

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE OF UKRAINE
Pavlo Tychyna Uman State Pedagogical University

Olha Yalovenko

**THE MOONSTONE:
HOME READING TASKS**

Reference Book

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Reviewers:

Komar O.S., Doctor in Education, Associate Professor of English and Methodology Department, Pavlo Tychyna Uman State Pedagogical University;

Stepanova A. A., Doctor in Philology, Professor of English Philology and Translation Department, Pro-Rector for Research, Alfred Nobel University;

Chyk D. Ch., Doctor in Philology, Professor of Foreign Languages and Methodology Department, Taras Shevchenko Kremenets Regional Humanitarian Pedagogical Academy.

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The home reading reference book includes lexical and grammatical tasks to W. Collins' "The Moonstone". When compiling the exercises, the students' interests are taken into account in order to understand the original language present in the novel and to realize this understanding in speech activity. All the exercises in the book contain a variety of fiction words and phrases to be learned. For students studying English at foreign language faculties of higher education establishments, language schools, as well as for advanced self-studying of authentic English language.

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PREFACE

The reference book “The Moonstone: home reading tasks” is developed in accordance with the curriculum to the discipline “Practical English Course” for Master`s Degree of Foreign Language Faculties of higher education establishments. The home reading reference book is based on W. Collins' novel “The Moonstone”; it contains a variety of pre-text and post-text exercises and tasks of both lexical and grammatical direction.

The purpose of the reference book is an in-depth study of authentic language, which helps to understand the original work, as well as to plan and organize individual work on the literary text. All this contributes to the formation of oral and written skills and the ability to realize the work's understanding in the discussion of current issues.

An important advantage of the reference book is its aesthetic impact on the student-reader, stimulating his creative ability to know the reality depicted in the text, which encourages him to make his own judgments and conclusions, gives the opportunity to form a worldview. After all, the spiritual reflection of any nation, including English, is impossible to imagine without the life-giving influence of fiction, which is one of the active factors in the social education of conscience, morality, universal values and intelligence.

The reference book contains brief information about the author, the novel's summary, two parts, as well as appendices, which can be used by students as an additional resource.

When compiling the book, a system of tasks was created:

- literary translation of the proposed passage;
- lexical exercises (put out the characters' names, find synonyms to some words, find out complicated words and translate them, put the sentences/events in the correct order according to the chapter, finish the sentence, connect the character to his/her role in the story, add missing words, explain the meaning of the words in italics, etc.);
- tasks for text discussion (retell the chapter close to the text, make

- up/answer the questions about the chapters, discuss the main characters, discuss the relevance of some words, role play the conversations, divide the chapters into logical parts and make plan of it, think of any detail/symbol that is important in the text, etc.);
- grammar tasks (find collocations to some words, make word families (noun, verb, adjective, adverb), find in the chapters the examples of present/past/future tenses, gerund, quantifiers, relative clauses, passive voice, question tags, etc).

Completion of these tasks at home reading classes will contribute to: enriching students' vocabulary; improving their reading skills, expressing their point of view, arguments, evaluating the work, the main characters, facts and situations showed in the text (orally and in a written form).

All the exercises in the book contain a variety of fiction words and phrases to be learned. The exercises are aimed at controlling the understanding and mastering of certain lexical items; checking the correctness and depth of text understanding; development of students' speech competence. The book is intended for students of Foreign Language Faculties of higher education establishments, language schools, as well as for advanced self-studying of authentic English language.

WILKIE COLLINS: BRIEF BIOGRAPHY

William Wilkie Collins, or Wilkie as he was known to his friends and readers, was born in London's Marylebone where he lived more or less continuously for 65 years. Today he is best known for "The Moonstone" (1868), often regarded as the first true detective novel, and "The Woman in White" (1860), the archetypal sensation novel. During his lifetime, however, he wrote over thirty major books, well over a hundred articles, short stories and essays, and a dozen or more plays.

He lived an unconventional, Bohemian lifestyle, loved good food and wine to excess, wore flamboyant clothes, travelled abroad frequently, formed long-term relationships with two women but married neither, and took vast quantities of opium over many years to relieve the symptoms of ill health. Collins's circle of friends included many pre-eminent figures of the day. He knew the major writers, particularly Charles Dickens with whom he regularly collaborated, as well as a host of minor novelists. His friends and acquaintances included some of the foremost artists, playwrights, theatrical personalities, musicians, publishers, physicians and society figures of the time. Collins's unorthodox lifestyle reveals a cynical regard for the Victorian establishment. This view is reflected in his books together with a sense of humour and a profound understanding for many of the then prevailing social injustices.

It was during the 1860s that Collins achieved enduring fame with his four major novels, "The Woman in White" (1860), "No Name" (1862), "Armada" (1866) and "The Moonstone" (1868). The first of these was published in Dickens new journal, *All the Year Round* from November 1859 to August 1860. It was received with great popular acclaim and ran to seven editions in 1860, alone. All kinds of commodities such as cloaks, bonnets, perfumes were called after it; there were Woman in White Waltzes and Quadrilles; it was parodied in *Punch*; Gladstone found the story so absorbing that he missed a visit to the theatre; and Thackeray was engrossed from morning to sunset.

The sudden meeting in the novel of the hero, Walter Hartright, with the mysterious woman in white is said to have been inspired by a real life meeting between Collins, strolling home one evening in 1858, accompanied by his brother Charles and the painter Millais. They were accosted, so the story runs, by 'a woman dressed in flowing white robes escaping from a villa in Regent's Park where she had been kept prisoner under mesmeric influence. The real life woman in white was Caroline Graves who probably met Wilkie in the spring of 1856. She was a widow, originally came from Gloucestershire, and had a young daughter, Harriet Elizabeth (usually known as Carrie). Caroline and Wilkie never married but lived together from about 1858 for the best part of 30 years.

During the 1880s, Wilkie's always delicate health continued to decline. Breathing difficulties due to heart problems became more common and he resorted to capsules of amyl nitrate and hypophosphate. In January 1889 he was involved in an accident and thrown from a cab by the force of the collision. There followed a severe attack of bronchitis. He suffered a stroke on 30 June and with further complications died on 23 September.

Many of Collins's later novels do not possess the force and freshness of his earlier works. Nevertheless, he remained immensely popular with the reading public and the Chatto & Windus collected edition continued to be issued for many years after his death. Now, a century later, there has been a great revival in interest both in his enigmatic lifestyle and his unique gift as a master story-teller and constructor of labyrinthine plots. There have been two recent biographies as well as radio, television, cinema and theatrical productions. Nearly all of his works have now reappeared in the bookshops from which they had been absent for many years. Once lost in unjust obscurity and partly overshadowed by his great friend Dickens, Wilkie has returned in his own right.

“THE MOONSTONE”: SUMMARY

“The Moonstone” opens with a “family document” that records how the Moonstone (a huge, yellow diamond) was stolen in India by an English soldier and was taken back to England.

Now flash forward a couple of decades: our narrator is now Gabriel Betteredge, the old steward or butler for a wealthy English family living in the country. Betteredge has been given the job of describing how Rachel, the daughter of his boss, inherited the diamond from her wicked uncle on the day of her eighteenth birthday, and how the diamond disappeared that very night.

Here's how it all happened: the diamond is brought to the family mansion by Rachel's cousin, Franklin Blake. Franklin is afraid that someone will try to steal the diamond, so he leaves it under lock and key at the bank until it's time to give it to Rachel. He notices three Indians, dressed as entertainers, who follow him from the city. He wonders whether they might be after the diamond – since, after all, the diamond was originally stolen from India. Franklin has been living in Europe for the last few years, so it's been a while since Rachel has seen him. He's in love with her (it was OK to marry your cousin back then) and, for the few weeks before Rachel's birthday party (when she is to be presented with the diamond), the two cousins spend all their time together.

But Rachel has another cousin, Godfrey Ablewhite, who is also in love with her. And Godfrey is much better looking than Franklin. Godfrey is tall and athletic, and what's more, he's incredibly religious and is in charge of about a zillion charities in London. Betteredge doesn't think Franklin stands a chance.

Meanwhile, one of the servant girls in the house, Rosanna, falls in love with Franklin Blake. Too bad he never even notices that she exists! Poor Rosanna becomes depressed, especially when she remembers that she used to be a thief (she's reformed now).

On the night of the birthday party, the diamond disappears from Rachel's dressing room. Rachel is understandably upset about it, but she seems to be particularly angry with Franklin Blake – especially after he

calls the police to try and recover the missing diamond. Sergeant Cuff, a famous detective, arrives, and starts looking for clues. Rachel is so upset that she leaves the house in a huff and is very rude to Franklin.

Rosanna, the servant girl, is acting weird, too. Sergeant Cuff suspects that Rachel “stole” her own diamond in order to pawn it and pay off some secret debts, and that Rosanna was in on the secret. Rosanna disappears. It turns out she's committed suicide by throwing herself into the quicksand down by the ocean. She left a note with a girl in the village, but no one bothers to go read it.

Franklin Blake eventually confronts Rachel to find out what's up – Rachel says that she *saw* him steal the diamond with her own eyes! Franklin can't believe it. He figures he must be going crazy, since he has no recollection of going anywhere near Rachel's dressing room after the birthday party. But a local doctor, Ezra Jennings, has a theory: he figures Franklin might have taken some opium that night, and that the opium might have made him sleepwalk. Franklin doesn't remember taking any opium, but someone could have slipped it to him secretly. So they conduct an experiment: Franklin goes to bed in the same room where he slept on the night of the birthday party, and they give him some opium. After a while, sure enough, he sits up in his sleep, walks out of his bedroom, and heads to Rachel's dressing room – just as he must have done on the night of the birthday party.

The question is, of course, what happened to the diamond after Franklin “stole” it? They decide to check with all the major pawnbrokers in London. Finally, they see someone in a disguise picking it up at a bank. By the time they catch up with the disguised man, it's too late. They find the man dead in his room at a hotel. Guess who it is? It's Godfrey Ablewhite! Turns out he wasn't really as religious as he acted – he was a total hypocrite, and he needed the diamond to pay off his debts. The three Indians from the beginning of the novel have murdered him and taken the diamond back to India.

PROLOGUE: THE STORMING OF SERINGAPATAM (1799)

CHAPTERS 1-4.

ACTIVITIES

Task 1. Put the following words together to make a story about “The Moonstone”

moonstone, detective, locked up house, maid servant curse, India, jewel, Three Hindus, disappearance.

Task 2. Retell the Prologue close to the text.

Task 3. Pick out a short passage (about half a page) for oral translation.

Task 4. Find English equivalents to the following sentences.

- 1) Моє мовчання з цього приводу було неправильно витлумачене членами моєї родини, а я не хочу, щоб вони були поганої думки про мене.
- 2) Одначе там згадується не алмаз, присвячений божеству, як в Індії, а напівпрозорий камінь нижчої вартості, який нібито зазнавав впливу місяця і так само дістав від нього свою назву під якою він і досі відомий сучасним колекціонерам.
- 3) Місячний камінь пильно охороняли три жерці вдень і вночі, поки існує світ.
- 4) Алмаз потрапив до рук Тіппу, серінгапатамського султана, який прикрасив ним руків'я свого кинджала і зберігав серед найцінніших скарбів своєї збройової палати.
- 5) Я не бачив його ні під час переправи через річку, ні тоді, коли ми підняли англійський прапор на першому проломі, ні тоді, коли ми перейшли через рів і, відвойовуючи кожен крок, вступили в місто.
- 6) І там, де лунав іронічний вигук: «А хто знайшов Місячний камінь?», грабіж спалахував з новою силою.

- 7) Присутність поліцейського офіцера підтверджувала, що генерал не жартує.
- 8) Мого кузена часто піддражнювали алмазом ті, хто пам'ятав, як він вибухнув гнівом перед штурмом; але він мовчав, згадуючи, напевне, обставини, при яких я застав його в збройовій палаті.
- 9) Нехай наші родичі з одного і другого боку складуть собі думку про все вищесказане і самі вирішать, чи були в мене достатні підстави для огиди, яку я й досі відчуваю до цієї людини.
- 10) Я не тільки переконаний у винності Гернкасла, але й не сумніваюсь, що, залишивши в себе алмаз, він усе своє життя жалкуватиме про це і що інші також жалкуватимуть, узявши цей алмаз, якщо він віддасть його їм.

Task 5. Translate the following sentences into Ukrainian.

- 1) And I declare, on my word of honour, that what I am now about to write is, strictly and literally, the truth.
- 2) Here, in a new shrine-in a hall inlaid with precious stones, under a roof supported by pillars of gold – the moon-god was set up and worshipped.
- 3) One age followed another – and still, generation after generation, the successors of the three Brahmins watched their priceless Moonstone, night and day.
- 4) Even then – in the palace of the Sultan himself – the three guardian priests still kept their watch in secret.
- 5) The sally was saluted by a roar of laughter, and there, as we all thought that night, the thing ended.
- 6) We were each attached to a party sent out by the general's orders to prevent the plunder and confusion which followed our conquest.
- 7) The men (if I may use such an expression) disgraced themselves good-humouredly.
- 8) A cry inside hurried me into a room, which appeared to serve as an armoury.
- 9) I put two sentinels of my own company, on whom I could rely, to keep the door.
- 10) It is reported that he means to exchange into another regiment,

avowedly for the purpose of separating himself from ME.

Task 6. Make up 5 questions about the Prologue.

Task 7. Put these sentences in the correct order.

__ The adventures of the Yellow Diamond begin with the eleventh century of the Christian era.

__ The private difference between my cousin and me took its rise in a great public event in which we were both concerned – the storming of Seringapatam, under General Baird, on the 4th of May, 1799.

__ And the Brahmins caused the prophecy to be written over the gates of the shrine in letters of gold.

__ It was only at dusk, when the place was ours, and after General Baird himself had found the dead body of Tippoo under a heap of the slain, that Herncastle and I met.

__ A cry inside hurried me into a room, which appeared to serve as an armoury. A third Indian, mortally wounded, was sinking at the feet of a man whose back was towards me.

__ There were three officers of Tippoo's household, strangers to the rest, who had won their master's confidence by conforming, or appearing to conform, to the Mussulman faith; and to those three men report pointed as the three priests in disguise.

__ Partly from its peculiar colour, partly from a superstition which represented it as feeling the influence of the deity whom it adorned, and growing and lessening in lustre with the waxing and waning of the moon, it first gained the name by which it continues to be known in India to this day – the name of THE MOONSTONE.

Task 8. Finish the sentence.

- 1) Before I could stir in the matter, the men who ...
- 2) I waited before I gave ...
- 3) I turned my back ...
- 4) I have not only no proof that ...
- 5) Let our relatives, on either ...

- 6) It is my conviction, or my ...
- 7) I am not only persuaded of ...

Task 9. Translate the following passage.

We were each attached to a party sent out by the general's orders to prevent the plunder and confusion which followed our conquest. The camp-followers committed deplorable excesses; and, worse still, the soldiers found their way, by a guarded door, into the treasury of the Palace, and loaded themselves with gold and jewels. It was in the court outside the treasury that my cousin and I met, to enforce the laws of discipline on our own soldiers. Herncastle's fiery temper had been, as I could plainly see, exasperated to a kind of frenzy by the terrible slaughter through which we had passed. He was very unfit, in my opinion, to perform the duty that had been entrusted to him.

There was riot and confusion enough in the treasury, but no violence that I saw. The men (if I may use such an expression) disgraced themselves good-humouredly. All sorts of rough jests and catchwords were bandied about among them; and the story of the Diamond turned up again unexpectedly, in the form of a mischievous joke. "Who's got the Moonstone?" was the rallying cry which perpetually caused the plundering, as soon as it was stopped in one place, to break out in another. While I was still vainly trying to establish order, I heard a frightful yelling on the other side of the courtyard, and at once ran towards the cries, in dread of finding some new outbreak of the pillage in that direction.

Is there something unpredictable in the Prologue?

What title / subtitle would you like to suggest to each Chapter?

What words/details are important in the Prologue? Why?

GLOSSARY

Aurangzebe: A militaristic, controversial Mughal emperor who expanded the Empire to its largest territorial extent in the second half of the 17th century. In *The Moonstone*, Aurungzebe (conventionally spelled Aurangzeb) steals the Moonstone from Benares.

Bailiff: In 19th-century England, the overseer who managed a landed family's estate. This was Gabriel Betteredge's job for most of his life, until he grew old.

Benares: Now officially called Varanasi, an ancient city on the Ganges River that remains the holiest city in Hinduism. After its theft from Somnauth, the Moonstone was taken to Varanasi.

Blackguard: An archaic British word for someone dishonorable or untrustworthy.

Brahmin: The Indian caste of teachers and priests. The three men who come to England in order to retrieve the Moonstone are Brahmins, probably descendants of the original three priests charged by the Lord Vishnu.

Brighton: A city on the southern English coast, to which Rachel Verinder moves during her brief, ill-fated engagement to Godfrey Ablewhite.

Brittany: A historically Celtic region in northwestern France, where Miss Clack moves after economic changes push her out of England.

Cobb's Hole: This is the fishing village on the Yorkshire coast near the estate of Lady Verinder.

Frizinghall: This is a town near the Verinder estate where the diamond was placed in a bank. Its name is taken from a real area of the Yorkshire city of Bradford.

Kattiawar: A peninsula region of the present-day Indian state of Gujarat, in which the temple of Somnauth is located.

Laudanum: An extremely addictive liquid opium solution commonly used for a variety of ailments in Victorian England. Based on the author's own opium addiction, the novel's plot ultimately revolves around the laudanum-addicted doctor Ezra Jennings.

London: The Verinder's have a house here and it is also the location the

diamond was taken.

Mughal: The Indo-Persian Muslim empire that ruled much of the Indian subcontinent from 1526 to 1857.

Reformatory: In Victorian England, reformatories were prison centers and schools designed to teach young criminals marketable skills (rather than relegating them to a life of crime).

Rotterdam: A large city in the Netherlands, and the most important port city in Europe.

Seringapatam: A town in the present-day south Indian state of Karnataka, which is an important pilgrimage center for Vishnu worshippers and contains a fort that was the capital of the Kingdom of Mysore until its destruction. This place was stormed and captured by the British.

Shivering Sand: This is an area of beach by the Verinder estate where there is quicksand.

Somnauth: Conventionally spelled Somnath, which means “Lord of the Moon,” a famous ancient temple to the Hindu god Shiva in what is now the western Indian state of Gujarat.

The Koh-i-Noor: Like the Orlov diamond in the Russian Imperial Scepter, a famous large Indian diamond that inspired the novel’s Moonstone. Its recorded history stretches back to at least the 14th century.

The Russian Imperial Scepter: A golden, gem-studded staff owned by the Russian monarchy since its creation in 1774. Set inside the Russian Imperial Scepter is the infamous Orlov diamond, which was stolen from India by a French soldier.

The Strand: This is an area of London where the Indians rented a room for a week and tied up and searched Godfrey.

Tower Wharf: A boat docking area by the Tower of London in central London, to which Mr. Bruff, Franklin Blake, and Sergeant Cuff follow the man dressed as a sailor (actually Godfrey Ablewhite).

Vishnu: One of the three most important Hindu gods, considered the deity who preserves the world.

Yorkshire: A large county in northern England where the Verinder family’s estate is located.

NEW WORDS.

cabinet (n) a piece of furniture with shelves and drawers.

cliff (n) a very high area of rock, often near the sea.

colonel (n) a high rank in the Army.

conspiracy (n) a secret plan involving more than one person, to commit an illegal act.

deformed(adj) something that is deformed has the wrong shape, especially because it has grown or developed wrongly.

delirious (adj) talking continuously in an excited way, especially because you are ill.

inherit (v) to receive money, property, etc from someone after they have died.

maid (n) a woman servant in a large house or a hotel.

narrative (n) a story.

nightgown (n) a piece of clothing, like a loose dress, worn in bed.

opium (n) a powerful illegal drug made from poppy seeds.

pawn (v) a way of getting money for something without actually selling it.

quicksand (n) wet sand that is dangerous because it pulls you down into it.

smear (v) to spread a liquid over a surface, especially carelessly.

telegram (n) a message sent by telegraph wire.

telegraph (n) an old fashioned method of sending messages using electrical signals.

temple (n) a building where people pray to a god or gods.

terrace (n) a raised level part of a garden or of a cafe.

trance (n) a state in which you behave as if you are asleep but you are still able to understand what is said to you.

will (n) a legal document that says who you want your money and property to go to when you die.

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