

➤ 1–2 Audio CDs and Extra Exercises available for selected titles
➤ 600 key words ➤ 32–64 pages ➤ Online support

➤ Beautifully illustrated throughout

➤ Background information notes



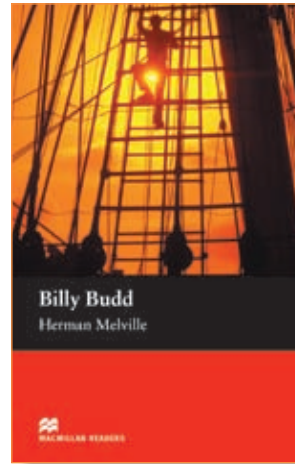
The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn

Mark Twain,
retold by F. H. Cornish

*Human Interest/Humour/Crime/
Detection/Adventure/Thriller/Spy*

It is 1845 and Huck has made up his mind to leave the little town of Hannibal. When his violent father holds him captive, Huck knows that he has to leave quickly and secretly. And so Huck begins his journey down the Mississippi River on a log raft, in the company of another runaway – the slave Jim.

64pp British English 978 1 4050 7234 2
Availability: Worldwide Age 12+



Billy Budd

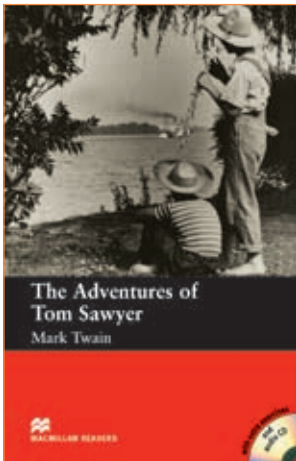
Herman Melville,
retold by Margaret Turner

*Human Interest/
Adventure/Thriller/Spy*

Summer 1797, and the officers of the British Navy fear a mutiny among its sailors. Billy Budd is handsome, strong, reliable, efficient and loyal. But he is victimised by Claggart, the vindictive and cruel master-at-arms.

This tragic tale, by one of the most popular American novelists of his day, was made into an opera and a film.

64pp British English 978 1 4050 7227 4
Availability: Worldwide Age 14+



The Adventures of Tom Sawyer

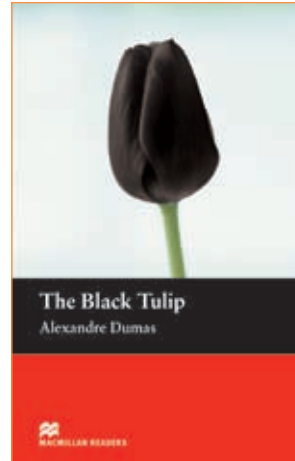
Mark Twain,
retold by F. H. Cornish

*Human Interest/Humour/
Crime/Detection/Adventure/
Thriller/Spy*

‘Tom was very unhappy. He was in trouble, he was going to run away forever. ‘Nobody loves me! I’m leaving home...’

A story of the humorous adventures of a young orphan boy who lives beside the great Mississippi River in 1844.

64pp British English 978 1 4050 7608 1
Availability: Worldwide Age 12+



The Black Tulip

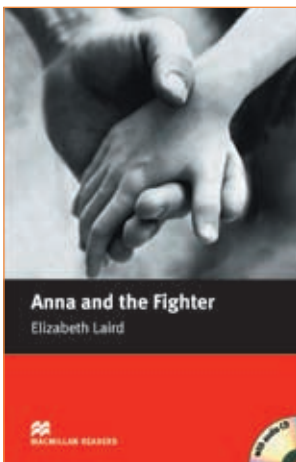
Alexandre Dumas,
retold by Florence Bell

*Human Interest/Adventure/Thriller/
Spy*

A romance set in Holland in 1672. Young Cornelius Van Baerle has found the secret of growing a black tulip.

He will soon claim the prize offered to the first person to produce black flowers. But Cornelius has a jealous neighbour, and this man becomes a dangerous enemy.

64pp British English 978 1 4050 7228 1
Availability: Worldwide Age 13+



Anna and the Fighter

Elizabeth Laird

Human Interest/Romance

Anna is making her first trip alone by train, to visit her aunt. She is nervous and excited. The journey is long and tiring and she falls asleep. She wakes up to find that she has missed her station and that she is sharing the train compartment with a dangerous-looking man.

32pp British English 978 1 4050 7610 4
Availability: Worldwide Age 12+



Dangerous Journey

Alwyn Cox

Adventure/Thriller/Spy

Four members of a geological team are trapped in a forest and delayed by heavy rains. The only way back to base camp is closed because a river has destroyed the bridge. Although he will not admit it, Leon, the boss, starts to lose control of the situation.

32pp British English 978 1 4050 7612 8
Availability: Worldwide Age 12+





Good Wives

Louisa M. Alcott,
retold by Anne Collins
Human Interest/Romance

The sequel to *Little Women*, the story of the March sisters has been popular for over 100 years.

Meg is engaged to be married to John Brooke. Laurie Lawrence, their neighbour, disappointed after being refused by the spirited Jo, goes to Europe with his grandfather and meets up again with the youngest sister, Amy. Meanwhile, Jo pursues a career as a writer in New York. She, too, is looking for happiness, but returns to her home when she learns that her beloved sister, Beth, is dangerously ill.

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Availability: Worldwide Age 12+

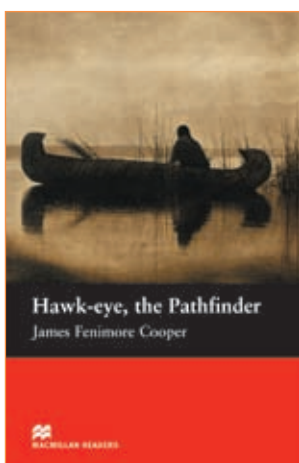


The House on the Hill

Elizabeth Laird
Human Interest/Romance

Paul realises that he will never be able to marry Maria if he remains poor. When he wins first prize in a story competition, he becomes convinced that he will soon have everything he wants.

32pp British English 978 1 4050 7614 2
Availability: Worldwide Age 12+



Hawk-eye, the Pathfinder

James Fenimore Cooper,
retold by T. P. Yatt
*Human Interest/Adventure/
Thriller/Spy*

This exciting adventure, set in 1757, is the sequel to *The Last of the Mohicans*, also available in the Macmillan Readers series.

64pp British English 978 1 4050 7231 1
Availability: Worldwide Age 12+



Jane Eyre

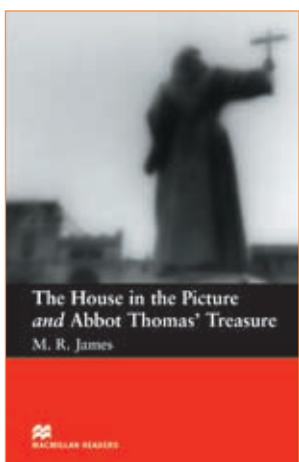
Charlotte Brontë,
retold by Florence Bell
*Human Interest/Mystery/Horror/
Ghost/Romance*

*'Some hours later, I woke up.
A terrible cry had woken me...*

"Help! Help! Rochester, help me!"

A classic love story which was first published in 1847. Numerous plays, films and television adaptations have been made of this great novel.

64pp British English 978 1 4050 7616 6
Availability: Worldwide Age 12+

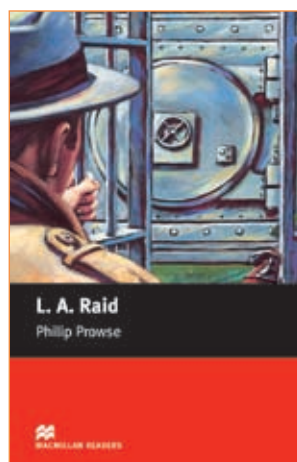


The House in the Picture and Abbot Thomas' Treasure

M. R. James,
retold by F. H. Cornish
*Short Stories/Human Interest/
Crime/Detection*

Two quiet scholars have terrible surprises in this pair of classic nineteenth-century horror stories.

64pp British English 978 1 4050 7232 8
Availability: Worldwide Age 12+



L. A. Raid

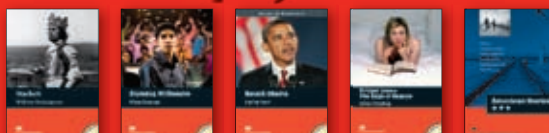
Philip Prowse
Humour/Crime/Detection

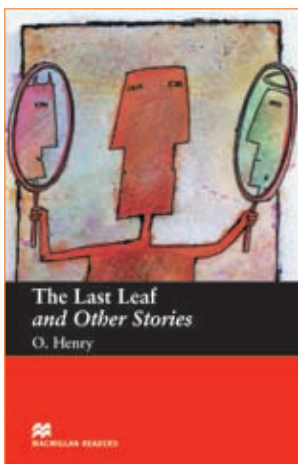
Private investigator Lenny Samuel is in work again.

Lenny is hired to discover the identity of the robber who raids banks wearing a duck mask, but he ends up looking the fool himself. Will the police send him to jail as a member of the gang? Or will they believe he is innocent?

32pp British English 978 1 4050 7236 6
Availability: Worldwide Age 12+

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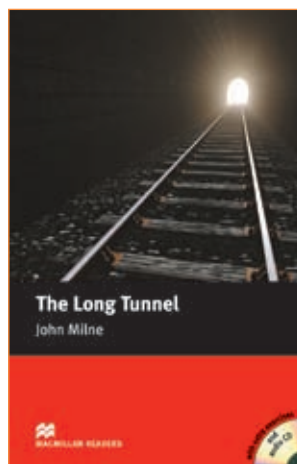
The Last Leaf and Other Stories

O. Henry,
retold by Katherine Mattock
*Human Interest/Short Stories/Humour/
Romance/Crime/Detection/
Adventure/Thriller/Spy*

North America — 1898-1910.
Five stories with unusual endings. They are about criminals and crimes, detectives and their investigations, lovers and their hopes.

The Last Leaf, The Good Burglar, A Lesson in Love, The Jeweller's Wife and The Car is Waiting.

64pp British English 978 1 4050 7237 3
Availability: Worldwide Age 14+

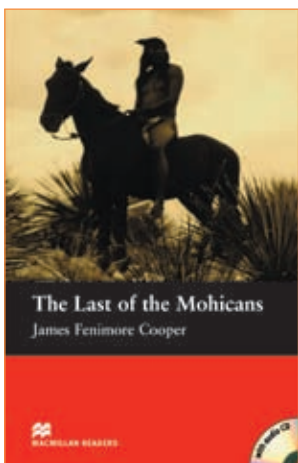


The Long Tunnel

John Milne
*Crime/Detection/Adventure/
Thriller/Spy*

Three university students decide to go on holiday together in Wales. They stay in a remote cottage without electricity or a telephone. But who is the bearded man? And does he have other plans for the cottage?

32pp British English 978 1 4050 7622 7
Availability: Worldwide Age 13+



The Last of the Mohicans

James Fenimore Cooper,
retold by John Escott
*Human Interest/Romance/
Adventure/Thriller/Spy*

A classic romantic adventure set in North America in the 1750s.

The armies of France and England are fighting. Indian tribes are fighting for each army. The Hurons are with the French, and the Mohawks and the Mohicans are with the English.

This is the story of the scout, Hawk-eye, and his two Indian friends – the last of the Mohicans.

64pp British English 978 1 4050 7618 0
Availability: Worldwide Age 12+



Lorna Doone

R. D. Blackmore,
retold by John Escott
*Human Interest/Romance/
Crime/Detection*

A romantic adventure story set in south-west England in the 1600s. This much-loved British classic has been enjoyed by each generation of readers.

64pp British English 978 1 4050 7241 0
Availability: Worldwide Age 12+



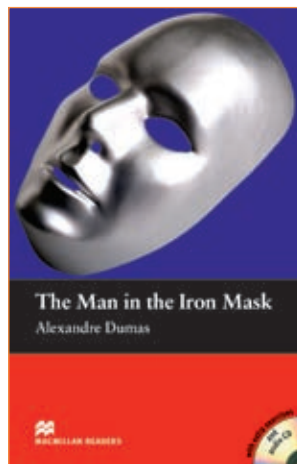
Little Women

Louisa M. Alcott,
retold by Anne Collins
Human Interest/Romance

The story of four sisters growing up in Massachusetts, USA during the American Civil War.

Meg, Jo, Beth and Amy March live with their mother in a small town. Their father is away fighting with the Union army.

64pp British English 978 1 4050 7620 3
Availability: Worldwide Age 12+



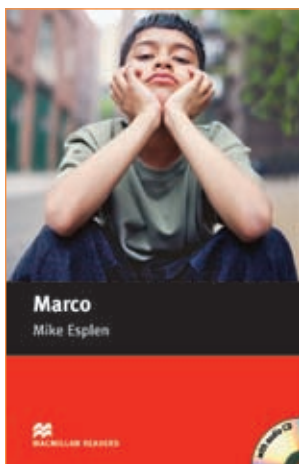
The Man in the Iron Mask

Alexandre Dumas,
retold by John Escott
Romance/Adventure/Thriller/Spy

A classic adventure story set in seventeenth-century France. Young Louis XIV begins his reign. His Chief Minister of Finance invites the king to his beautiful house at Vaux.

64pp British English 978 1 4050 7624 1
Availability: Worldwide Age 12+





Marco

Mike Esplen

Human Interest/Adventure/Thriller/Spy

Marco is young and bored. He dislikes working on his father's farm, picking and packing boxes of peaches all day in the hot sun. He wants freedom, money and excitement. One weekend, he decides to leave home. He takes a train to the city, but he is not prepared for what he finds there.

32pp British English 978 1 4050 7626 5
Availability: Worldwide Age 12+



Newspaper Boy

John Escott

Short Stories/Crime/Detection/Adventure/Thriller/Spy

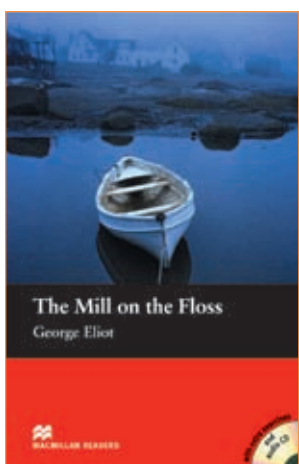
Two adventure stories about a newspaper delivery boy who wants to be a detective.

Alarm! – Toby stops a gang of thieves from breaking into an electronics factory.

The Cutting – Toby is convinced that the new occupant of 17 Ash Avenue is an escaped bank robber.

Recommended for younger readers.

32pp British English 978 1 4050 7245 8
Availability: Worldwide Age 12+



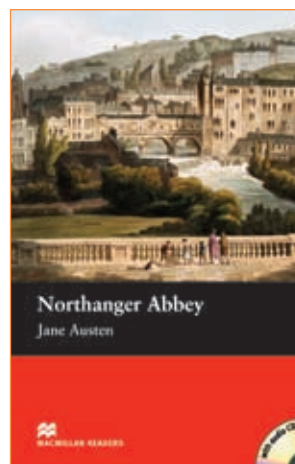
The Mill on the Floss

George Eliot,
retold by Florence Bell

Human Interest/Romance

Love and family duty form the central themes of this classic, tragic tale by one of Britain's finest novelists.

64pp British English 978 1 4050 7628 9
Availability: Worldwide Age 12+



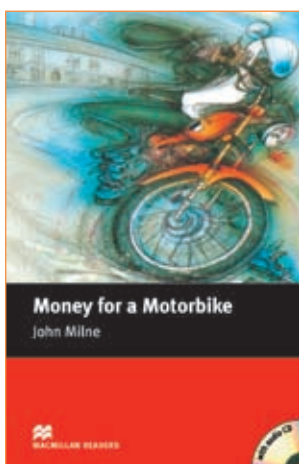
Northanger Abbey

Jane Austen,
retold by Florence Bell

Human Interest/Romance

Jane Austen's light-hearted and witty novel is the story of a pretty young woman who is looking for a rich and handsome husband!

64pp British English 978 1 4050 7632 6
Availability: Worldwide Age 12+



Money for a Motorbike

John Milne

Human Interest/Adventure/Thriller/Spy

Stuart is 17 years old and lives in Leeds. He has left school but he has no job and no money. He wants the motorbike that his friend, Martin, is selling. How will he get the money to buy Martin's bike?

32pp British English 978 1 4050 7630 2
Availability: Worldwide Age 12+



The Phantom of the Opera

Gaston Leroux, translated and retold by Stephen Colbourn

Mystery/Horror/Ghost/Romance

The singers and dancers at the Opera House are frightened. They have seen a stranger behind the stage – a man in a mask.

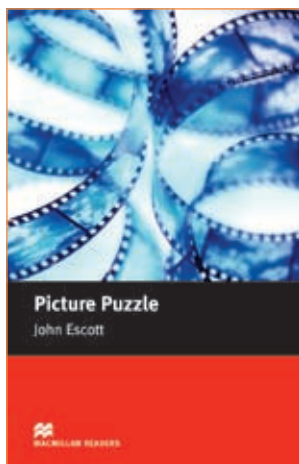
This story has been the basis of many films and plays, as well as a world-famous musical.

64pp British English 978 1 4050 7634 0
Availability: Worldwide Age 13+



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Picture Puzzle

John Escott

Romance/Adventure/Thriller/Spy

Who is the running girl who pushes a cassette of film into Pete's hand in the shopping mall? Puzzled and curious, Pete takes the film to be developed and the mystery deepens.

32pp British English 978 1 4050 7248 9
Availability: Worldwide Age 12+



Rich Man, Poor Man

T. C. Jupp

Human Interest

Old Adam gets a surprise gift. His son, who is working in England, sends him a money order. Adam wants to use the gift to give a party. But when he tries to cash the money order, he experiences many problems.

32pp British English 978 1 4050 7636 4
Availability: Worldwide Age 13+



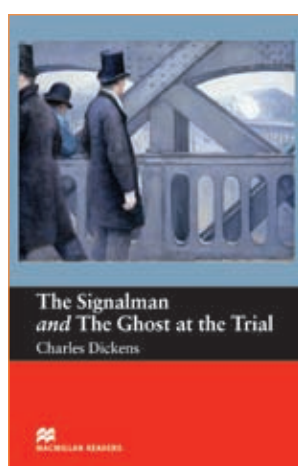
Princess Diana

Anne Collins

History/Romance/Human Interest

A sympathetic and informative description of the life of Britain's most famous princess. The marriage of Lady Diana Spencer to Prince Charles was watched by millions of people around the world. But their fairy-tale marriage was not to last and Diana's life would be cut short by a terrible car crash. Includes photographs and details of Diana's favourite charities.

64pp British English 978 0 2307 1653 7
Availability: Worldwide Age 14-18



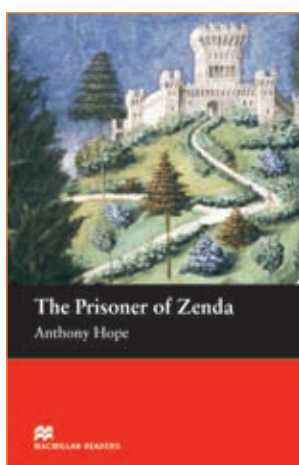
The Signalman and The Ghost at the Trial

Charles Dickens,
retold by F. H. Cornish

Short Stories/Mystery/Horror/Ghost

These two chilling short stories show Dickens to be a masterful writer of the mid-nineteenth century ghost story.

64pp British English 978 1 4050 7249 6
Availability: Worldwide Age 13+



The Prisoner of Zenda

Anthony Hope,
retold by Stephen Colbourn

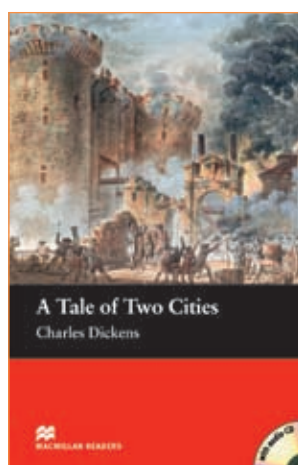
Romance/Adventure/Thriller/Spy

A romantic thriller set in a fictional European country in the 1890s.

A case of mistaken identity leads to intrigue and romance.

Prince Rudolph has disappeared. Where is he? What does his brother Black Michael know? Can an Englishman save Ruritania?

64pp British English 978 1 4050 7250 2
Availability: Worldwide Age 12+



A Tale of Two Cities

Charles Dickens,
retold by Stephen Colbourn

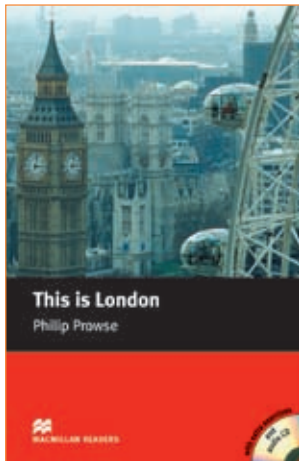
Human Interest/Romance/Adventure/Thriller/Spy

A romantic tragedy set against the background of the French Revolution.

The story has been the source of a number of film adaptations.

64pp British English 978 1 4050 7606 7
Availability: Worldwide Age 12+





This is London

Philip Prose
Travel/Background

A guide to London past and present. From markets and shops, architecture and sightseeing to restaurants and nightlife. Illustrated with photographs, maps and up-to-date advice and information.

40pp British English 978 1 4050 8711 7
Availability: Worldwide Age 12+

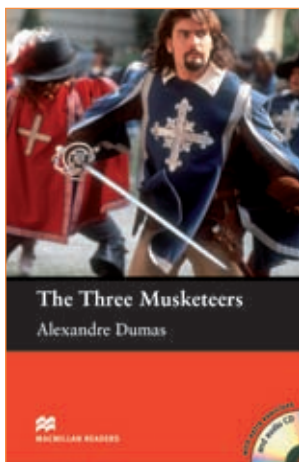


The Truth Machine

Norman Whitney
*Human Interest/Mystery/Horror/
Ghost/Science Fiction/Fantasy*

Professor Verity invents a machine which makes its subjects tell the truth. Soon the professor has many clients who wish to use the amazing new invention.

32pp British English 978 1 4050 7254 0
Availability: Worldwide Age 13+



The Three Musketeers

Alexandre Dumas
retold by Nicholas Murgatroyd
Adventure/Romance/History

D'Artagnan wants to become a King's musketeer. But before he can have the job he must meet many challenges and prove that he is a strong and brave fighter. Can he protect the Queen from the Cardinal's evil plans? And will he be able to stop the beautiful Milady from murdering the Duke of Buckingham?

72pp British English 978 0 2307 1673 5
Availability: Worldwide Age 12-18



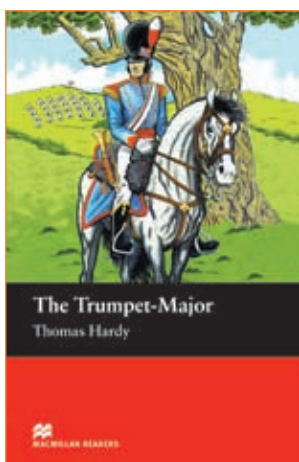
Washington Square

Henry James,
retold by Margaret Turner
Human Interest/Romance

Catherine Sloper lives with her father and her aunt in Washington Square. She is plain and uninteresting. But one day she will be rich.

Catherine falls in love with a handsome young man. But does Morris Townsend want Catherine? Or does he want her money?

64pp British English 978 1 4050 7255 7
Availability: Worldwide Age 13+



The Trumpet-Major

Thomas Hardy,
retold by John Escott
Human Interest/Romance

A romantic classic set during the Napoleonic Wars. Who should Anne choose to marry: a rich man, a soldier or a sailor?

64pp British English 978 1 4050 7253 3
Availability: Worldwide Age 13+

Example author data sheet

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AUTHOR DATA SHEET Macmillan Guided Readers

Thomas Hardy

The author and his work

Subjects, including Latin and Mathematics, he read as many books as he could, and he became very interested in history.

When he was sixteen, Thomas left school and started to work for an architect. A year after that he designed some buildings and planned ways to repair old ones. Thomas loved drawing and he did it well. In 1862, Thomas moved to London, the job was in the office of a famous architect called Arthur Blomfield. Blomfield's office was full of interesting and well-educated young men, and Hardy enjoyed the time that he spent there. He often went to the theatre and to art exhibitions, and he went on reading as much as he could. Soon he began to write poetry, although none of it was published at this time.

In 1867, Thomas decided to return to Dorsetshire. He still worked as an architect's assistant, but he did not love that so much as he did the writing. He wrote a novel, but he could not get it published. This did not stop Thomas writing, and soon he was working on a second novel.

In 1870, Thomas was sent to the village of St Juliot in north Cornwall, to be the vicar of the village. The old church in the village was in very bad condition. Thomas's job was to make drawings of it and find out if the church could be repaired or rebuilt. Thomas went to Cornwall and changed Thomas's life completely. Because he had to live there, the only way to have with him was a small library of novels. He did not read and did not write many books. Thomas was the first child to go to his father's school and university. The Hardy and Hardy families had lived in the Higher Bockhampton area for a very long time, so Thomas grew up with many close relatives, mostly, and he loved them all well.

Although Thomas's parents were ordinary working people and they didn't have much money, they wanted their children to be well educated. Thomas's father taught his son to play the violin and his mother had Thomas learn to sing songs about the people of Dorset. Thomas's first school was at Higher Bockhampton, but in 1868 he was able to go to school in Dorchester. The second time, this school was a good one and Thomas learnt about many

Hardy the novelist
Some encourage Thomas to go on writing novels, and in 1871 one of them was published. It was called 'Desperate Measures'. It was not very popular and Thomas didn't earn much money from it. But his next novel, 'Under the Greenwood Tree', was published in 1872. It was a story about working people in Dorset at the time of Thomas's own father and grandfather. It is unusual.

Thomas Hardy

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