

illustrated

READERS

ANTHONY HOPE

The PRISONER OF Zenda

retold by Virginia Evans – Jenny Dooley



Express Publishing

Anthony Hope

Anthony Hope Hawkins was born in London in 1863. He went to Marlborough College and then on to Oxford University. He left Oxford in 1885 and worked in the legal profession. He became a barrister but he was also interested in politics. He tried twice, unsuccessfully, to become a member of parliament.

At the same time he also pursued his interest in writing. His first adventure story, *A Man of Mark*, was published in 1890. He first got recognition as a writer, however, when a series of humorous stories were published in *The Westminster Gazette*

magazine. But wealth and fame came with *The Prisoner of Zenda*, written in a month in 1893 and published in 1894. The book was such a huge success that Hope gave up the law and became a full time writer.

Hope got married in 1903 and he and his wife had three children. In 1898, a very popular sequel to *The Prisoner of Zenda*, called *Rupert of Hentzau*, was published. During the First World War, Hope worked for the government. He was knighted for this work and became Sir Anthony Hope in 1918. He went on to write many books and plays but none really achieved the success of *The Prisoner of Zenda*. Anthony Hope died in 1933.

Read Anthony Hope's biography and answer the questions:

- 1 Where was Anthony Hope born?
.....
- 2 What was the title of his first adventure story and when was it published?
.....
- 3 When did he write *The Prisoner of Zenda*?
.....
- 4 What was the title of the sequel to *The Prisoner of Zenda* and when was it published?
.....
- 5 When and why was Hope knighted?
.....



The Prisoner of Zenda

The Prisoner of Zenda is one of the most famous classic adventure stories. The story has been filmed several times and the plot has been used by various writers in other stories.

The book has all the ingredients of such adventure stories, or 'swashbucklers' as they are often called: action, sword fighting, romance, villains and heroes. The main character, Rudolf Rassendyll, is a typical hero of such a story: brave, quick-thinking, handsome and romantic.

The story is set in a fictitious country, Ruritania. We soon meet two opposing sides – villains and heroes. Rudolf is drawn into the whole adventure by pure chance. Being a hero, he stays to see things through to the end.

1. DOUBLE TROUBLE!

The year is 1894. Rudolf Rassendyll likes adventures. He's travelled a lot and can speak many languages. Now, he's in a country called Ruritania ...

①



I must go there.
It will be a
wonderful
occasion.

②



In the town of Zenda ...

③

You look just like the Prince!



④

My name's Johan. I work for the
Prince's brother, Duke Michael.



⑤

I don't like the Prince.
I want Duke Michael
to be King.



That's
Antoinette De
Mauban, she's
in love with
the Duke.

⑥



7

That's the Duke's castle. The Prince is staying at the Duke's hunting lodge in the forest.

I must go there and try and meet him.

Later ...

Who's that? He looks just like the Prince!

Who are you? What are you doing here? Speak man, before we shoot you!

8

9



Before Reading

- 1 Look at the episode pictures. What do you think is happening in the story?



While Reading

- 2 Read or listen to the episode and answer the questions.

1 How many of the Famous Six guard the King?

.....

2 Who has orders to kill the King if someone tries to rescue him?

.....

3 What noise causes the fight between Rudolf and Rupert's men?

.....

4 How many men were killed in the fight?

.....

- 3 Correct the words in bold.

Fritz said the King was in a **bedroom** in the old castle. Sapt said they would take **four men** to look at the castle that **day**. Sapt saw **Robert** of Hentzau and said he was the most **frightening** of the Famous Six. The two groups of men began **fighting** and **three** of the Famous Six were killed.



After Reading

- 4 Read and listen, then take roles and act out the episode.

- 5
 - Think of your own plan to rescue the King. How would you do it?
 - What do you think will happen in the next episode?



Before Reading

- 1 Look at the pictures. Which of the sentences do you think are true?
 - 1 Rudolf, Fritz, Sapt and Detchard have a meeting.
 - 2 Rudolf and Rupert meet each other in a street.
 - 3 Sapt goes swimming in a river.
 - 4 Rupert climbs into the water near the castle.



While Reading

- 2 Read or listen to the episode and find words or phrases which mean:
 - 1 straight away
 - 2 precisely
 - 3 deal with
- 3 Read the episode again and say who the words in bold refer to: *Rupert, Rudolf, the King, Sapt, Johan or Fritz*.
 - 1 ... bring the King **to us** and **you** can go free.
 - 2 I want **you** to **open** the castle entrance ...
 - 3 We must **rescue him** at once.
 - 4 **You** as King and **me** as your assistant.
- 4 Answer the questions:
 - 1 What's Hentzau's plan?
 - 2 What does Rudolf ask Johan to do?
 - 3 What does Sapt think of Rudolf's plan?



After Reading

- 5 Read and listen, then take roles and act out the episode.
- 6
 - Why do you think Rudolf wants to go to the dungeon by himself?
 - What do you think will happen in the next episode?



The PRISONER OF Zenda

Evil Duke Michael poisons his brother to stop him from becoming the King of Ruritania. Young Rudolf Rassendyll just happens to look like the poisoned prince. So Rudolf finds himself involved in a thrilling adventure in which he must pretend to be the King and fight Duke Michael to save the country.

Components:

- Reader
- Audio CD



Level 1 Level 2 Level 3 Level 4 Level 5

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