

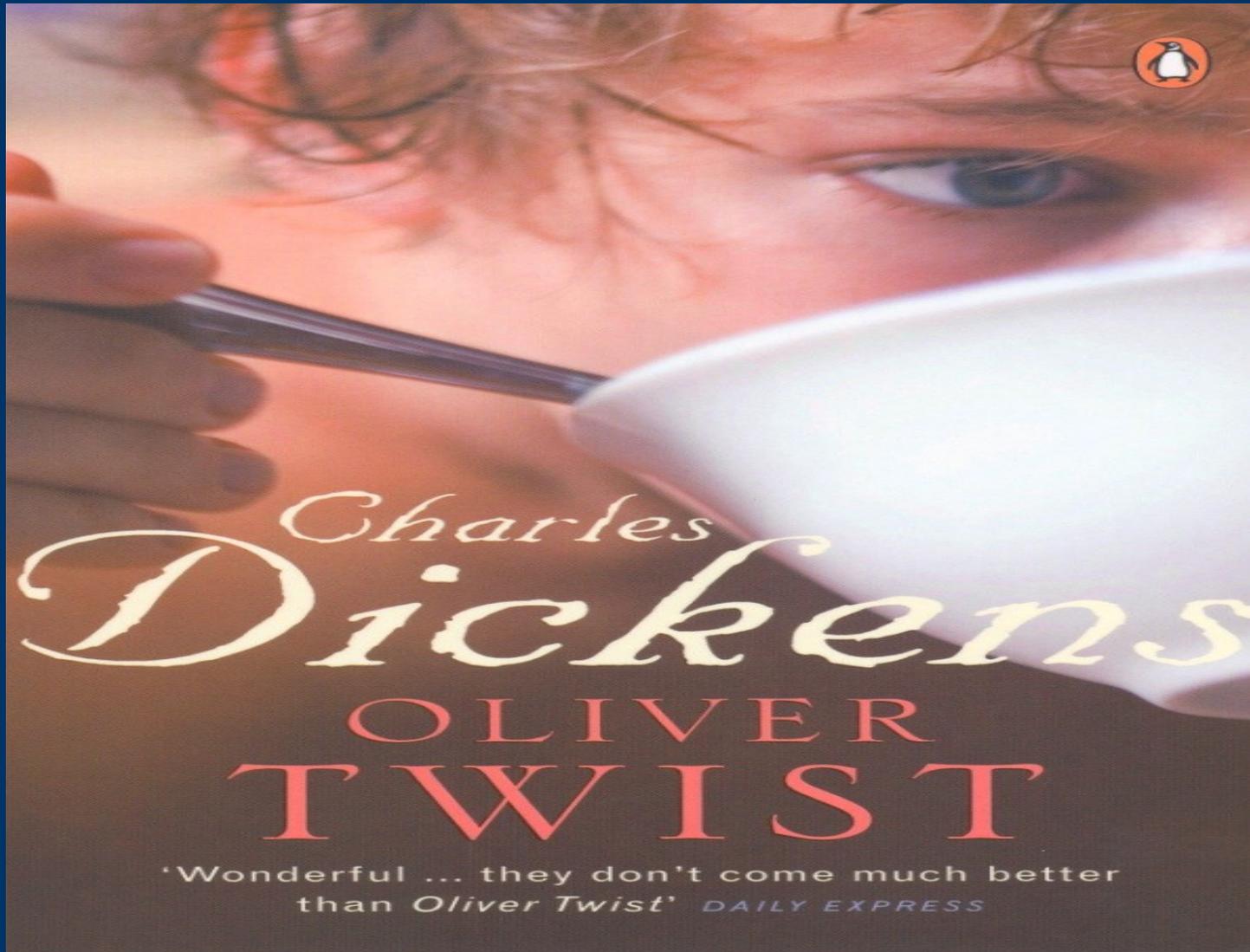
YES YOU CAN read in English !



Découvrez quelques-uns des résumés des livres en anglais de la section **FICTIONS EN LANGUE ETRANGERE** (V.O) du CDI et les critiques que les 2ndes européennes 2012/2013 ont rédigées.

(Lycée Guy de Maupassant, Colombes- Tous nos remerciements à Mme Demily et M.Meyniel , documentalistes, pour leur accueil et leurs explications , à Mme Irdor , notre professeur d'anglais pour la mise en page et à M. Blanchet pour la compression des images et la mise sur le site du lycée.)

Oliver Twist - A short review by Theo Lecomte

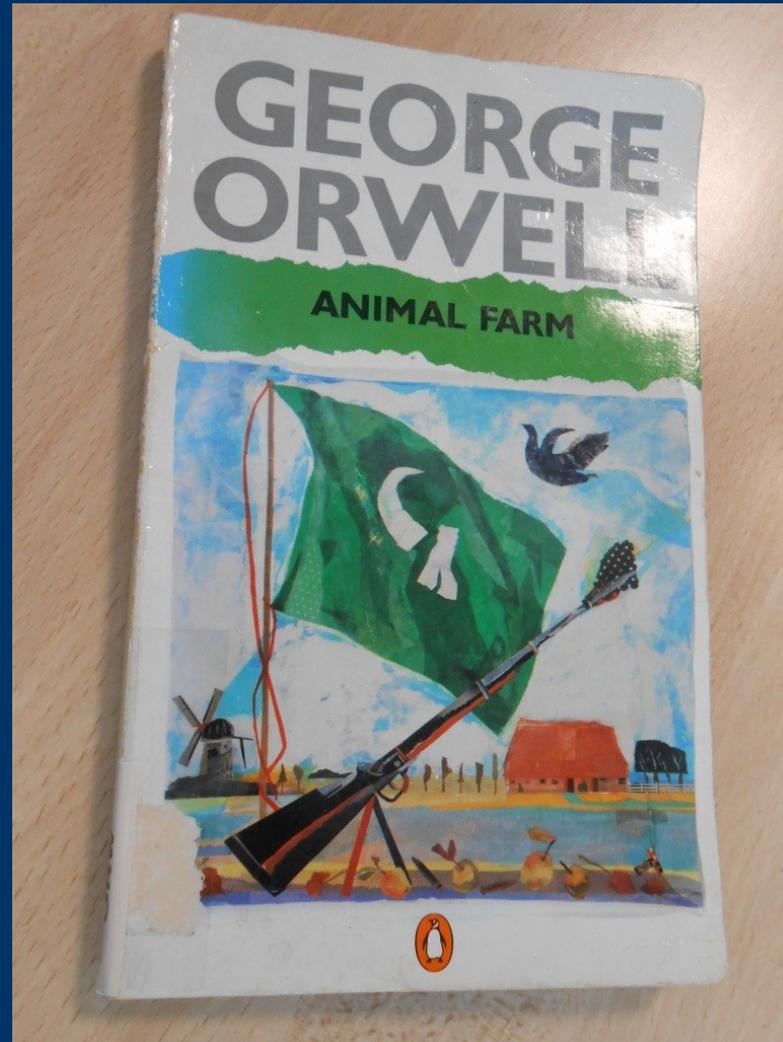


A Short Review by Theo Lecomte - 2nde 5

Oliver Twist, subtitled The Parish Boy's Progress, is a novel written by Charles Dickens in 1838. It deals with a young orphan, Oliver Twist, who is raised in a cruel workhouse. He is thrown out when he asks for more. Then, Oliver Twist is placed at Mr. Sowerberry's, who is an undertaker and a coffin-maker. And here again, he knows privations and had bad treatments. So, Oliver decides to run away to London. Exhausted, hungry, he is picked up by a gang of thieves. He discovers a world which is also cruel and where only cunning and strength count. After a theft he didn't commit, Oliver finds himself at Mr. Brownlow's who treats him like his son. But the gang of thieves finds him again and they force him to take part in a burglary which fails and where Oliver hurts himself. Fortunately, Maylie's family takes care of him. Afterwards, he will be able to go back to Mr. Brownlow and learn all about his background.

I liked the story of Oliver Twist very well because Charles Dickens, marked by poverty in his youth, wrote a realistic, satirical, psychological, moral and humorous story. Oliver's background situation and his hard life are very touching and full of pitfalls.

Animal Farm - A short review by Antonin Guilhot



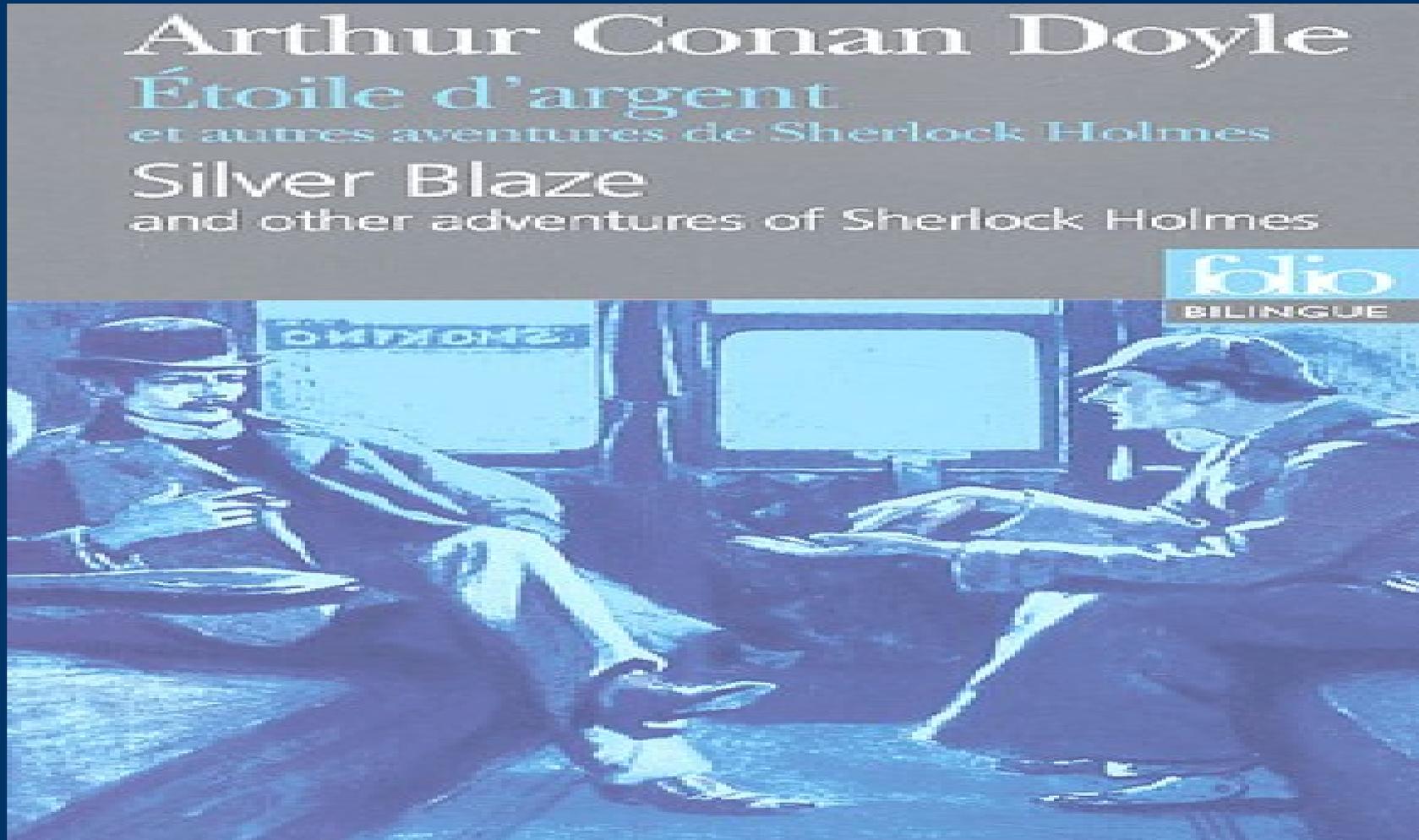
A short review by Antonin Guilhot 2nde4

SUMMARY:In England in the manor farm belonging to Mr Jones, Old Major, a wise pig, tells his dream to other farm animals. This dream predicts a better world where animals would no longer be exploited by humans. Shortly after, Old Major dies. Then, Mr Jones forgets to feed the animals; the animals drive him out of the farm : the Rebellion has begun. The pigs are chosen to manage the farm, renamed *Animal Farm*, because of their intelligence. They set up Seven Commandments to prevent the animals from behaving like humans. Humans, led by Mr Jones try to take over the farm. The assault fails thanks to Boxer, a strong horse. The battle of the cowshed is won by the animals. Gradually, two pigs emerge who take power: Snowball who did everything to improve the animals' life, a very good speaker and Napoleon, who is very popular. They disagree on many points like the windmill. During an important meeting about the windmill, Napoleon uses his dogs to expel Snowball before reusing Snowball's project. A long descent into hell begins. Napoleon establishes a dictatorship with other pigs. All the opponents are systematically killed and the Ten Commandments are violated. Napoleon begins to trade with the humans. At the end, we no longer recognize the pigs from humans.

OPINION:This best-seller was written at the end of WWII. It denounces the dictatorship established by Staline. All animals represent a real historical figure (example: Napoleon is Staline, Snowball is Trotski). According to Georges Orwell, communism is a good idea but this idea has been misapplied; I agree with him. I love this book because speaking about totalitarianism with animals is a very original means to approach this subject. In my opinion, this book can be read by both children (because it's written with very simple words) and adults (because all aspects of totalitarianism are taken up in this book). In addition, this book is timeless; this warning message is valid for all epochs. Finally, this book is not only instructive but also amusing because the animals are often funny and the story is very well written, short but powerful.

Silver Blaze and other Adventures of Sherlock Holmes

A short review by Corentin Albicy



The book that I've read is entitled *Silver Blaze and other Adventures* of Sherlock Holmes . It was written by Arthur Conan Doyle , a Scottish writer who was born in 1859 and who died in 1930.

This book contains four short stories of Sherlock Holmes :

First story, *The Adventure of the Speckled Band* : a young woman is assassinated in her room on her wedding day before. She heard whistles and metallic noises before her death. Her sister , Mrs Stoner is going to be married , she is worried because she believes that she can die like her sister. That is why she calls Sherlock Holmes . After his investigation, Holmes discovered that the father in law of the two women, Dr Roloytt has a dangerous snake which killed the young woman two years before.

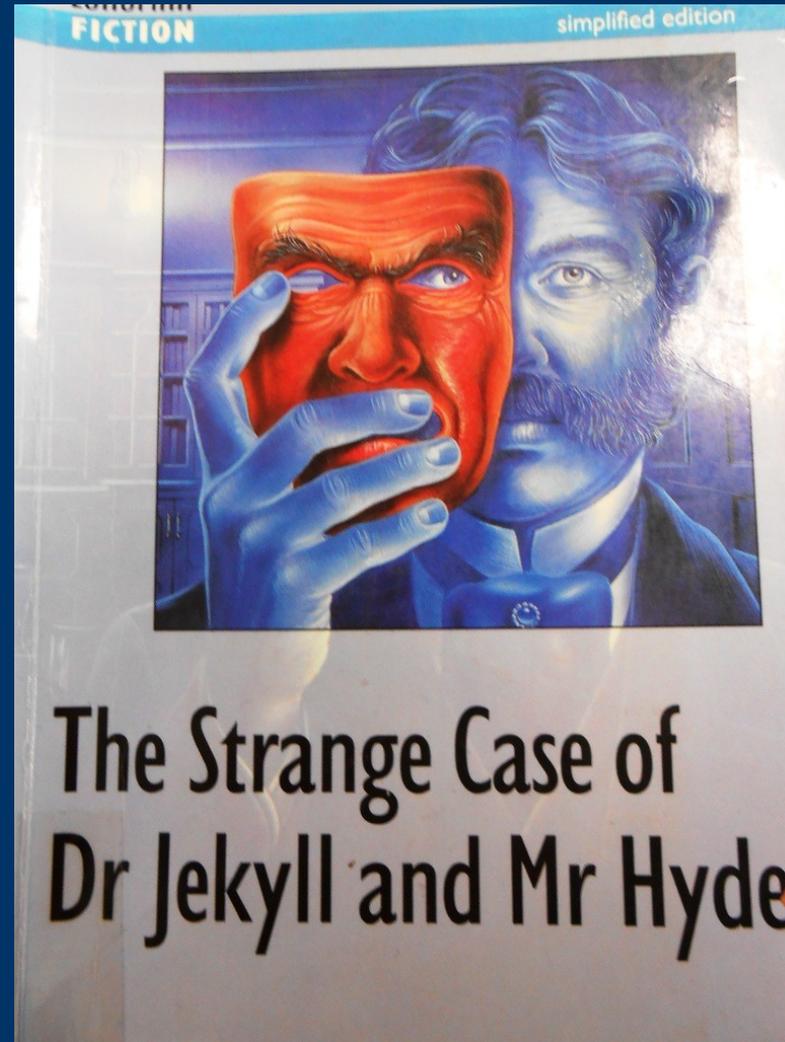
Second story, *Silver Blaze*: this short story deals with a horse missing , the policemen arrested a man for the murder of the coach of the horse but Holmes thinks that the coach, John Straker cut a leg of his horse on the quiet to earn a lot of money but his horse , Silver Blaze hit him and he died.

Third story, *The Musgrave Ritual* : Sherlock Holmes tells one of his investigations to his friend, Dr Watson. He had to resolve an enigma and found the answer. He understood that it had a link with Charles I 's crown who gave it to Sir Ralph Musgrave to transmit it to his successor.

Fourth story, *The Greek Interpreter* , Watson knows the brother of Sherlock Holmes, Mycroft Holmes who asks them to visit his neighbour, Melas, who is a Greek interpreter. For the first time, Dr Watson finds the right hypothesis in one of Sherlock Holmes ' investigations.

I like this book because I find it very interesting, Sherlock Holmes is a wonderful character thanks to his intellect. Moreover , all his investigations have many details. His method isn't common because he invents hypotheses thanks to what he can see on the crime scene and other places, linked with the murder. He is one of the most well-known fictitious detectives in the world.

The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde – A short review by Dorian Clisson



Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde

Mr. Utterson, a lawyer, goes for a walk with his relative Mr. Enfield each Sunday. When walking around London, they pass a door which reminds Mr. Enfield a very strange story. Indeed, one night, as he was walking on the park, he saw a strange man knocking down a little girl screaming. While this brute was leaving the scene, Mr. Enfield caught him when a crowd was beginning to gather. They forced the man to give retribution to the girl's family. They followed him till the already mentioned door from which he returned with ten pounds in gold and an important check drawn from Dr. Jekyll's account. At that moment, Mr. Enfield is persuaded that this check is a false one. Surprisingly, the check was valid.

As Dr. Jekyll's lawyer, Mr. Utterson redacted his last will and he knows that the beneficiary of his entire estate will be given to Mr. Hyde. He resolves to get to the bottom of this mystery.

Later on, a well-known politician is brutally beaten to death by Mr. Hyde in a street. The scene has been witnessed by a maid from her bedroom window. The girl was shocked by the murderer's violence. Moreover, she discovered that the slaughter was someone she knew : Mr. Hyde.

It appears that the killer forgot a part of his broken stick on the scene. Investigators went to Hyde's house and found the other part of the stick behind a door. In the fireplace, they discovered papers that hadn't been burnt. From these, the inspectors picked out part of a cheque book. After visiting Mr. Hyde's bank, they found out that his account had a lot of money on it. Police officers are convinced that murderer will need money and will appear one day at the bank where they will be able to catch him.

In the meantime, a friend of Mr. Utterson named Dr. Lanyon, dies leaving a document to Mr. Utterson which he can't unfortunately open unless Dr. Jekyll dies or disappears. Mr. Utterson is very intrigued by this letter as he knows Dr. Lanyon and Dr. Jekyll irrevocably quarreled with each other.

As he wants to get explanations about Jekyll and Dr. Lanyon's letter, he tries his best to see Dr. Jekyll but he can't succeed as this one remains in seclusion.

One evening, Mr. Poole, Dr. Jekyll's butler, visits Mr. Utterson. He's very worried about the doctor's attitude. Indeed, Dr. Jekyll locked himself in his laboratory for over a week and he has sent him on various occasions to do frantic searches to find various drugs.

Finally, Mr. Utterson follows Poole into Dr. Jekyll's house where he forces the laboratory door. They find Mr. Hyde dead on the floor but can't trace Dr. Jekyll. Next to Hyde, Utterson finds several documents left to him.

Back home, Mr. Utterson decides to find out what this mystery is all about. So, he opens Lanyon's letters and documents from Jekyll's house. He discovers that Jekyll and Hyde were the same person.

In fact, with the help of a potion, Dr. Jekyll was able to transform himself into Mr. Hyde. This transformation enabled him to experience the pleasure of crime. But unfortunately, Mr. Hyde's personality became dominant and Dr. Jekyll preferred to kill himself rather than losing his own identity.

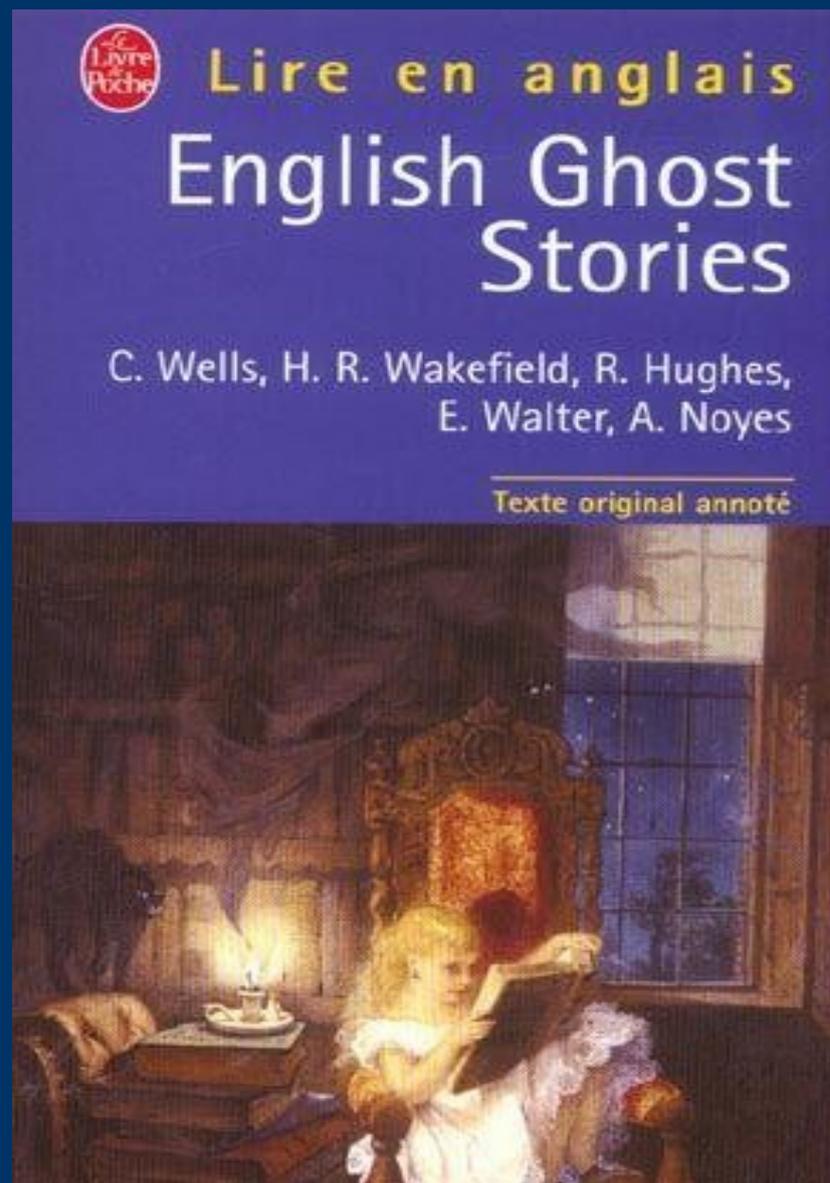
Personal opinion

I think that *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* by R.L. Stevenson is a well-written story. However, I had to look for the unknown words in the dictionary every 2 minutes, I found the plot interesting and at least I learnt a lot of vocabularies. That's why I recommend this book to all those who want to read a well-known story and who like to learn new words of vocabulary.

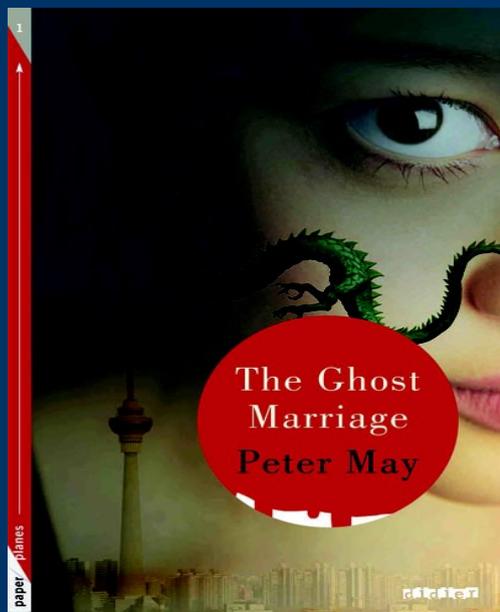
English Ghost Stories , a short review by Chloe Bresson

This book is a collection of horror stories. In the preface we are told about the horrific aspect that was given to each of the stories. They were written in an earlier period, from the 18th to 20th century. They are long, approximately twenty pages. In most of them, it's not really the plot of the story which is most important but the horror nature that emerges. Authors have focused on the emotions while reading. Through these five novels we can see ordinary people involved in unexplained phenomena. A murder, a crime and follows the rest of the story in many respects similar to the horror story criteria. Most of the stories happen in dark England, which creates a certain tension, discomfort for the reader.

I generally enjoyed this book and the fact that it was easy to understand.



The Ghost Marriage , a short review by Alison De Almeida



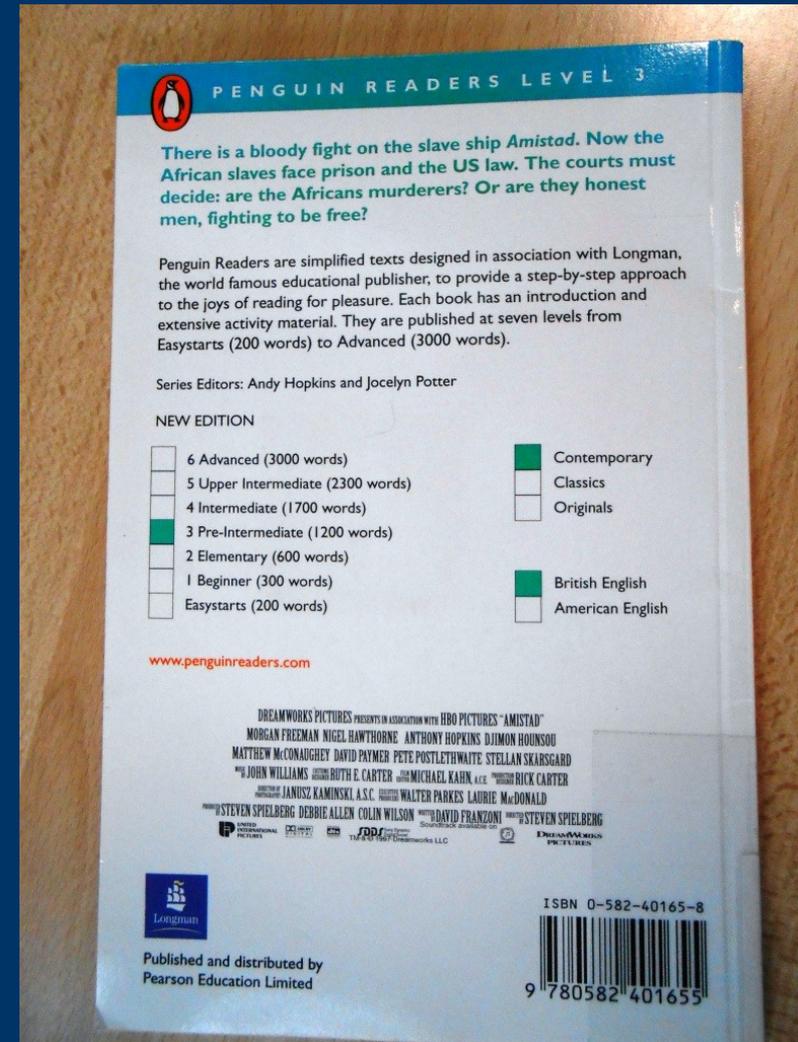
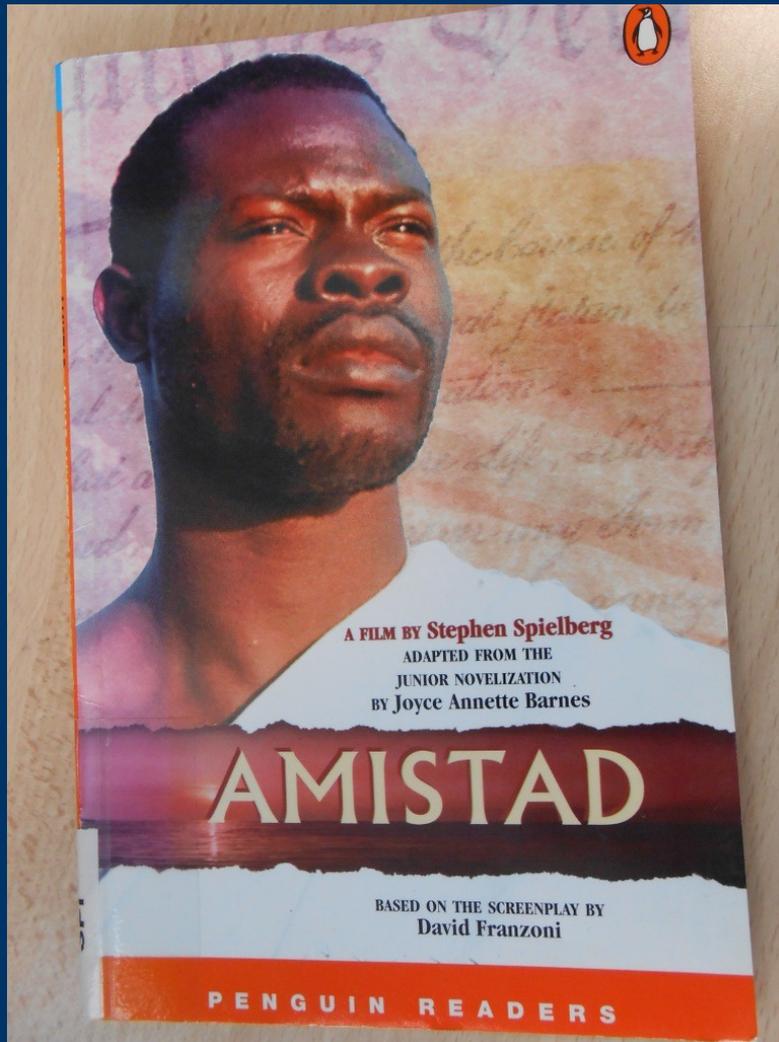
The story begins in Beijing with two associates , Chief Inspector Li Yan and an American pathologist who is called Margaret Campbell. A woman called Margaret tells her that her daughter Jiang Meilin has disappeared. Li Yan begins his investigations at the house of Meilin's parents, Jiang Ning and Jiang Jin and at Lao Rong's home , her boyfriend. He questions them about her. Jiang Meilin is seventeen and she's an athlete. She won several medals and ribbons. She disappeared five days ago. The fog settles down in the head of our inspector.

Everything becomes clearer when he receives an anonymous letter which says that the missing girl was the bride of a ghost marriage (the minghum). At Quinghua University there is a sociology professor, Mr. Bao who tells him more about this subject. The ghost marriage is a form of ancestor veneration which claims that we continue to exist after death. It includes arranged marriage. An unmarried dead could be an unhappy one so you find a bride for him after death. Li Yan finds the author of this anonymous letter, Feng Qi. This man says that when he went to the funeral of one of his friends, he saw Meilin who was buried with the dead man. He digs up the corpse and asks for an identification of the body. It is Meilin ! This time, no more doubt, Jiang Meilin is dead ! Margaret makes an autopsy and discovers that the girl died choked. After a lot of interrogations, Chief Inspector Li Yan discovers that the murderer of the girl was her father. Indeed, he killed his daughter for 300 dollars and used the money to pay for his gambling debts. Do you think that is normal ?

As far as I'm concerned, this thriller is very good and I've understood it easily. Furthermore, I love thrillers because there is a lot of suspense and we can put ourselves in the Inspector's shoes.

Amistad

PENGUIN READERS , level 3, a book based on David Franzoni's screenplay for Steven Spielberg's film
a short review by Anne Koczwar



In 1839, « La Amistad » a Spanish ship transporting African slaves who came from Sierra Leone is taken in a violent storm from Cuba. About fifty prisoners manage to release themselves from their chains and turn against their executioners, they use weapons. Cinque, their leader, obliges the captain to head back to Africa, but this one, taking advantage of his ignorance lets her drift to America. When the ship arrives

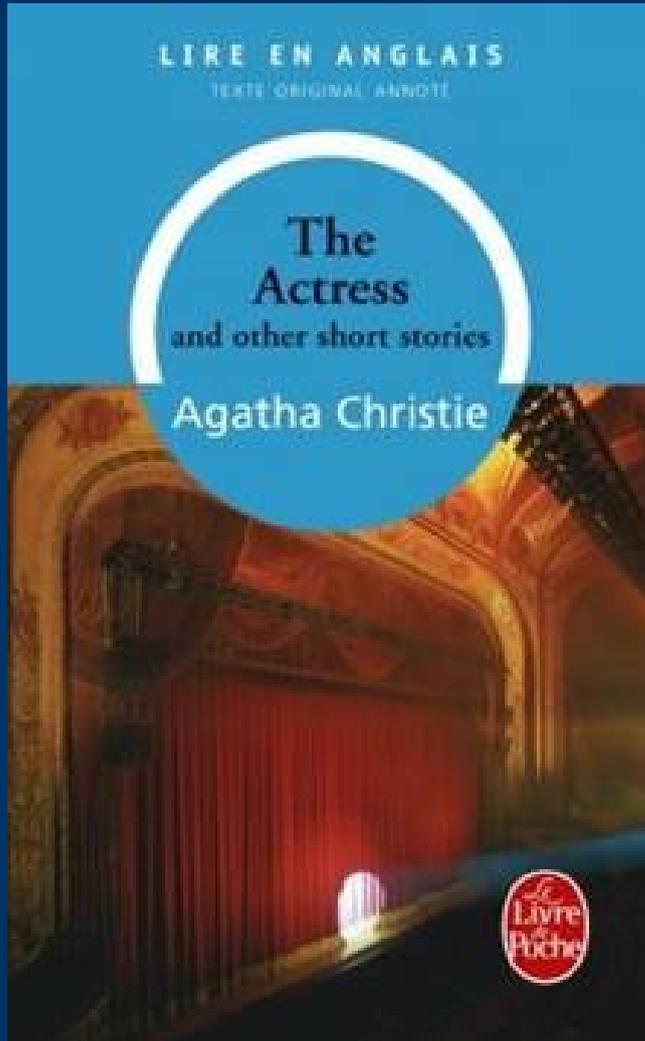
at her destination, the slaves are led to the United States, where they are judged for murder, they wait in prison. While the slaves of the ship appeal in justice to get back to the ship, a lawyer of the city asks justice to recognize their refugee status and rejects the assumption that these people are murderers. The battle persists around their trial which draws the attention of the nation and questions the foundations of the American judicial system. But for imprisoned men and women? It is simply about the fight for a fundamental right: FREEDOM.

*In Spanish the title means « Friendship ». Very ironic!
In my opinion this book is very interesting because it concerns slavery. The story is easy to understand . If you want to read in English I think that this book is a good book. Personally I like this story based on real facts. It is short and amazing!*

[The Amistad is also a film by Steven Spielberg]

The Actress and other stories by Agatha Christie

a short review by Quentin Blouet (1)



This book was written by Agatha Christie. It is a book which includes four short stories entitled: “The Actress”; “the Golden ball”; “The Thumb Marks at St Peter's” and “The Witness for the Prosecution”. Those stories are different but all have a common point: in all of those stories there is a lot of suspense.

- *The Actress*

Jack Levitt can't believe his luck when one evening at the theatre, he recognises the actress “Taylor”, a girl who he knows a lot. A story of blackmail and murder.

- *The Golden Ball*: Georges Dundas has been rejected by his uncle for refusing to work hard. He contemplates his fate when Montessor passes by in her car. She takes him off to the country and proposes. They stop in front of a house and a person opens the door. They are confronted with a very dangerous situation.

- *The Thumb Marks at St Peter's*:

When Mabel's husband dies, the village of St Mary Mead begins to wonder why. Mabel is suspected because she bought some arsenic but she claims that she intended to commit suicide. Who is telling the truth?

The Actress and other stories by Agatha Christie

a short review by Quentin Blouet (2)

the Witness for the Prosecution:

Leonard is arrested for the murder of Emily French, a wealthy old widow.

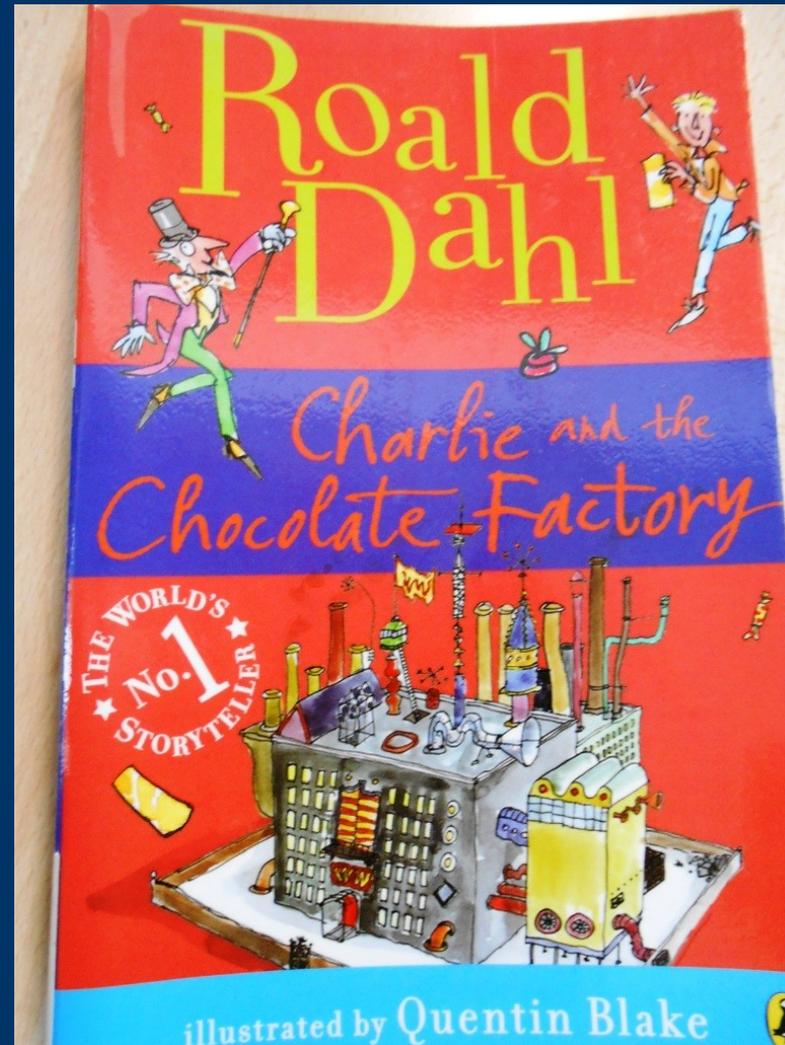
She made him her principal heir, that could be the motive of the murder. Who killed Mrs French?

My opinion:

First of all, I love books which describe a murder. So it's normal I chose Agatha Christie. I find the book very interesting because the book contains four different stories. The story which I love the most is The Actress.



*Charlie and the Chocolate Factory ,Roald Dahl
a short review by Kenza Latrèche*



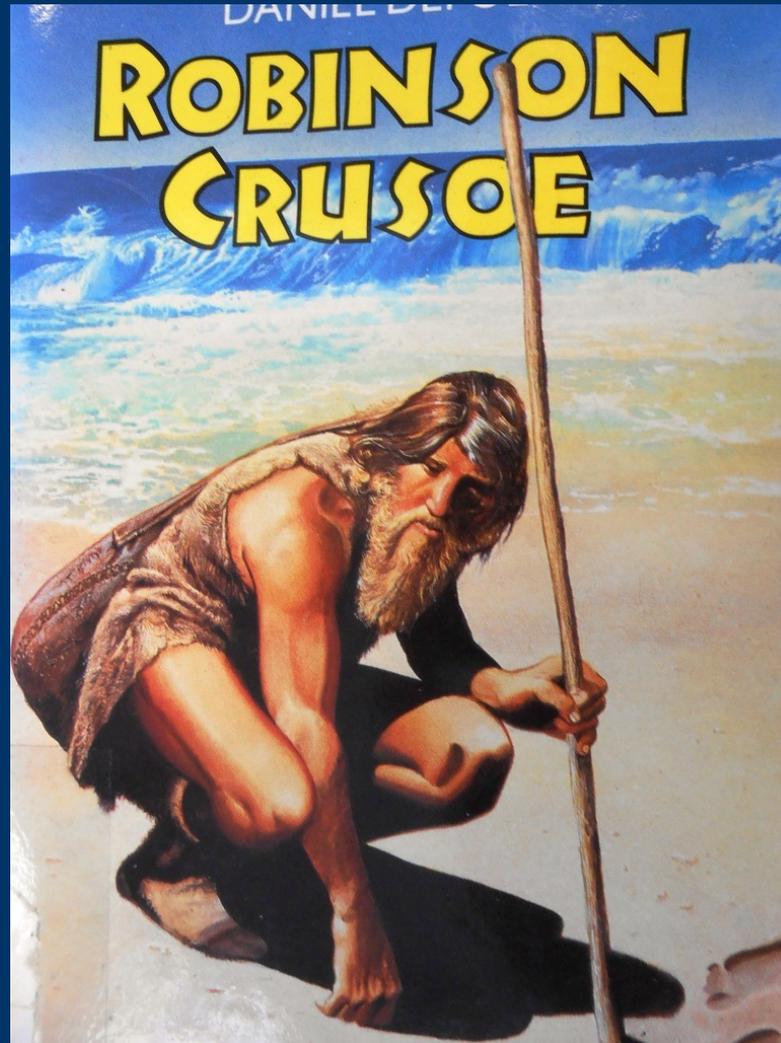
Charlie and the Chocolate Factory

Charlie Bucket is a very nice little boy who lives with his parents, and his 4 grand-parents. They are so old and so tired that they never get out of their bed. They all live together in an uncomfortable small house. They are penniless, furthermore Mr Bucket has lost his job and it was the only income. Except for his family, the thing that he loves the most is chocolate. Because of their extreme poverty he can receive only one candy bar a year, on the occasion of his birthday. The most famous chocolate factory in the world is located right next door to him. So he can smell it every day, it's very frustrating for him. Willy Wonka's factory is very mysterious. In the past, because of spies, he closed his factory, and now it is open but nobody ever comes out. They have never seen the new workers. Rumor has it workers are not ordinary people. Willy Wonka's famous chocolate factory is opening at last but only 5 children will be allowed inside if they find the 5 golden tickets. And the winners are Augustus Gloop, an obese and gluttonous boy; Veruca Salt, a spoiled rotten brat whose parents are wrapped around her little finger; Violet Beauregarde a record breaking gum chewer; a boy named Mike Teavee, an aspiring gangster who is unhealthily obsessed with television and Charlie Bucket the honest, kind boy. Charlie and his grandpa Joe go to the factory to meet Mr Wonka and of course discover the factory

There is a room made entirely of edible things with a chocolate river, and the mysterious workers are Oompa Loompas from Loompaland. They are little people who run the factory. And that's only the beginning! One by one, the other 4 children on the tour cause some major trouble and are carried away. Augustus Gloop falls into the chocolate river while trying to drink from it, Violet Beauregarde eats some magical gum that turns her into a blueberry, Veruca Salt tries to steal a working squirrel and ends up down a garbage chute, and Mike Teavee is shrunk down when he tries to send himself through television. Charlie, being the last child left, wins the prize, Willy gives him the chocolate factory. Together they go to Charlie's house in the glass elevator and take the whole family back to the chocolate factory to live out the rest of their lives.

In my opinion, this book is very funny; it is original, amazing, and delicious. When I read it I wanted to eat a candy bar! Nobody can copy it, nothing can compare to it. It is a book of any age even a person who is 60 years old can read it and of course love it. Willy Wonka is unique, unpredictable, and Grandpa Joe is a wonderful grandpa. Charlie Bucket is an appealing character. I like the novel very much.

Robinson Crusoe by Daniel Defoe
A short review by Quentin Bruant



Robinson Crusoe **by Daniel Defoe**

a short review by Quentin Bruant

Robinson Crusoe is a novel written by Daniel Defoe in the first part of the 18th century.

This novel tells us how a castaway has survived on a desert island.

The story begins in 1632 when Robinson Crusoe was born in York.

But the real action begins on May 30th 1659. Robinson is on board of a ship somewhere in the Atlantic ocean.

One night, a storm on the sea destroys the ship which runs on a desert island.

The only one who survives is Robinson Crusoe.

He goes to the ship to get all he can take: guns powder dried fruits... and returns to the island.

Then he builds a “house” on a side of one of three hills on the island.

During his life on the island, Robinson organises the island to have some food.

But, one day, he sees a little boat and saves a young man who was a prisoner.

Then the young man, who Robinson calls Friday, becomes the servant of Robinson and together they chase away all men who want to stay on the island until the day when a British ship arrives.

Some men of the ship arrive to abandon one of them on the island.

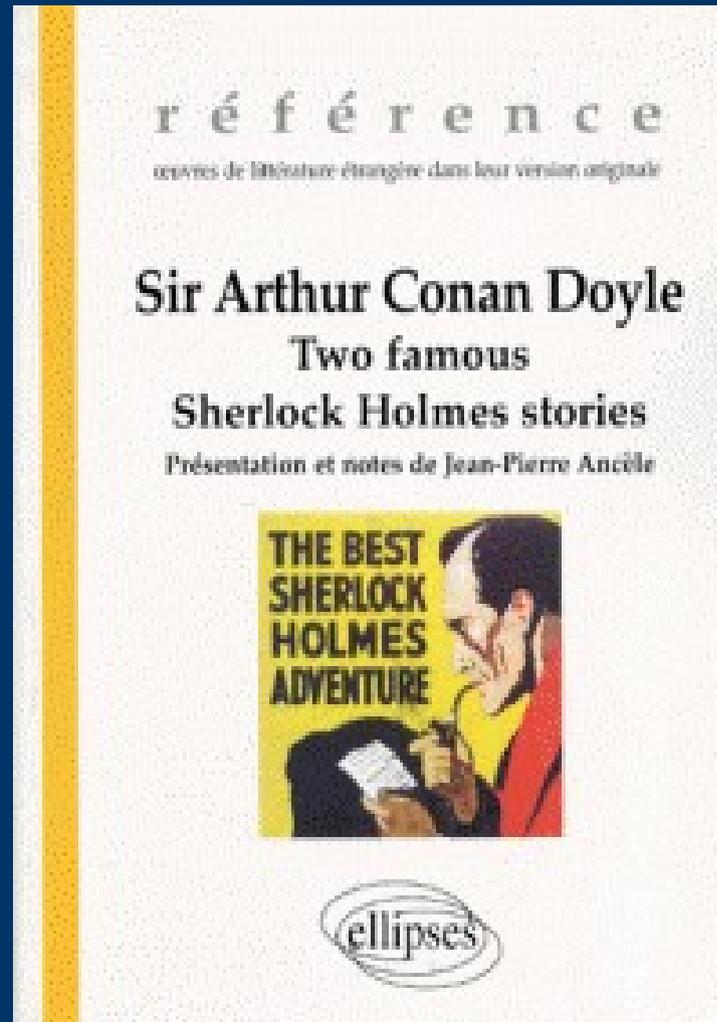
This man was the captain but his men rebelled against him.

Robinson and Friday save him and help him to take the ship back.

And then Robinson goes back to England with Friday.

In my opinion this novel is well written. It makes us live a great moment, we are transported onto Robinson's island.

Two famous Sherlock Holmes stories by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle - A short review by Théo Deshayes



The Red-headed League

A Scandal in Bohemia:

At the beginning of the story Watson visits his friend to speak to him. The latter is meeting a stranger whose problem is very important. This stranger is the king of Bohemia. He tells them that when he was younger he had a love relation with Irene Alder who, now threatens him to show a photo of him with her to compromise the marriage of the king of Bohemia with the princess of Scandinavia. Then the king leaves.

The next day Holmes disguised as a tramp tells Watson that he saw Irene getting married with a man, Godfrey Norton. Then he explains his strategy. Watson will have to throw a fumigene bomb at Irene's home to simulate a fire. According to Holmes during the fire the woman will try to protect what is most precious to her thus, the photo. The photo is in the jewel box. Holmes can pass from now on to the second part of his plan. When Holmes goes back home, a young man is following him. The next day Holmes and the king go to Irene's home to steal the photo, but a servant tells them that Irene and her husband had to leave the country. Holmes discovers that Irene has thwarted his stratagem and was even disguised as a man to greet him.

A man of the name of Jabez Wilson has joined the league of the redheads having seen an advertisement that any red-haired person could join this league. His work was to copy out the encyclopaedia Britannica from 10.am to 2.pm with the order never to arrive late and not to leave his workplace.

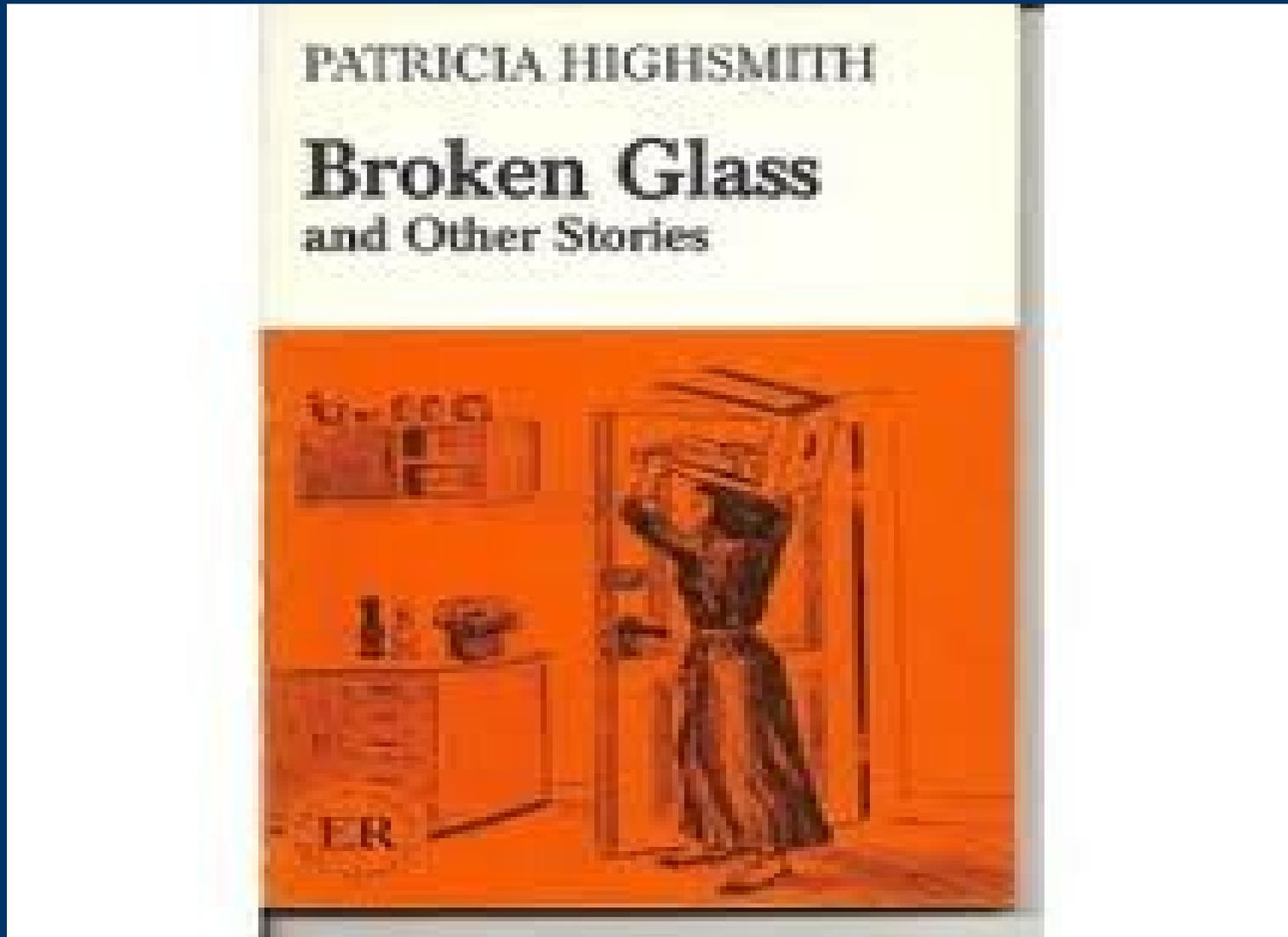
But, one day, without any previous warning the league is dissolved and everybody has left without him knowing.. The latter decides to ask Holmes for help at once . Holmes asks him to describe his assistant, the young man who had shown Wilson the advertisement of the league. Wilson describes a very ordinary person. Holmes is not convinced and starts investigating the case. One evening, during a concert, Holmes warns Watson that a great crime is about to happen.

The next day Holmes informs Watson and some policemen that it is necessary to get 30 000 pounds back and catch the thief John Clay. They hide then in the basements of the bank to prevent the flight of the golden boxes of the bank of France. At the moment when the criminals arrive Holmes arrests them.

My opinion

I loved these texts a lot because I like detective stories and even more those by Conan Doyle. In the first text I liked the twist in the drama at the end a lot and the way Holmes described and observed people. In the second text I liked the humor with which Holmes reacts to the story of Wilson a lot and the idea of a bank next to the house of Wilson. In brief, I loved this book a lot and I definitely recommend it !

Broken Glass and Other Stories by Patricia Highsmith



Something You Have to Live with

This book is a novel by Patricia Highsmith entitled « Broken glass and other stories ». In this book there are three stories. The first story is called « Something you have to live with », the second story is called « A curious suicide » and the third story is called « Broken Glass ».

In this story there are two main characters who are called Stanley Brixton a writer and a literary critic, and Gennie who writes articles. Gennie and Stan Brixton have bought a house in Connecticut after living six years in their New-york apartment. The text is about Gennie who is alone in the house and she hears a noise. She goes down the stairs. There is someone in the house. The man is a burglar. He has stolen all the jewelry after and when he kicks the cat Cassie ,Gennie feels very angry and suddenly she hits him with the edge of the seat. The burglar dies. Next the police arrives and they ask many questions. Gennie takes pills which have a calming effect. Gennie has ruined their marriage with this murder and it is certainly not a reason for the divorce.

Broken Glass

In this story, the Coopermans and the Wynants have been good friends and neighbours for many years. Andrew and Sarah have always lived in the apartment. Andrew is a quite a good framer, Sarah is a photographer. Sarah dies. Next to Andrew's apartment this is Kate's apartment. There is a robbery in Kate's apartment. Kate killed the man sitting with his pipe and many other people. Andrew sees Hispanic boys who are attacked. He goes home and he sees his glass is broken. He goes out to buy another glass. Certainly it is the Hispanic boys who broke the glass. Suddenly he receives a blow on the head and falls. He dies on the spot. It is the story about social injustice and meaningless violence.

A Curious Suicide

Dr Stephen Mc Cullough is a doctor and he is in Paris. He takes the express to go to Geneva. He is a serious man and he is unhappily married. He goes to Geneva to visit Roger Fane. Doctor Mc Cullough hates Roger Fane because Roger Fane has married the woman Dr Mc Cullough loved Margaret. She dies. Dr Mc Cullough wants the death of Roger Fane. Dr Mc Cullough goes to Roger's house and they quarrel and he takes a marble slab and he hits him hard on the forehead with its base. Lilliam is suspected of this murder. And when Lilliam learns that he is suspected, he kills himself. *Personally I like this story because, I like crime stories with the police , murderers, innocent people and a person who avenges himself or herself !*