



HUGH LOFTING

THE ADVENTURES OF DOCTOR DOLITTLE

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with
**AUDIO
CD**

Contents

About the Author	6
About the Book	7
FACT FILE Classes of animals	8
Characters	10
Before Reading	12
1 The Doctor	17
2 A message from Africa	22
3 The monkeys	28
4 A present for the Doctor	34
5 The Barbary pirates	41
6 A strange noise	45
7 The lost man	51
8 Clever Jip!	56
9 Home again	61
After Reading	65



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ABOUT THE BOOK

Doctor John Dolittle is the main character in a series of thirteen children's books. He lives in Victorian England in an imaginary village near the sea, called Puddleby-on-the-Marsh. He is a good doctor and people like him. They go to see him when they are sick. His house



is always full of animals because he has many pets. The sick people don't like them and they stop coming to see the doctor. So he decides to become an animal doctor instead.

The theme of the Doctor Dolittle series is the importance of looking after all living creatures. The animals in the book have human personalities and communicate successfully with each other and the doctor. The doctor treats them with kindness, making them well when they are sick and making sure they are treated with respect by humans.

Many people think that the inspiration for Doctor Dolittle is the Scottish doctor John Hunter (1728-1793). Hunter does a lot of research during his life and makes many important discoveries. His house in London has a large garden where he keeps zebras, buffaloes and other exotic animals. They all live peacefully together.

There are many film, cartoon and theatre versions of the books.

-
- **imaginary:** invented; not real
 - **inspiration:** (here) original idea
 - **main:** most important
 - **personalities:** series of qualities that make people different from each other
 - **respect:** consideration
 - **treats:** behaves with
 - **Victorian:** when Queen Victoria is the queen (1837-1901)

An animal class is a group of animals that are similar to each other.

Classes of animals

Mammals

A person, a bat and a monkey are examples of mammals. Mammals have warm blood and drink milk when they are babies. They also have hair or fur on their bodies. Mammals live everywhere in the world. There are about 4,000 kinds of mammals.



Birds

A flamingo and a parrot are examples of birds. They are born out of eggs with a hard shell. All birds have feathers on their bodies and wings. But not all birds can fly. There are about 10,000 kinds of birds.



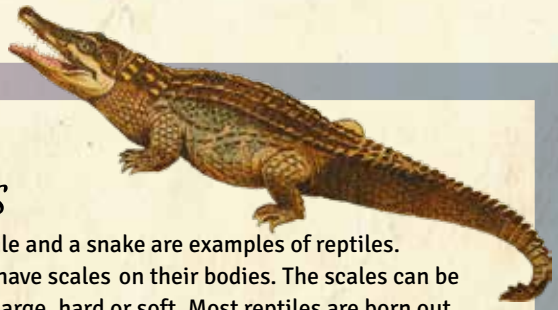
Fish

A shark and a salmon are examples of fish. Fish live in water. They take in air (breathe) through gills behind their heads. Most of them have scales on their bodies. Scientists think that there are more than 20,000 different kinds of fish in the world.



Reptiles

A crocodile and a snake are examples of reptiles. Reptiles have scales on their bodies. The scales can be small or large, hard or soft. Most reptiles are born out of eggs with a hard shell. When reptiles are too cold they sit in the sun to get warm. There are more than 10,000 different kinds of reptiles. There are no reptiles in Antarctica.



Amphibians

A frog and a newt are examples of amphibians. Amphibians live in the water and on land. There are about 7,000 different kinds of amphibians.



Insects

A butterfly and a ladybird are examples of insects. The bodies of insects are made of 3 parts. Insects have 3 pairs of legs and usually 1 or 2 pairs of wings. There are millions of different kinds of insects in the world.



GLOSSARY


- **feathers:** soft light things that cover a bird's skin
- **fur:** thick hair
- **scales:** small plates that are placed one on top of the other and protect the bodies of fish and reptiles
- **shell:** hard cover of an egg
- **wings:** part of an insect or bird's body, used for flying

BEFORE READING

- 1 Look at the picture of Doctor Dolittle's garden. Tick (✓) the things you can see.



- a trees c a fishpond e a table
b flowers d a cat f a monkey

- 2  Listen to an extract from the story. Answer the question.
Who is Sarah Dolittle?



3 The Doctor and his pets return from their adventures on a pirate ship. Match the words 1-4 to the parts of the ship A-D.

- 1 anchor 2 deck 3 mast 4 sails



4 Look at the titles of the chapters on page 3. Then read the five extracts from the story. Which chapters do they come from? Write the numbers in the boxes.

- a The pirates are bad men. They catch ships and steal everything on them. Sometimes they throw the people on the ships into the sea.
- b 'If you want to give him a good present, give him an animal.'
- c When she is sitting next to the fire, the little bird repeats her message to Doctor Dolittle.
- d 'Well done, Jip,' says Dab-Dab. 'You are a very clever dog.'
- e They all listen very carefully, but only Too-Too can hear the noise in the room.



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1 THE DOCTOR

1 Everybody in the small town of Puddleby-on-the-Marsh knows John Dolittle. When he walks down the street in his high hat people say, 'Look! There's the Doctor! He's a very clever man.'

He lives in a house on the edge of the town. His sister lives there, too. She cleans and cooks for him. Her name is Sarah Dolittle. The house is small but it has a very big garden. There are many trees in it and there is also a fishpond.

The Doctor loves animals. He has many pets - rabbits, white mice, a squirrel, a hedgehog, a cow and her calf, an old horse, two lambs, and many more. But his favourite pets are Dab-Dab the duck, Jip the dog, Gub-Gub the baby pig, Polynesia the parrot, and Too-Too the owl.

The house is always full of animals. They are everywhere – on the chairs and on the sofa, in the cupboards and in the drawers. There are even white mice inside the piano! Sarah works very hard, but the house is never tidy.

Doctor Dolittle is a very good doctor and many people from the town come to the house to see him. One day an old lady knocks on the door. She has a bad pain in her back.

'Please wait in the sitting room,' says Sarah. 'The Doctor is busy at the moment.'

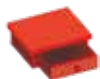
The old lady sits down on the sofa.

'Ouch!' she cries and jumps up quickly. 'What's that?'

She looks down.

GLOSSARY

• **drawer:**



• **edge:** part of something that is far from its centre

• **fishpond:** small pool of water for fish

• **knocks:** hits gently to ask to enter

‘A hedgehog!’ she says. ‘On the sofa!’

She’s very angry. She leaves the house and she never comes back.

That evening Sarah tells her brother about the old lady.

‘A doctor’s house is for people, John,’ she says. ‘Not animals.’

‘But I prefer animals,’ replies the Doctor.

‘Don’t be silly!’ Sarah says and she walks out of the room.

The old lady tells all her friends about the hedgehog. They stop coming to see the Doctor, too. Weeks pass and there are always more animals in the house. They need a lot of food and food costs money. Soon Doctor Dolittle’s money-box[•] is empty.

He decides to sell the piano and his best brown suit. He buys some food with the money, but only enough for two or three weeks. Then his money-box is empty again. Now when people see him in the street they say, ‘Look at the Doctor! He hasn’t got any money and his socks are full of holes[•]!’

One day a butcher[•] comes to see Doctor Dolittle. He has a pain in his stomach. The Doctor gives him some medicine and then he invites him to have a cup of tea. While the Doctor is looking for the teapot[•] the man says, ‘Why don’t you become an animal doctor?’

Polynesia the parrot stops singing and starts listening to the conversation.

GLOSSARY

- **butcher:** man who sells meat
- **holes:** small openings
- **money-box:** box for keeping money
- **teapot:** pot for making tea

‘You know a lot about animals,’ the butcher says. ‘You know more than all the animal doctors in the town. I can help you. I have a lot of customers. I can give their pets bad meat and make them sick!’

‘Oh, no! Don’t do that!’ says the Doctor.

Later Polynesia says, ‘Doctor Dolittle! That man is right. Why don’t you become an animal doctor?’

‘There are already many animal doctors in the town,’ replies the Doctor while he is washing the teapot.

‘Yes, there are,’ says Polynesia. ‘But they aren’t GOOD animal doctors. Listen, Doctor, I want to tell you something. Do you know that animals can talk?’

‘I know that parrots can talk,’ says the Doctor.

‘We parrots have two languages, Doctor!’ says Polynesia. ‘People’s language and bird language.’


Sample Copy

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Which language do you speak in your country?

Does everyone in your school study English?

Can you speak other languages?

 Find out how to say ‘hello’ in as many languages as possible.



‘Really?’ says Doctor Dolittle. ‘Say something in bird language for me.’

‘Ka-ka oi-ee, fee-fee,’ says Polynesia.

‘What does that mean?’ asks the Doctor.

‘It means “Is the porridge hot?”’ replies Polynesia.

‘That’s very interesting,’ the Doctor says. He opens a drawer and takes out a notebook and a pencil. ‘I want to write the words in this book. But first you must teach me the alphabet of bird language. Go slowly, please!’

At the end of the afternoon, the Doctor can understand everything Polynesia says. He can even say some long sentences. He’s very excited. He wants to learn dog language next. With Polynesia’s help he can soon speak the languages of all of his pets.

The next time he sees the butcher he tells him, ‘I’m not a people’s doctor anymore. I’m an animal doctor.’

The butcher tells everybody in the town the news. When the old ladies hear it, they start bringing their sick dogs and cats to Doctor Dolittle’s house. Then the farmers bring their sick horses and cows. The animals are happy because the Doctor speaks their languages. They can tell him how they feel and the Doctor can give them the right medicine.

‘He’s a REAL doctor,’ they tell their friends later.

Soon every living thing in the country knows about the doctor in the small house with the big garden. He becomes famous in other countries too, because the birds tell their foreign friends about him. After a few years, all the creatures in the world know the name of Doctor John Dolittle.

GLOSSARY

- **creatures:** living beings, but not plants
- **foreign:** from another country
- **porridge:** hot breakfast food

AFTER READING COMPREHENSION

1 Are the following sentences true (T) or false (F)? Tick (✓).

- | | T | F |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| a Doctor Dolittle's pets live in his house. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b Sarah Dolittle goes away because she doesn't like the white mice. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c The Doctor buys a boat from a sailor and sails to Africa. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d The King of the Jolliginki puts the Doctor in prison. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| e The Doctor vaccinates all the animals of the jungle. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| f The pushmi-pullyu is a shy animal with two heads. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| g Some porpoises pull the Doctor's ship along in the water when he wants to go fast. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| h The leader of the Barbary pirates is called John Ali. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| i The small boy on the pirate ship is sad because he can't find his uncle. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| j Jip smells tobacco when the wind comes from the west. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| k The pushmi-pullyu stays with the circus. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| l The Doctor gives the sailor two new boats. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |



2 Choose the correct answer, 1, 2 or 3.

- a** Which animal language does the Doctor learn first?
1 dog 2 bird 3 monkey
- b** How many animals does the Doctor take to Africa?
1 5 2 6 3 7
- c** What do the monkeys give the Doctor?
1 an animal 2 some coconuts 3 some bananas
- d** What must the pirates grow on the island?
1 flowers 2 vegetables and fruit 3 food for the birds
- e** When do the Doctor and his pets arrive home from Africa?
1 in the spring 2 in the summer 3 in the winter

- 3**  Listen to the four extracts from the story and match them with the pictures. Write the number of the extract, 1, 2, 3 or 4 in the boxes.



K A2 Key English Test Reading and Writing Part 1

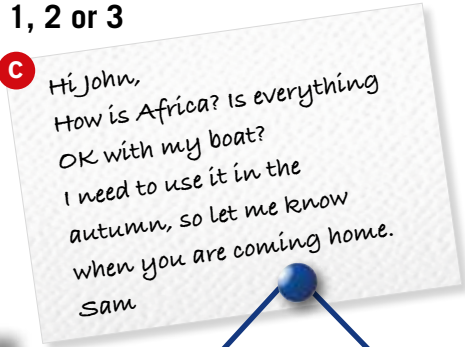
1 Tick (✓) the correct answer 1, 2 or 3

a



BOATS FOR HIRE.
£5 a day.
 Payment in cash at the boatshed.

c



Hi John,
 How is Africa? Is everything
 OK with my boat?
 I need to use it in the
 autumn, so let me know
 when you are coming home.
 Sam

b



HOLIDAY VACCINATIONS
 Ask your doctor for an appointment
 2 months before travelling.

d



Newport Medical Centre
 Open 08.00 - 13.00
 Mon to Fri.
 For appointments please call:
 01214 761357

- a**
- 1 You can't use a credit card to pay here.
 - 2 You can buy a boat for £5 today.
 - 3 You can pay to visit the boat shed.
- b**
- 1 You can have vaccinations if you are travelling for over 2 months.
 - 2 You need to book travel vaccinations 2 months in advance.
 - 3 The vaccination doctor is only available for the next 2 months.
- c**
- 1 Sam is asking when John is coming back to Africa.
 - 2 Sam can lend his boat to John in the autumn.
 - 3 Sam wants to know when John is coming back from Africa.
- d**
- 1 On weekday afternoons you can make an appointment.
 - 2 The centre is open from 8am on Saturdays.
 - 3 You can see a doctor here on Wednesday mornings.

HUGH LOFTING

THE ADVENTURES OF DOCTOR DOLITTLE

Adapted by Jennifer Gascoigne

“After a few years, all the creatures in the world know the name of Doctor John Dolittle.”

Doctor Dolittle is a kind country physician who lives with his friends Dab-Dab the duck, Jip the dog and Polynesia the parrot as well as lots of other animals.

One day, he gets a message from the monkeys in Africa.

There is a bad sickness and they want the doctor to go there and help them.

Can Doctor Dolittle save the monkeys? Who are the Jolliginki?

And what is the pushmi-pullyu?

Join Doctor Dolittle on his adventures and find out.



Recording in British English

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		3	A2	A2 Key	3, 4
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		5	B1	B1 Preliminary	5, 6

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