell her who I really was. I wanted to tell her that I was not the King of Ruritania. I wanted her to love Rudolf Rassendyll, not the King of Ruritania!

Sometimes I imagined the future.

'Will I always have to pretend to be the King? Will I marry Princess Flavia? Will she become my queen?'

A King's Love





The Prisoner of Zenda

One day she and I were talking. She said to me, 'You are the King. Why can't you be an ordinary man? Then I'd show you how much I love you!'

END

'Would you really love me if I were an ordinary man, Princess?' I asked. 'Do you love me that much?'

'Of course I do,' she said.

Her words made me very happy. I decided that I could not go on lying to her any more. I loved her. I wanted to tell her the whole truth about myself and the King of Ruritania. I decided to speak.

'Princess,' I began. 'I want to tell you something. I am -'

Just at that moment the door of the room opened and Colonel Sapt came in. He looked angrily at me.

'Forgive me, sir,' he said. 'I need to talk to you about something important.'

'One moment, Princess,' I said.

I left the room and followed Colonel Sapt. He was furious with me.

'I heard everything you said,' he told me. 'You were going to tell her the truth. Be careful,' he warned me. 'The King's life is in your hands, Mr Rassendyll.'

Princess Flavia was not the only person who liked the new King. The people seemed happy with me, as well. I was becoming popular as the King of Ruritania. I spoke about this to Colonel Sapt one evening when we were alone together.

'You know, Colonel,' I said, 'I'm a good king. The people like me. I could stay here and pretend to be the King forever. No one could stop me.'

The Colonel smiled.

A King's Love



'It's true,' he agreed. 'No one could stop you. But I know you're a man of honour, Mr Rassendyll. I know you'll help us to find the real King. And then you'll have to leave the country. There can't be two Rudolfs in Ruritania!'

I sighed deeply. The Colonel was right.

'I promised to help the King,' I said, 'and I will help him. I'll help him even if – even if –'

'Even if the real King marries Princess Flavia?' the Colonel asked gently.

'Even that,' I replied. 'The Princess will marry the King. It's her duty, Colonel. You know that.'

Go back to the text

1 Answer the following questions.

- a. How did Rudolf and Flavia feel about each other?
- b. What did Flavia notice about the man whom she thought was the King?
- c. What did Rudolf want Princess Flavia to do?
- d. Why did Princess Flavia want her king to be just an ordinary man?
- e. What did Rudolf want to tell Princess Flavia?
- f. Why was Colonel Sapt furious with Rudolf?
- g. What did Rudolf promise Colonel Sapt?

REVIEW 2 Read the summary of Chapters Five to Eight and choose the correct word for each space.

For each question, mark the letter next to the correct word – A, B, C or D.

Early in the morning (0) A the day of the coronation, Rudolf Rassendyll and Colonel Sapt rode from Zenda to Strelsau. They were greeted by a large (1) at the station. They rode through the new part of Strelsau, (2) was very loyal to Prince Rudolf. Then they rode through the old part of the town, where the people did not like the Prince. The marshal ordered (3) soldiers to ride next to Rudolf to protect him. Rudolf decided to ride out in front.

When the Duke of Strelsau saw Rudolf enter the cathedral for the coronation he was (4) surprised. Rudolf saw the beautiful Princess Flavia for the first (5)

Finally when everybody was sleeping, Rudolf and Colonel Sapt rode (6) to Zenda, where they discovered a tragedy. The servant Joseph had been killed, and the real King Rudolf was a prisoner at his brother's castle.

Colonel Sapt told Rudolf that he (7) to be the King for a

little longer. The Duke could not kill the real King, and they had to wait for the right moment to save him.

They went to visit Princess Flavia, and Rudolf Rassendyll began to (8) in love with her.

The next morning, Rudolf received a note from Antoinette De Mauban. Rudolf met Antoinette in a summerhouse in New Avenue. She told him the Duke's men were coming to kill him. They heard some of the Duke's men outside the door. They offered him £50,000 to leave Ruritania. Rudolf refused and (9) to escape from the summerhouse.

Rudolf began to see Princess Flavia quite often. She told him that he had changed. Rudolf (10) her if she would love him if he were just an ordinary man. The Princess told him that she would. Rudolf wanted to tell her the truth, but just as he was about to do so, Colonel Sapt entered the room.

Rudolf said that he was a good king and that people liked him. He could stay in Ruritania forever. Colonel Sapt agreed with him, but he said that he knew that Rudolf was a man of honour, who would help him to look for the real King. Rudolf said that he would look for the real King even if the real King would then marry his true love, Princess Flavia.

- | | | | |
|-----------------|-----------|-------------|-----------|
| 0. A on | B in | C of | D at |
| 1. A audience | B crowd | C public | D gang |
| 2. A who | B whose | C which | D whom |
| 3. A some | B any | C every | D each |
| 4. A much | B very | C lot | D great |
| 5. A moment | B time | C occasion | D place |
| 6. A back | B return | C backwards | D reverse |
| 7. A must | B have | C had | D obliged |
| 8. A go | B be | C become | D fall |
| 9. A succeeded | B managed | C able | D could |
| 10. A explained | B said | C told | D asked |

INTERNET PROJECT

Swashbucklers on the Net

The Prisoner of Zenda has been popular as a book and in its many film versions since 1894. One reason, certainly, is that it is a story about dashing swordsmen. In other words, it is a swashbuckler. But swashbucklers have a long and varied history which continues to this day.

Explore the sites suggested by your teacher, and try to find the answers to the following questions.

- 1 Who were the following authors of famous swashbucklers and what are the names of some of their books?
 - Alexandre Dumas, père
 - Sir Walter Scott
 - Robert Louis Stevenson
 - Arthur Conan Doyle
- 2 What is the origin of the term 'swashbuckler' ?
- 3 What are some of the most famous medieval swashbucklers?
- 4 What are some of the most famous science-fiction swashbucklers?

Before you read

PET

10

1 Listen to the first part of Chapter Nine.

For each question, put a tick (✓) in the correct box.

1. Who decided that it was time to save the King?
A Colonel Sapt.
B Rudolf Rassendyll.
C Rupert Hentzau.

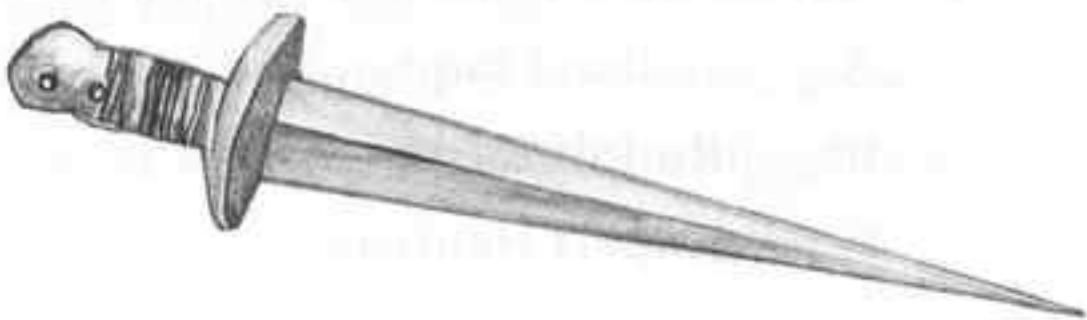
2. What were they going to tell everyone they were doing in Zenda?
A Hunting.
B Trying to rescue the King.
C Spending the afternoon in the garden.

3. Which of the following was not one of the offers that Rupert Hentzau made to Rudolf Rassendyll?
A One million crowns if he would be the King forever.
B One million crowns if he would leave Ruritania.
C His help and that of his friends, if Rudolf Rassendyll wanted to be King forever.

4. What did Rupert Hentzau say that he wanted to do?
A Become King.
B Marry Princess Flavia.
C Become the Duke of Strelsau.

5. What was Rudolf's answer to Rupert Hentzau?
A Maybe.
B No.
C Yes.

CHAPTER NINE



Return to Zenda

10

At last Colonel Sapt decided that the time was right for rescuing the real King.

'We'll go to Zenda together,' the Colonel explained. 'We'll tell everyone that we're going hunting¹ there. No one will suspect anything.'

We took ten soldiers with us. The soldiers did not know the real truth. They thought I was the King. The Colonel told them I was in danger. He said someone had tried to kill me in the summerhouse in New Avenue.

We stayed in Zenda for a few days while the Colonel made his plans to get inside the castle. One afternoon I was sitting in the garden of the house, when Rupert Hentzau rode up to the house. He waved at me and smiled cheerfully. Then he got

1. **hunting** : chasing animals for food or sport.

Return to Zenda

down from his horse and came into the garden.

'I've come with another offer from the Duke,' he said.

'I don't want to hear it,' I told him.

'The Duke will give you one million crowns if you leave Ruritania,' Rupert said. 'What do you say?'

'No,' I replied coldly.

'I thought you'd say that,' Rupert told me with a smile. 'I told the Duke it was no good. You're a gentleman, Mr Rassendyll – but you're a fool as well!'

I said nothing, and we looked at each other for a few minutes in silence. Then Rupert spoke again.

'Listen to me,' he said. 'You could really be the King of Ruritania, if you want. My friends and I will help you. Being king is fun, isn't it, Mr Rassendyll? And the King will marry Princess Flavia, won't he?'

I still said nothing.

'We'll help you, and you help us,' he went on. 'I want to be the Duke of Strelsau. I like the Duke's castle – and I like his lady as well,' he laughed. 'Antoinette De Mauban's a beauty!'

'No,' I said again. 'I promised to help the King – and I'll keep my promise.'

'I like you, Rassendyll,' Rupert said. He spoke in a friendly way. 'I don't want to be your enemy. Shake my hand before I go. You're a brave man.'

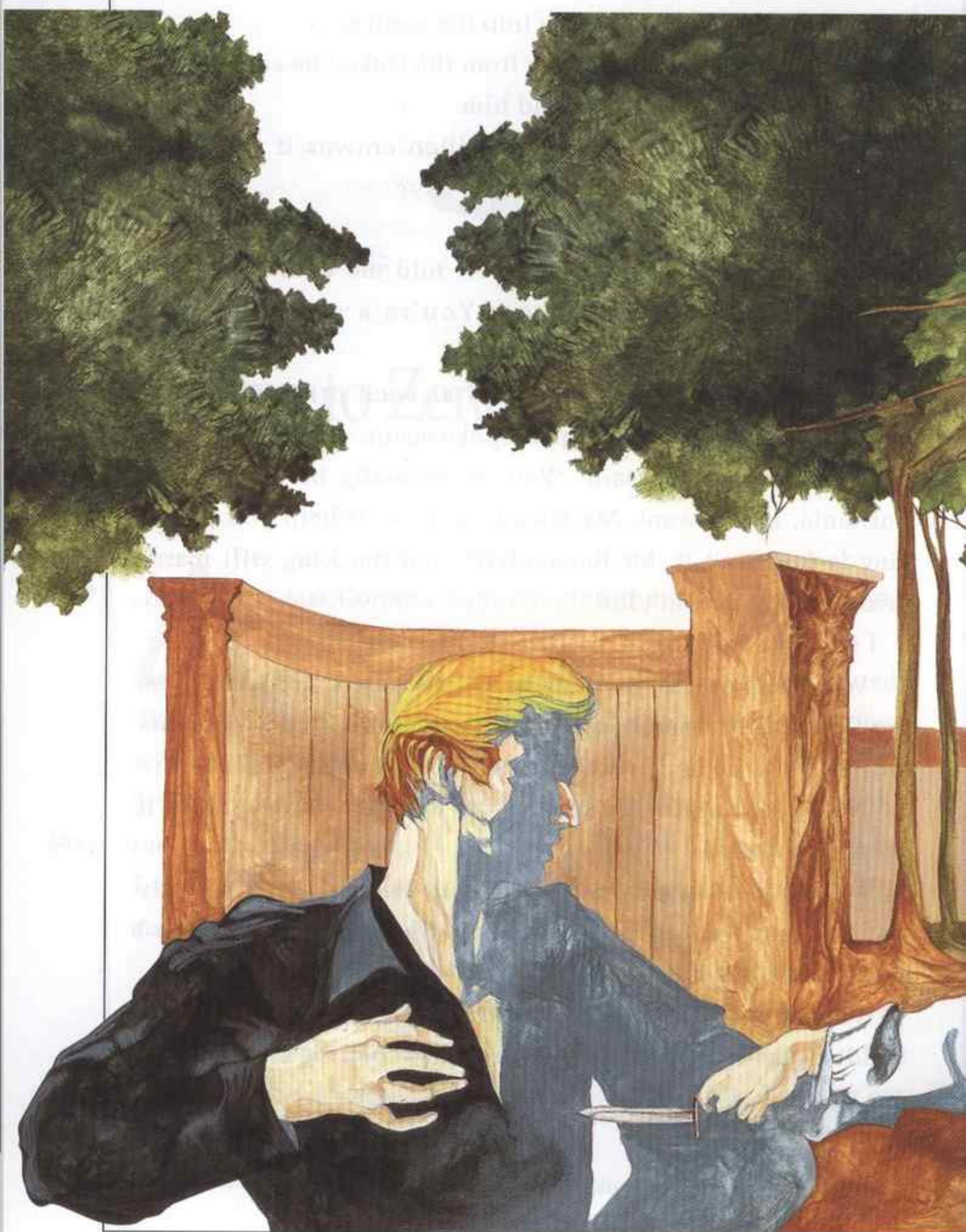
He put out his hand for me to shake. He was smiling. Suddenly he took out a dagger¹ from his coat. He stabbed² me

END

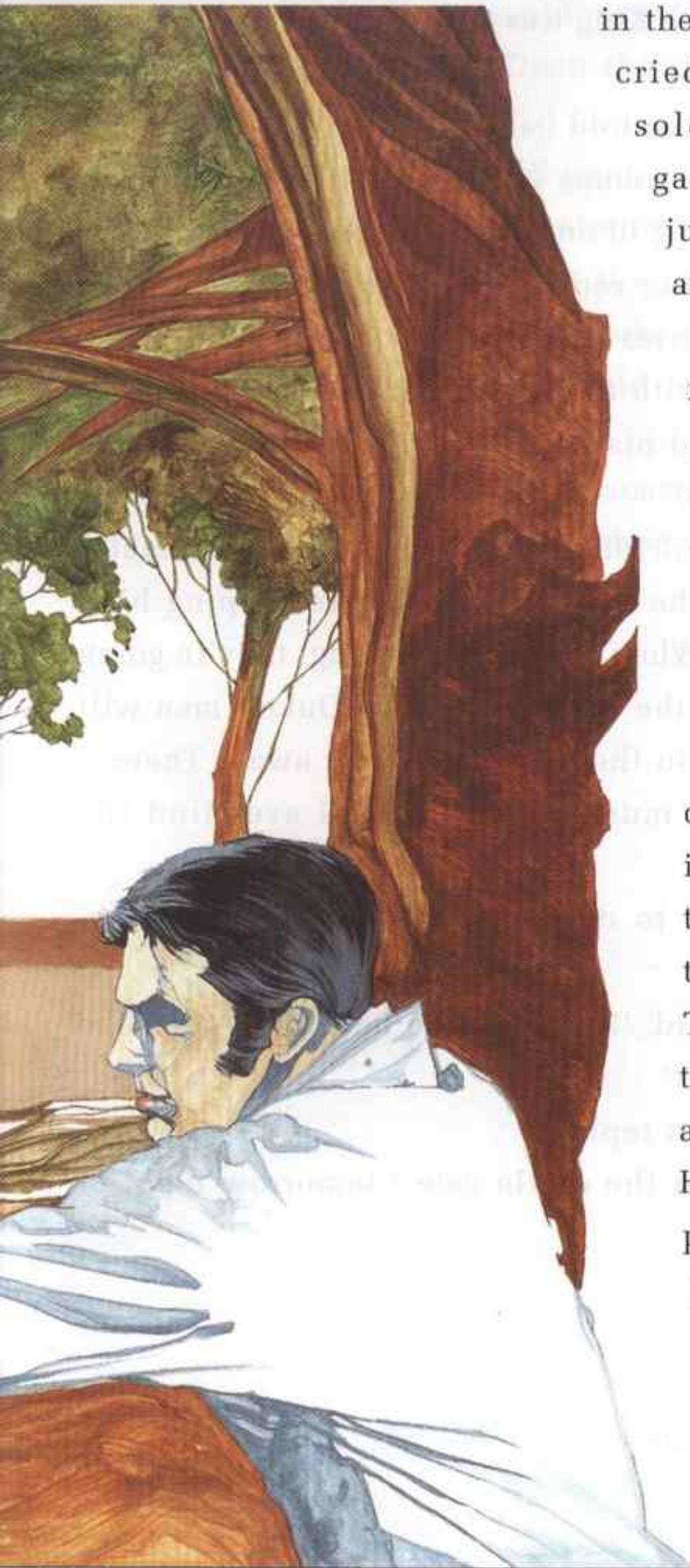
1. **dagger** : knife.

2. **stabbed** : hurt with a knife.

The Prisoner of Zenda



Return to Zenda



in the arm with the dagger. I cried out in pain and the soldiers ran into the garden. Rupert Hentzau jumped onto his horse and rode away.

The soldiers carried me into the house and put me to bed. My arm was very painful.

That evening Fritz came to the house to see me. He brought someone with him. I recognised Johann, the old man from the hotel in Zenda. I remembered that Johann worked for the Duke of Strelitz. The three of us talked together, and Johann agreed to work with us. He knew the King was a prisoner in the castle. He was afraid of the Duke, he told us.

The Prisoner of Zenda

Johann told us that the King was still alive but he was very ill.

'He'll die soon,' Johann told us.

'There are two secret rooms in the castle,' he explained. 'They're holding the King in one of the rooms. Two members of the Six are in the other room. The Duke has told them to kill the King if anyone tries to rescue him.'

'What will they do with the King's body?' I asked him. 'If they kill him, we'll find his body. Everybody will know the Duke's a murderer then.'

'They've got a plan,' Johann told me. 'There's a metal pipe¹ that goes from the room where they're keeping him, down into the moat.² When they kill the King, they're going to throw the body into the castle moat. The Duke's men will slide down the pipe into the moat and swim away. There'll be no evidence of the murder. No one will ever find the King's body.'

I knew that we had to do something to save the King. Suddenly I had an idea.

'Listen, Johann,' I said, 'I want you to help us to enter the castle. Will you do that?'

'Yes, sir,' the old man replied.

'Good,' I said. 'Open the castle gate³ tomorrow night at two o'clock.'

1. metal pipe :



2. moat : water around a castle.



3. gate :

Return to Zenda



'What do I do then?' the old man asked nervously.

'Nothing,' I told him. 'Open the castle gate, and then go away. Leave the castle.'

'Very well,' he agreed. 'I'll do it.'

I gave Johann a letter for Antoinette De Mauban. I told her to make a noise at two o'clock the next night. I wanted her to shout for help. I wanted the Duke to go to her room when she cried for help. Then we could enter the castle through the gate.

The next night I hid near the castle and watched. It was very dark, and the castle seemed huge¹ against the sky.

1. **huge** : very big.

Go back to the text**1** Look at the statements below about Chapter Nine.

Decide if each statement is correct or incorrect.

If it is correct, tick (✓) A. If it is not correct, tick (✗) B.

A B

1. The ten soldiers who went with Colonel Sapt and Rudolf did not know the real reason they were going to Zenda.
2. Rupert Hentzau desired Antoinette De Mauban.
3. Rupert Hentzau stabbed Rudolf.
4. Johann agreed that he would work for Rudolf and Sapt instead of the Duke.
5. There were six secret rooms in the castle.
6. The Duke told the guards to kill the King if anyone tried to rescue him.
7. Johann agreed to make a noise at two o'clock to attract the Duke's attention.
8. Rudolf gave Johann a letter for Antoinette De Mauban.

The King will marry Princess Flavia, won't he?

Look at these two questions asked by Rupert.

*Being king is fun, isn't it, Mr Rassendyll?**And the King will marry Princess Flavia, won't he?*

Rupert is not asking for information: he already knows that being king is fun, and that the real King will marry Princess Flavia. He is asking Rudolf to confirm his ideas.

The mini-questions attached to the end of these sentence are called **question tags**.

They are formed with the auxiliary verbs (*is, are, was, were, have, had, will, can, could, do, does* and *did*) of the main verb of the sentence.

They are often used to ask someone to confirm information or to check facts.

Question tags for affirmative sentences are generally negative:

You like cats, don't you?

He went to Zenda, didn't he?

And question tags for negative sentences are generally affirmative:

You don't like cats, do you?

He didn't go to Zenda, did he?

2 A. Match the question tag with the right sentence.

do you aren't they didn't he wasn't he hadn't she
can't she haven't you won't she isn't it

- a. You have got a car,?
- b. You don't like dogs,?
- c. Rome is the capital of Italy,?
- d. She will help you,?
- e. Anthony Hope wrote *The Prisoner of Zenda*,?
- f. Samuel was helping you,?
- g. She can speak Spanish,?
- h. They are going to come to the meeting,?
- i. She had already eaten,?

B. Put the right questions tags into this conversation between the Duke of Strelsau and Rupert Hentzau.

Duke: You went to see Rudolf Rassendyll,?

Rupert: Yes, of course.

Duke: He won't accept my offer,?

Rupert: No, but we knew he wouldn't.

Duke: I see, and then you killed him,

Rupert: Well, Duke, I tried, but I didn't succeed.

Duke: You didn't kill him! Well, I imagine that you are working on another plan,

Rupert: Yes, I am. But it will be difficult.

Duke: Well, we can't keep the real King prisoner forever,

Rupert: No, we can't, but I will find a solution. Don't worry.

Duke: I hope so, for your sake. Because if you don't, I will kill you! I am a man of my word,

Rupert: Yes, sir.

Before you read



1 Read the following sentences and then listen to the first part of Chapter Ten.



Decide if each sentence is correct or incorrect.

If it is correct, tick (✓) A. If it is not correct, tick (✗) B.

- | | A | B |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Rudolf jumped into the moat at about two o'clock. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Rudolf saw a light in Antoinette De Mauban's room. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Rupert Hentzau tried to convince Antoinette to help the King. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Antoinette tried to kiss Rupert. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Antoinette screamed when the Duke entered her room. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. The Duke and Rupert began to fight. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. The Duke killed Rupert. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

CHAPTER TEN

Rescue



When it was nearly two o'clock I entered the castle moat. The water was cold. I swam to the metal pipe under the King's cell.¹ It was very close to Antoinette De Mauban's room in the castle.

I looked up at the castle. There was a light in Antoinette De Mauban's room. There was a man in the room with her. It was Rupert Hentzau. They were arguing about something. I saw Rupert approach her, and she walked away from him. I heard her say angrily, 'Never! You're mad.'

'Forget Black Michael,' Rupert told her. 'I'm a better man than he is.'

He moved forward again and tried to kiss Antoinette De

1. cell : prison.



The Prisoner of Zenda

Mauban. She pushed him away angrily. Then I heard someone come into the room. It was the Duke!

'Leave us alone,' he ordered Rupert. Rupert smiled cruelly and left the room. A few minutes later the Duke also left Antoinette De Mauban's room.

The castle was now dark. I was waiting for Johann to open



the gate when there was a terrible scream¹ from Antoinette De Mauban's room.

'Help, Michael!' she cried. 'It's Hentzau, help me!'

I could not see anything, but I heard it all. First there was

1. scream : shout.





The Prisoner of Zenda

the sound of a man running towards Antoinette De Mauban's room – the Duke.

Then I heard the noise of swords. Rupert and the Duke were fighting. One man called out in pain, and there was silence. The window opened, and I saw Rupert standing there. He had killed the Duke of Strelsau! Then more men rushed into the room. They attacked Rupert, but he jumped out of the window into the castle moat.

END

One of the Duke's men tried to follow Rupert. I grabbed ¹ him and killed him quickly and quietly. Then I searched his body for the keys to the King's cell. I took the keys and opened the door that led to the cell. I was now outside the King's cell.

There were two men with the King. They thought I was a friend. They opened the cell door. I ran in and attacked them. I killed one of them immediately. The other man, Detchard, ran towards the King with his sword. The King was weak ² and ill, and he stood in one corner of the cell.

I attacked Detchard before he could kill the King. He was a good swordsman, and we fought for a long time down there in the dark cell. Detchard was stronger than me, and I was in great danger. Suddenly the King recognised who I was.

'Cousin Rudolf!' he cried. 'I'll help you.'

He ran forward and picked up a chair. Then he pushed the chair against Detchard. Detchard turned and wounded the King with his sword. The King fell to the floor. Then Detchard turned back to me, but he slipped on the blood from the King's

1. **grabbed** : took hold of using force.

2. **weak** : opposite of strong.

wound. I killed him as he fell. The fight was over.

I helped the King to climb the steps into the castle. Then we saw a strange sight. There was a group of the Duke's men standing near Rupert Hentzau. Colonel Sapt and our soldiers were approaching Rupert from the other direction. Rupert looked at both groups of enemies and smiled. He did not seem afraid of danger.

Then I saw Antoinette De Mauban. She was standing in a door of the castle – and she was pointing a pistol at Rupert. She fired, but the bullet missed. Rupert turned to her and smiled. Then he looked once at the Duke's men and once at Colonel Sapt and the soldiers.

He ran to the wall and jumped into the castle moat once more. I jumped in after him, but he was a good swimmer. He swam to the other side quickly and climbed out. Then he began to run through the countryside. I ran after him, but he was faster than me. He suddenly turned to the right, and I could not see. Then I heard a scream – it was a woman's voice. I ran as fast as I could towards the sound. Then I saw Rupert. He was pulling a young girl off her horse. He pulled her to the ground, kissed her gently, and jumped onto the horse.

He rode up to me.

'What happened in the castle?' he asked.

'I killed three of your friends,' I told him.

'And the King?' he asked.

'The King is hurt,' I replied sternly,¹ 'but I think he will live. I killed your friend Detchard.'

1. **sternly**: seriously.

The Prisoner of Zenda

'You're a fool!' Rupert said in a friendly way.

'One more thing,' I told him. 'I saved your life. I was behind you on the bridge with a pistol.'

He looked at me in surprise.

'Now get off the horse,' I said angrily. 'Come and fight me like a man.'

I ran towards him and hit him. I was furious. He defended himself, and I think he would have killed me there and then,¹ except for a sudden noise. Someone was coming towards us on a horse. I turned and saw that it was Fritz. He was carrying a pistol.

Rupert looked at Fritz. He stopped fighting me.

'Au revoir, Rassendyll,' he said. Then he rode away laughing.

Back at the castle the King was now lying in Black Michael's own room. His men sent a message to Princess Flavia that he was safe. She now hurried to Zenda to see him.

The Princess immediately set out for Zenda in her carriage. She arrived just as Fritz and I were approaching the castle. Fritz gave me a sudden look. I understood that Princess Flavia must not see me. I hid behind some bushes² near the road.

Just at that moment the young girl whose horse Rupert had taken, came forward. She ran up to Princess Flavia.

'The King is here, Princess!' she cried. 'In the bushes.'

'Nonsense,' one of the soldiers told her. 'The King is in the castle.'

1. **there and then** : immediately.

2. **bushes** : 



'He's here, I tell you!' the girl cried. 'He's here with Count Fritz.'

'How can the King be in two places?' Princess Flavia asked. 'Or are there two kings?'

Colonel Sapt now appeared. He told the Princess that the King was in the castle.

'But this girl says he's here, in the bushes,' the Princess told him.

Colonel Sapt smiled at the girl.

'Every fine gentleman looks like a king to a simple girl like her,' he said.

'I'll see this man,' the Princess decided.

'Then come alone,' Colonel Sapt advised her.

A few minutes later Princess Flavia and the Colonel were standing over me.

'It is the King!' she cried excitedly.

She moved forward to kiss me.

'It is not the King,' Colonel Sapt told her. 'You cannot kiss this man, Princess.'

'Of course he's the King!' Princess Flavia cried. 'It is the King's face – it is my love!'

'Your love, Princess,' the Colonel said slowly, 'but he is not the King.'

'Why do you let them torture me?' the Princess asked me. 'Tell me what it means.'

I looked at her sadly for a moment, then I spoke.

'I am not the King!' I said sadly.

Go back to the text

1 Answer the following questions.

- a. What did Rupert want Antoinette to do?
- b. Why did the Duke return to Antoinette's room?
- c. Why didn't the Duke's men attack Rudolf when he first entered the King's cell?
- d. In what condition was the King?
- e. How did Rudolf win the fight against Detchard?
- f. How did Rupert react when he saw that he was surrounded by both the King's and the Duke's men?
- g. How did Rupert escape from the King's men?
- h. Why did Rudolf tell Rupert that he had saved his life?
- i. How did Colonel Sapt try to convince the Princess that the girl had not really seen the King?
- j. How did Princess Flavia finally learn that Rudolf was not the real King?

I was waiting for Johann to open the gate when there was a terrible scream.

The Past Continuous tense is formed with the Past Simple of the verb 'to be' and the ing-form of the verb.

They were arguing about something.

Colonel Sapt and our soldiers were approaching from the other direction.

The Past Continuous, like the Present Continuous, is used to describe an action in progress at a certain moment of time.

Yesterday morning I looked out of my window at the park. Some children were playing football, and two old men were sitting on a bench. A young man was talking to a young woman. Another young man was walking quickly along a path. He was holding a small suitcase.

The Past Continuous shows an unfinished action.

The Past Continuous is often used with the Past Simple to show the relationship between two actions which happened at the same time.

I was waiting for Johann to open the gate when there was a terrible scream.

*A young man who was running down the street slipped and fell.
I cut my finger while I was preparing dinner.*

Observe the difference in meaning between the following two sentences.

Rupert was riding away when he saw me. (Rupert had already started riding away when he saw me.)

Rupert rode away when he saw me. (First Rupert saw me and then he rode away.)

2 Put the verbs in brackets in either the Past Continuous or Past Simple tense according to the context.

Example: Last night I (**watch**) television with some friends when someone (**knock**) at the door.

- Our English teacher (**walk**) into the room and (**look**) at us. She was amazed because we (**not talk**) We (**study**)
- It was around nine o'clock in the evening. My cat (**sleep**) on the sofa. My little brother (**play**) with his toys, and I (**play**) the piano. Suddenly, my father (**shout**) , 'Fire! Fire!'
- Julian (**open**) his notebook and began to write for a few minutes. Then he (**put down**) the notebook and (**go**) into the kitchen to get a glass of milk. He (**see**) that smoke (**come out**) of the oven.

4. We (**have**) a wonderful time until Jimmy (**come**)
5. While Harriet (**sing**), someone's mobile phone (**ring**) She (**become**) furious and immediately (**ask**) the person with the mobile phone to leave.
6. Yesterday we (**go**) to the cinema, but when we (**arrive**), we (**discover**) that it was closed.
7. It was my birthday yesterday. I arrived home as usual and when I opened the door, my friends (**shout**)..... 'Happy Birthday!'
8. Irma and Peter (**kiss**) when I (**open**) the door. They (**look**) surprised to see me so early.

PET 3 For each question, complete the second sentence so that it means the same as the first, using no more than three words.

Example: 'How can the King be in two places?' Princess Flavia asked.

Princess Flavia asked how the *King could be* in two places.

1. The King's cell was very close to Antoinette De Mauban's room in the castle.
The King's cell was from Antoinette De Mauban's room in the castle.
2. 'I'm a better man than he is.'
'He is a I am.'
3. Rupert killed the Duke of Strelsau.
The Duke of Strelsau Rupert.

4. Rudolf hasn't seen the King for a long time.
It's a long time since the King.
5. I prefer pistols to swords.
I like pistols
6. Why don't you look to see who is hiding behind the bushes?
If I were you, look to see who is hiding behind the bushes.
7. The Princess said, 'Tell me what it means.'
The Princess wanted to know
8. 'I am not the King!' I said sadly.
He said sadly that the King.

T: GRADE 6

4 Topic – Health and fitness

In Chapter Ten we learnt that Rupert was a good swimmer and a strong runner.

Bring a photograph or some pictures of someone keeping fit either in a sports activity or at a gym.

Tell the class about the activity and about the importance of keeping fit in general. Use the following questions to help you.

- a. What is the person in the picture doing?
- b. Do you think it is important to keep fit?
- c. Do you do any sports activities? What do you do and where?
How often do you do this sports activity?
- d. Why did you choose to do this particular activity and why do you like it?

Work with a partner and discuss the advantages of keeping fit. Put them in order of importance. Then tell the class why you chose to put them in this order.

What is the best way to stay healthy?

Before you read



- 12 1 Fill in the gaps with the words given below, and then listen to the first part of Chapter Eleven to check your answers.

wants	behaves	heart	told	cousin
everything	alone	quickly	wrong	loyalty

That night I went to see the King. He thanked me for my
(1)

'You have been a good and dear friend, **(2)**, ' he told me. 'I will try to be a good king. You have shown me how a good king **(3)**'.

Fritz and I left the King. Fritz seemed in a hurry, and he led me **(4)** to another part of the building.

'Where are we going?' I asked him.

'We're going to see Princess Flavia,' he **(5)** me. 'She heard that the King was here, and she came to see him.' He coughed awkwardly.

'Colonel Sapt has told her **(6)** She knows who you are now, Mr Rassendyll.'

'I see,' I said slowly. 'I wonder why she **(7)** to see me.'

Fritz opened a door and pushed me into the room. He did not enter. The room was dark, and at first I thought I was **(8)** Then I saw the figure of a woman standing near the window. I approached her.

'Princess!' I said.

I bowed very low to her.

'No!' she cried. 'You must not bow to me, Rudolf – you're the man I love.'

'I love you,' I told her. 'I love you with all my **(9)** ' Princess Flavia looked at me tenderly, but she did not say a word.

'Perhaps I was **(10)** to pretend to be the King,' I said.

'But I never lied about my love for you – never!'



CHAPTER ELEVEN

Epilogue

That night I went to see the King. He thanked me for my loyalty.

'You have been a good and dear friend, cousin,' he told me. 'I will try to be a good king. You have shown me how a good king behaves.'

Fritz and I left the King. Fritz seemed in a hurry, and he led me quickly to another part of the building.

'Where are we going?' I asked him.

'We're going to see Princess Flavia,' he told me. 'She heard that the King was here, and she came to see him.'

He coughed¹ awkwardly.²

'Colonel Sapt has told her everything. She knows who you

1. **coughed** : [kɒft] cleared his throat.

2. **awkwardly** : [ɔ:kwədli] in embarrassment.



The Prisoner of Zenda

are now, Mr Rassendyll.'

'I see,' I said slowly. 'I wonder why she wants to see me.'

Fritz opened a door and pushed me into the room. He did not enter. The room was dark, and at first I thought I was alone. Then I saw the figure of a woman standing near the window. I approached her.

'Princess!' I said.

I bowed¹ very low to her.

'No!' she cried. 'You must not bow to me, Rudolf – you're the man I love.'

'I love you,' I told her. 'I love you with all my heart.'

Princess Flavia looked at me tenderly, but she did not say a word.

'Perhaps I was wrong to pretend to be the King,' I said. 'But I never lied about my love for you – never!'

'You were very brave to do what you did,' she told me. 'You saved the real King, and you had to pretend to me. I understand that.'

'I nearly² told you the truth,' I explained. 'I wanted to, but the King's life was in danger.'

'What will you do now?' she asked me.

'I'm going back to England tonight,' I said quietly. 'I have to leave Ruritania now that the real King is safe.'

'I want to come with you!' Princess Flavia said desperately.

'Yes,' I said eagerly.³ 'Come with me. We'll be happy

END

1. **bowed** : lowered his head.

2. **nearly** : almost.

3. **eagerly** : enthusiastically.

Epilogue

together, Flavia!'

She looked at me sadly, then she said gently, 'Love isn't the only thing, Rudolf. I also have my duty here in Ruritania.'

'I know,' I replied. 'I was wrong to ask you to come with me.'

'I believe in love, Rudolf,' the Princess went on. 'But I believe in honour, too. I know you believe in honour as well. You played this dangerous game because you believe in honour.'

'You're right,' I said. I felt that my heart was breaking. 'You must stay here in Ruritania, and I must go back to England. We'll never see each other again.'

The Princess kissed me, and I held her in my arms. It was the saddest moment of my life.

A few minutes later I was outside the castle with Fritz and Colonel Sapt. It was now early morning. We went to the railway station and waited for the train.

'We're tired,' I said. 'But we played our part like men, didn't we, my friends?'

'We defeated the enemy and saved Ruritania,' Sapt said proudly.

Fritz shook my hand warmly.

'The right man is not always the real king!' he said.

Soon the train arrived, and I found myself an empty carriage. I looked out of the window to wave goodbye to Fritz and Colonel Sapt. They both stood on the platform. They took their hats off their heads and bowed to me with great respect. They stood like that until the train was a long way from the station.



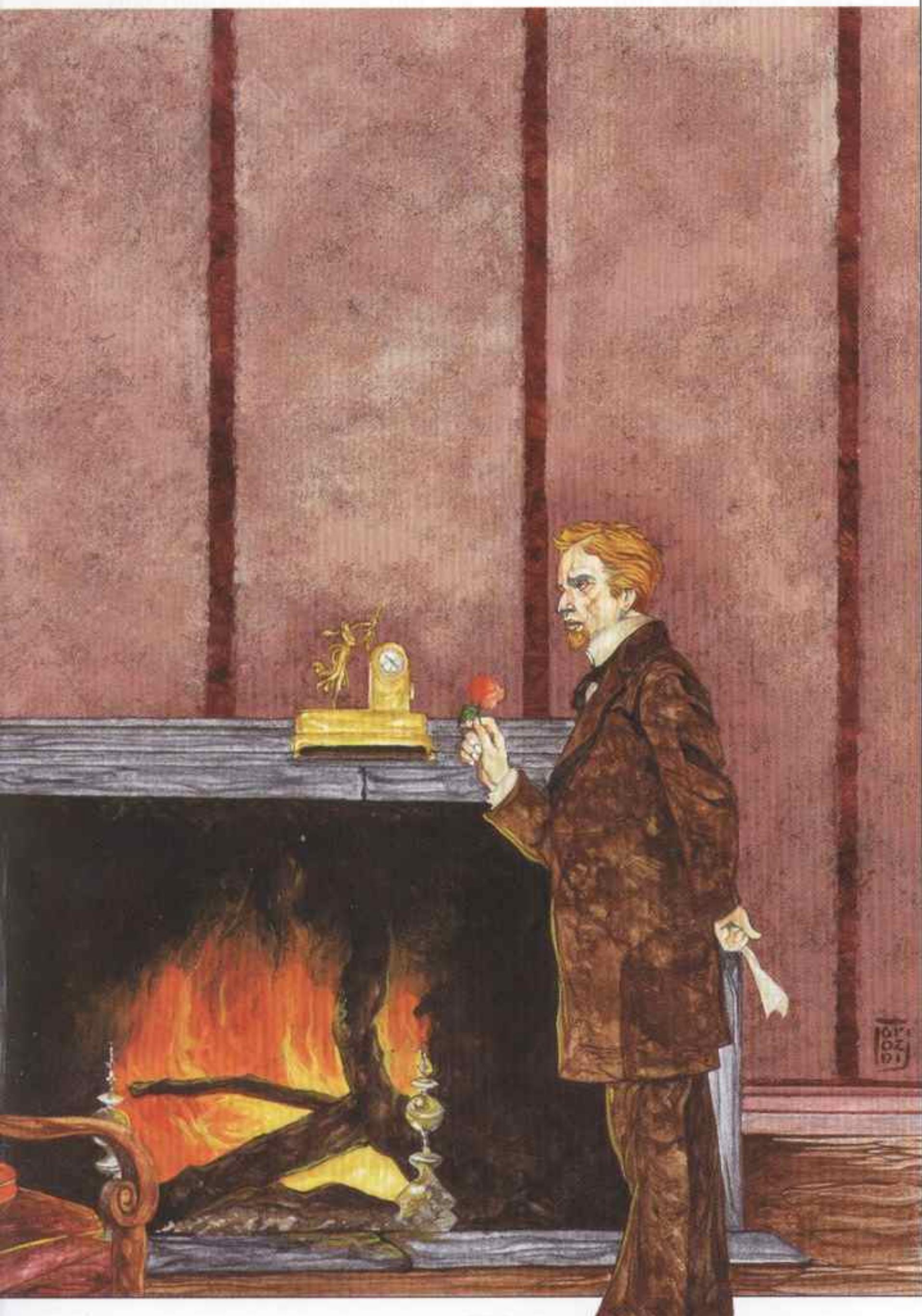
The Prisoner of Zenda

That was the end of my Ruritanian adventure. A few months later Princess Flavia married the King. It was her duty.

I settled into a quiet life in England. I never married. I often wonder what happened to Rupert Hentzau. Sometimes I think he will return to Ruritania one day, and make more trouble for the King. Then, who knows, I will go back there to help the Elphbergs again!

I take a holiday in Dresden every year. I meet Fritz and his wife, the Countess Helga there. We spend a few days together. Every year Fritz carries a little box with him and gives it to me. There is a rose inside, and a note: "Rudolf – Flavia – always". Fritz carries a similar little box back to Ruritania with him after each holiday.

Epilogue



Go back to the text**1** Look at the statements below about Chapter Eleven.

Decide if each statement is correct or incorrect.

If it is correct, tick (✓) A. If it is not correct, tick (✗) B.

A B

1. At first, Princess Flavia did not want to run away with Rudolf.
2. In the end, Princess Flavia realized that her duty to Ruritania was more important than her love for Rudolf Rassendyll.
3. Colonel Sapt did not think that Rudolf Rassendyll would have been a good king.
4. Flavia married the King after Rudolf left Ruritania.
5. Rudolf led an adventurous life in England after he left Ruritania.
6. Rudolf often thought about Rupert Hentzau when he was living in England.
7. Rudolf took his holiday in Ruritania where he met Fritz and his wife.
8. Fritz always brought him a rose from Flavia.

**2** An Abdication for Love

Read the text below and choose the correct word for each space.
 For each question, mark the letter next to the correct word – A, B, C or D.

In *The Prisoner of Zenda* Princess Flavia tells her lover that she will become queen because love is not all.

(0) a real-life monarch gave up his throne (1) love. This monarch was Edward VIII of Great Britain! Edward (2) king in January 1936, and soon there were rumours about his (3) with the American Mrs Wallis Warfield Simpson. Britain's Prime Minister advised the King to

(4) his love affair with Mrs Simpson. It was suggested that they could marry, but that Mrs Simpson would not become queen and would receive none of the usual (5) of the wife of a King. Edward VIII (6) this compromise, and, instead he abdicated (7) December 11, 1936. His brother became King George VI, and Edward became the Duke of Windsor.

However, when Edward VIII abdicated, he wanted to explain to his loyal subjects (8) he had decided to give up the throne. He explained that Mrs Simpson had tried to (9) him not to abdicate, and said that his brother, who had a happy home with his wife and children, would be a good king.

After becoming the Duke of Windsor, Edward and his wife lived mostly (10) in America and France. He died in Paris on May 28, 1972.

- | | | | |
|---------------|--------------|-----------|--------------|
| 0. A Before | B Previously | C Once | D Earlier |
| 1. A for | B by | C from | D because |
| 2. A was | B became | C took | D turned |
| 3. A romance | B relation | C story | D love |
| 4. A finalise | B terminate | C end | D complete |
| 5. A rules | B rights | C reasons | D laws |
| 6. A objected | B argued | C refused | D eliminated |
| 7. A at | B in | C by | D on |
| 8. A why | B because | C since | D for |
| 9. A persuade | B express | C refuse | D influence |
| 10. A abroad | B away | C far | D out |

3 What do you think?

In about 100 words say what you think of Edward VIII's decision to abdicate, and Princess Flavia's decision not to leave Ruritania with Rudolf. Say which one you think was right and why.

You can begin like this:

In the novel The Prisoner of Zenda, Princess Flavia of Ruritania falls in love with Rudolf Rassendyll of England, but...

4 Number the paragraphs of this summary of Chapters Nine to Eleven in the right order, and then complete the gaps with the correct words from the text.

- A That night, Rudolf went to visit the real King who thanked him. Then Fritz took Rudolf to see the Princess. He told her that perhaps it was wrong of him to (1) to be the King, but that he had never (2) about his love. Flavia thought about going to England with Rudolf, but she remembered her (3) to her King and country.
- B A little later, Rudolf heard a (1) and then the noise of Rupert and the Duke fighting! Rupert killed the Duke and escaped. Rudolf, who was now in the castle, killed one of the Duke's men and took the (2) He opened one door, and stood in front of the King's (3) The guards let him in. Rudolf killed one of them, and was fighting the other, when the King hit the man with a chair.
- C Then Princess Flavia arrived, and the girl whose horse Rupert had stolen, told her that the King was behind the (1) Colonel Sapt told the Princess that the King was in the castle. The Princess wanted to see the man behind the bushes. When the Princess saw Rudolf she cried out that he was the King and her love. Colonel Sapt told her that Rudolf was her love but not the (2)

- D Colonel Sapt decided that it was time to (1) the King and they went to Zenda to make plans. One morning when Rudolf was in the garden, Rupert Hentzau came to tell him that the Duke would give him one million crowns to leave Ruritania. Rudolf refused and then Rupert (2) Rudolf in the arm with a (3) and rode away.
- E When Rudolf left the King he saw Rupert standing on the wall of the castle over the moat, surrounded by soldiers. Antoinette De Mauban fired a (1) at him but (2) him and Rupert jumped into the moat. Rupert ran away followed by Rudolf. Rupert pulled a young (3) off a horse, but Rudolf called to him and they began to fight. Rupert would have killed Rudolf but Fritz arrived with a pistol. Rupert jumped on his horse and rode away.
- F Rudolf left Ruritania alone. He never (1), but each year he went to Dresden for his holiday where he met Fritz and his wife. Each year Fritz brought him a box from Ruritania. In this box was a (2) and a note. The note said: "Rudolf – Flavia – (3)". And each year Rudolf sent a similar box back to Ruritania.
- G That evening Fritz brought Johann to the house. He explained that the King was alive but very (1), and that he was kept in a secret room. Rudolf told Johann to open the (2) of the castle at two o'clock that morning and to give Antoinette De Mauban a note, which asked her to make a (3) at two o'clock. A little before two o'clock Rudolf jumped into the castle moat. Antoinette De Mauban was arguing with Rupert Hentzau when the Duke arrived to send Rupert away.

Love and duty in *The Prisoner of Zenda*

We saw in the first dossier (page 37) that Victorian readers enjoyed popular fiction. They liked exciting stories, exotic settings and strong characters. Ryder Haggard's *King Solomon's Mines* and Robert Louis Stevenson's *Treasure Island* are good examples of this kind of story. The subject of both is hidden treasure, and the setting in each case is a faraway, exotic location. It is interesting that neither of these two novels tells a love story.

The Prisoner of Zenda is different to these two novels, although it has elements in common with them. Firstly, the story is exciting and fast-paced. Secondly, there is an exotic setting – the imaginary country of Ruritania. *The Prisoner of Zenda* does not just provide narrative interest and a stimulating setting, however. The novel contains the love story of Rassendyll and Princess Flavia. This makes it unusual in 19th-century adventure fiction. It is doubly unusual because the love story ends unhappily. Rassendyll leaves Ruritania and the Princess marries the real King. Anthony Hope not only tells a good story, he adds a debate about love and duty.

Let's look at the 'love' aspect of the novel first. Rassendyll loves Princess Flavia and she loves him. They could both be happy if Rassendyll allowed the Duke of Strelsau to kill the real King. Rassendyll could then become King himself. Then he could marry Princess Flavia or they could leave Ruritania and marry in England. Princess Flavia could decide to marry Rassendyll instead of the King. She could turn away from the traditions of her family and the country for the sake of love.

Now let's consider the 'duty' aspect of the novel. Rassendyll

promises to help Colonel Sapt at the beginning of the novel. He agrees to accept the dangers of what he sees as a dangerous game of politics and adventure. Once he meets Princess Flavia, he realises that he will lose the Princess if he wins the adventure – if the real King is freed. Rassendyll, however, is a gentleman and he feels that he must keep the promise he made at the beginning of the story.

Princess Flavia is in a similar position. She has agreed to marry the King of Ruritania before the adventure story starts. Then she falls in love with Rassendyll and learns who he really is. At the end of the novel she has to decide between love and duty – and she chooses duty. Rassendyll and Princess Flavia separate. Part of the charm of the novel comes from the contrast between the action of the story and the emotions of these two characters. On the surface, the novel is a fast-moving tale of adventure and intrigue. Underneath, there is the growing sadness of Princess Flavia and Rassendyll as they realise that they have to choose between love and duty.

1 Answer the following questions.

- a. In what kind of places were *King Solomon's Mines* and *Treasure Island* located?
- b. What does *The Prisoner of Zenda* have in common with these two novels?
- c. How is *The Prisoner of Zenda* different from these two novels?
- d. What could Rudolf Rassendyll do instead of helping the real King?
- e. What does Rudolf Rassendyll do for the sake of duty?
- f. What does Princess Flavia do for the sake of duty?

1 For the following questions choose from the characters (A-J).

- A Rudolf Rassendyll
- B Rose Rassendyll
- C Robert Rassendyll
- D Princess Flavia
- E Fritz von Tarlenheim

- F Colonel Sapt
- G Prince Rudolf
- H Antoinette De Mauban
- I The Duke of Strelsau
- J Rupert Hentzau

1. Who has a good job? C
2. Who thinks Rudolf Rassendyll should find a job?
3. Who told Rudolf that he must pretend to be Prince Rudolf?
4. Who was in love with the Duke of Strelsau?
5. Who thought that being an Elphberg was a bad thing?
6. Before Rudolf Rassendyll's arrival, who did the people of Ruritania want to be their King?
7. Who liked drinking too much?
8. Who drugged Prince Rudolf?
9. Who instructed Rudolf on how to act like the real Prince Rudolf?
10. Who wanted to rescue the King as soon as it was discovered that he had been kidnapped?
11. Who was the Duke's most dangerous soldier?
12. Who was in love with Countess Helga, one of Flavia's ladies-in-waiting?
13. Who said he would help Rudolf Rassendyll to become King of Ruritania forever?
14. Who saved Rudolf's life when Rudolf was trying to save the real King?
15. Who saved Rupert's life during the fight at the Duke's castle?
16. Who killed the Duke of Strelsau?
17. Who decided that Rudolf must continue to be the King after the coronation?
18. Who met Rudolf every year during his/her holidays?

**2** Read the questions about *The Prisoner of Zenda* below. For each question, mark the letter next to the correct answer – A, B, C or D.

1. What did Rudolf's red hair and long nose remind people of?
A Rudolf didn't work.
B Rudolf came from a rich family
C The old family scandal.
D Robert worked very hard.
2. How did the Rassendylls become relatives of the Elphbergs?
A Countess Amelia married Prince Rudolf Elphberg.
B Countess Amelia had a love affair with Prince Rudolf Elphberg.
C Countess Amelia, an Elphberg, married James Rassendyll.
D Countess Amelia, a cousin of the Elphbergs, married James Rassendyll.
3. Why did Rudolf decide to go to Ruritania?
A Because he wanted a job.
B Because there was going to be a coronation.
C Because he wanted to become King.
D Because he wanted to make Rose angry.
4. Why did the customs officer at the Ruritanian border stare at Rudolf?
A Because he was travelling with Antoinette De Mauban.
B Because he was English.
C Because he looked so much like an Elphberg.
D Because he did not have any suitcases.
5. What is Zenda?
A The capital of Ruritania.
B Another name for Ruritania
C Prince Rudolf's family name.
D A small town near the capital of Ruritania.

6. Who was also known as 'Black Michael'?
- A Colonel Sapt.
B Prince Rudolf.
C Rupert Hentzau.
D The Duke of Strelsau.
7. Why did few people in Ruritania know what Prince Rudolf looked like?
- A Because before his father died, he had spent little time in his country.
B Because he spent most of his time alone in his castle drinking wine.
C Because the Duke of Strelsau kept him locked up in his castle.
D Because everybody people thought the Duke of Strelsau was the prince.
8. Why did the Prince want to have dinner with Rudolf, the evening before the coronation?
- A Because Rudolf was his cousin.
B Because Rudolf knew Antoinette De Mauban.
C Because Rudolf had information about the Duke of Strelsau.
D Because Rudolf brought some very good wine.
9. Why was Rudolf Rassendyll disappointed with the Prince when he first met him?
- A Because the Prince did not look as determined as he was.
B Because he was not very friendly.
C Because he seemed to be selfish, and he drank too much wine.
D Because he had shaven off his wonderful red beard.

10. The marshal wanted his soldiers to ride near Rudolf during the procession because
- A the people in the old part of Strelsau did not like Prince Rudolf.
B he did not want people to see that he really wasn't the Prince.
C he thought Rudolf could not control his horse.
D he did not want Rudolf to be the hero.
11. The Duke of Strelsau couldn't tell everybody that Rudolf was a fake because
- A everybody would think he was just jealous.
B Rudolf looked so much like the real King that nobody would believe him.
C then he would have to admit that the real King was his prisoner.
D he was afraid of Rupert Hentzau.
12. Who are the Six?
- A The Duke's favourite servants.
B The Duke's favourite soldiers.
C Prince Rudolf's best friends.
D Colonel Sapt's best soldiers.
13. Antoinette De Mauban told Rudolf that the Duke wanted to kill him because she
- A knew that the Duke would marry Princess Flavia if he became king.
B thought Rudolf was a good king.
C and Rudolf were both friends of George.
D did not like the Duke.
14. What was the main reason why helping the real King was so difficult for Rudolf Rassendyll?
- A He knew that the Duke wanted to kill him.
B He knew that he was a better man than the real King.

- C He knew that if he saved the King he could not marry Princess Flavia.
- D He knew that Prince Rudolf drank too much to be a good king.
15. Why did Rudolf want to tell Princess Flavia that he was not the King of Ruritania?
- A Because he wanted her to love him for the man he was.
- B Because he thought that a princess should only love her king.
- C Because he did not like lying.
- D Because he thought she could help them save the real King.
16. Why did Antoinette De Mauban try to shoot Rupert?
- A Because he had killed the Duke.
- B Because he had stabbed Rudolf.
- C Because she wanted Rudolf to be the king.
- D Because he was in love with Princess Flavia and not with her.
17. How did Princess Flavia discover that Rudolf was hiding behind the bushes?
- A Rupert told her.
- B A young girl told her.
- C Colonel Sapt told her.
- D Fritz told her.
18. Why did the Princess decide to marry the real King?
- A Because she knew that duty and honour were more important than love.
- B Because Colonel Sapt convinced her that it was the right thing to do.
- C Because Rudolf convinced her that it was the right thing to do.
- D Because she could not really love an ordinary man.

3 Who said what? Choose the character (1-9) from the list who said these things (A-H). There is one name you do not have to use.

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Robert Rassendyll | 6. The Duke of Strelsau |
| 2. Rose Rassendyll | 7. Prince Rudolf |
| 3. Countess Amelia | 8. Rupert Hentzau |
| 4. Prince Elphberg | 9. Princess Flavia |
| 5. Colonel Sapt | |

- A Who cares if he hit me, if he wounded me. I was more dashing and handsome. You can tell by the fact that from that day on, for more than a hundred years, my face smiles at his descendants, and those descendants may work hard, but we, the other side of the family, have more fun!
- B She is a fine woman... a bit too sensitive to scandal, perhaps, a bit too argumentative, perhaps, but she is a fine woman. And he is a fine person too, I think. A bit too lazy, perhaps, but he doesn't need to work. For myself, I work because I like to. So, everybody does what they want to: she gets excited and embarrassed, he goes off on fine adventures and I enjoy my job. In short, we are a happy family.
- C Honour, duty, loyalty and scruples. What total stupidity! If you want something, fight for it, try to get it, with every weapon you have! Do anything you can, but get it! And, of course, enjoy yourself. What is better than a beautiful woman? What is better than a good sword fight? But if you can't win, run away. There will always be another day to live, another battle to fight and another splendid woman to win.
- D A King, a Prince, a Princess, a Duke and a Countess, what are they? They are only names. You are Bob, you are Susan, you are Philip. Are you proud of the fact that you are Bob, Susan or Philip? Of course not! That would be ridiculous. But if you work hard for your children, that is something! That is something you can be proud of!
- E So you say I am a bad person. Well, listen to me! What would you do in my situation. I am more intelligent, stronger, better loved and more prepared to do the job. Should I let an incompetent, selfish person who drinks too much take my place?

After all we are not talking about painting houses or feeding horses. We are talking about a job with great responsibilities, and I am the one for the job!

- F I suppose I was a silly person, but try to look at things from my point of view. I had nothing to do! They always told me I was important, essential even, but they never gave me anything to do! They gave me money and servants. So what did I do? I enjoyed myself. I travelled and I had fun. Then all of a sudden I had plenty to do! I had to be brave and I had to be wise. I was not prepared for such responsibilities. Tell, me though, do you think it was my fault?
- G Good gracious me! Respectable people still get all upset and nervous when they think about me. And I have been dead for over one hundred years! Well, there were two of them. One was exciting, capable, distinctive and... royal! The other was respectable and good and... boring! Which would you choose? Was I wrong? I think not, and just look at the result: he is a hero!
- H Life is not fair! First I had to make a choice between one who was exciting, capable and strong, and one who was not. I chose the second one. Then, as if by magic, this second one became wonderful and brave and romantic! But the one I thought was the second one was a third one, and in the end I had to choose the second one. Oh, cruel, mean life. I hope, at least, the second one learned something from that third one!

A B C D E F G H

A 4., B 1., C 8., D 2., E 6., F 7., G 3., H 9.

Exercise 3

15. A, 16. A, 17. B, 18. A

1. C, 2. B, 3. B, 4. C, 5. D, 6. D, 7. A, 8. A, 9. C, 10. A, 11. C, 12. B, 13. A, 14. C,

Exercise 2

16. J, 17. F, 18. E

2. B, 3. F, 4. H, 5. B, 6. I, 7. G, 8. I, 9. F, 10. E, 11. J, 12. E, 13. J, 14. H, 15. A,

Exercise 1

KEY TO THE EXIT TEST

This reader uses the **EXPANSIVE READING** approach, where the text becomes a springboard to improve language skills and to explore historical background, cultural connections and other topics suggested by the text.

The new structures introduced in this step of our **READING & TRAINING** series are listed below. Naturally, structures from lower steps are included too. For a complete list of structures used over all the six steps, see *The Black Cat Guide to Graded Readers*, which is also downloadable at no cost from our website, www.blackcat-cideb.com or www.cideb.it.

The vocabulary used at each step is carefully checked against vocabulary lists used for internationally recognised examinations.

Step Three B1.2

All the structures used in the previous levels, plus the following:

Verb tenses

Present Perfect Simple: unfinished past with *for* or *since* (duration form)

Past Perfect Simple: narrative

Verb forms and patterns

Regular verbs and all irregular verbs in current English

Causative: *have / get + object + past participle*

Reported questions and orders with *ask* and *tell*

Modal verbs

Would: hypothesis

Would rather: preference

Should (present and future reference):

moral obligation

Ought to (present and future reference):

moral obligation

Used to: past habits and states

Types of clause

2nd Conditional: *if + past, would(n't)*

Zero, 1st and 2nd conditionals with *unless*

Non-defining relative clauses with *who* and *where*

Clauses of result: *so; so ... that; such ... that*

Clauses of concession: *although, though*

Other

Comparison: *(not) as / so ... as; (not) ... enough to; too ... to*

Available at Step **Three**:

- **The £1,000,000 Bank Note** Mark Twain
- **Bizarre Tales** Peter Foreman
- **The Canterville Ghost** Oscar Wilde
- **Classic Detective Stories**
- **The Diamond as Big as The Ritz** F. Scott Fitzgerald
- **Duck Soup** Peter Foreman
- **Great Mysteries of Our World** Gina D. B. Clemen
- **Gulliver's Travels** Jonathan Swift
- **The Hound of the Baskervilles** Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
- **Jane Eyre** Charlotte Brontë
- **Julius Caesar** William Shakespeare
- **Lord Arthur Savile's Crime and Other Stories** Oscar Wilde
- **Moonfleet** John Meade Falkner
- **Of Mice and Men** John Steinbeck
- **The Pearl** John Steinbeck
- **The Phantom of the Opera** Gaston Leroux
- **The Prisoner of Zenda** Anthony Hope
- **The Red Badge of Courage** Stephen Crane
- **The Return of Sherlock Holmes** Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
- **Romeo and Juliet** William Shakespeare
- **The Scarlet Pimpernel** Baroness Orczy
- **Sherlock Holmes Investigates** Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
- **Stories of Suspense** Nathaniel Hawthorne
- **The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde** Robert Louis Stevenson
- **Tales of the Supernatural**
- **Three Men in a Boat** Jerome K. Jerome
- **Treasure Island** Robert Louis Stevenson
- **True Adventure Stories** Peter Foreman
- **Twelfth Night** William Shakespeare
- **The Vegas Hills Carnival Mystery** Michelle Brown

The Prisoner of Zenda

Rudolf Rassendyll comes from an old English family with a connection with the royal family of Ruritania. When Rudolf visits Ruritania (one of the most famous fictional countries in literature) he becomes involved in the political events there...

This reader uses the **EXPANSIVE READING** approach, where the text becomes a springboard to improve language skills and to explore historical background, cultural connections and other topics suggested by the text. As well as the story, this reader contains:

- An introduction about Anthony Hope
- A wide range of activities practising the four skills
- Dossiers: *Popular fiction in the late-19th century*, *Film versions of The Prisoner of Zenda* and *Love and duty in The Prisoner of Zenda*
- An Internet project
- PET-style activities and Trinity-style activities (Grades 5/6)
- A full recording of the text
- An exit test with answer key



Step One

CEFR **A2**

Exam Level KET

Step Two

CEFR **B1.1**

Exam Preparation PET

Step Three

CEFR **B1.2**

Exam Level PET

Step Four

CEFR **B2.1**

Exam Preparation FCE

Step Five

CEFR **B2.2**

Exam Level FCE

Step Six

CEFR **C1**

Exam Preparation CAE

Anthony Hope
THE PRISONER OF ZENDA
ISBN 978-88-7754-911-2
ACK CAT PUBLISHING
GIDEB

This volume without the side coupon is to
be considered a sample copy not for sale.

ISBN 978-88-7754-911-2

9 788877 549112

Book + CD