

THE NEXT READER

TEACHER'S GUIDE

**ORIGINAL CLASSIC STORIES
FOR ENGLISH LEARNERS**

ELABORATED READER SERIES



THE NEXT READER IS FOR:

- **B1+** language learners
- Teachers looking for authentic material for classroom reading, homework, reading courses, or independent study;
- Reading circles and groups.

ORIGINAL STORIES. NOT SIMPLIFIED. SUPPORTED.

SEVEN STORIES

Uncle Podger Hangs a Picture

Jerome K. Jerome;

The Conjuror's Revenge

Stephen Leacock

The Model Millionaire

Oscar Wilde

The Open Window; and Dusk

Saki (H. H. Munro)

The Gift of the Magi

O. Henry

A Dilemma

S. Weir Mitchell

IN-TEXT SUPPORT

In-line elaborations set *in italics* and illustrations to give learners enough scaffold to follow the story comfortably

BEFORE-YOU-READ QUESTION

To help **connect** to the story

STORY PATH AND STORY PATH GUIDE

A visual maze with key phrases from the story (*Recall-Reconstruct-Retell*)

READING JOURNAL

A space for learners to record the language and ideas they want to keep

THE FOUR HIGHLIGHTING CATEGORIES

Four categories for learners to notice and record language and discoveries

Mine it (New word)

Look it up (Context)

Steal it (Useful phrase)

Figure it out (Uncertain or unclear)

A COMPLETE READING CYCLE

①

First reading: Reading **for the story**

Connect: Discuss the *Before-You-Read* question

First reading: Read the story (no stopping)

Respond to the story: Discuss first impressions

Revisit: Complete the *Story Path* (This is **recall**, not testing!)

*Alternatively, the first reading can be assigned as homework and the *Story Path* used to begin the next lesson.

②

Second reading: Reading **for the language**

Notice: Choose a category or two categories out of the *Four Categories* and mark them in the story

*Model it the first time. Highlight a line or two yourself, out loud, so learners see what “noticing” looks like before they're asked to do it on their own.

**Start with one or two categories, up to 8 highlights.

***Different learners will notice different language.

Record: Write them down in the *Reading Journal* (complete tasks)

Retell: Use the *Story Path Guide* to retell the story

Use: Turn selected language into speaking or writing (see *Suggested Activities*)

SUGGESTED READING ACTIVITIES

Connect

1. What's your experience?

Discuss a personal *Before-You-Read* question connected to an event, relationship, or theme in the story.

Share a brief experience or example with a partner. (*Think* (think about your experience) - *Pair* (compare your experience answer with a partner) - *Share* (discuss the most interesting or surprising answers with the class))

2. Your scenario

Look at the final image from the story. What situation do you think it shows? Discuss what might have happened, and what the story could be about. Share your scenario (*Who-What-Where-When-How*) with the group, then read the story to see what really happened.

Notice

3. Notice Cards

(see *Notice Cards*, p. 7).

Reread the text to find what the card asks you to notice, then share your findings with the group.

4. Mine It: Word Swap

Choose one *Mine it* word from the story that you think is worth keeping. In pairs, share your words, discuss their meanings and useful combinations, and choose one word from your partner's list that you would like to add to your own *Reading Journal*.

5. Think-Pair-Share: Steal It

Choose one *Steal it* highlight. Share it with a partner, explain why you chose it, and make a new sentence using the phrase.

6. Cultural detective

Choose one *Look it up* highlight. Research it and give the group a short explanation of what you discovered and why it matters for the story.

7. Mystery highlight

Share one *Figure it out* highlight with your partner (group), and discuss possible interpretations.

Recall/Use

8. The story in one sentence (“Titanic in almost 5 seconds”)

Write one sentence that captures what the story is about.

9. Story in six steps

Use the *Story Path* to reduce the story to six key events. Then retell the story without looking at the original text.

10. Sub-stories

Find the “sub-stories” (dead-end branches) in the *Story Path* and retell them from another character’s perspective.

11. Make your own maze

Use the *Story Path Template* (p. 9) to create your own maze. Then swap mazes with your partner and see if they can follow your path.

12. What would you do?

Discuss what you would have done differently. Then compare your responses with the characters' choices.

13. Retell it "badly"

Retell the story deliberately leaving out important details. Your partner has to identify what is missing.

14. Modernise the story

Choose one scene and relocate it to the present day. What would change? What would stay the same? Which language from the original story could still be used?

15. Talk to the book

Write one question you would like to ask the author or a character. Put your question on a sheet of paper and pass it clockwise. When you receive someone else's question, write an answer from the author's or character's perspective, then pass it on. Continue until your original question comes back to you. Read the answers and discuss them with the group.

16. Talk to the character (speaking)

Choose one person in the group to act as a character from the story. Ask them questions and have them answer in character. Encourage the "character" to explain their thoughts, feelings, and decisions using evidence from the story.

NOTICE CARDS

Uncle Podger Hangs a Picture by *Jerome K. Jerome*

While you read again, notice:

- every time Uncle Podger gives an instruction that turns out to be wrong
- every family member who gets pulled into the job
- every moment Uncle Podger insists everything is going perfectly

The Conjuror's Revenge by *Stephen Leacock*

While you read again, notice:

- every time the Quick Man says the trick was "up his sleeve"
- every polite question the conjurer asks before destroying something
- every moment the conjurer's tone stays calm while his revenge gets bigger

The Model Millionaire by *Oscar Wilde*

While you read again, notice:

- every detail about the "beggar" that doesn't quite fit a beggar
- every moment Hughie is generous without stopping to think it through
- every reaction other characters have once the truth comes out

The Gift of the Magi by *O. Henry*

While you read again, notice:

- every time money is counted, saved, or spent
- every hint about what each person secretly plans to sell
- every moment one of them hides a feeling from the other, out of love

The Open Window by *Saki*

While you read again, notice:

- every small, specific detail the girl adds to make her story feel real
- every moment she checks what her guest already knows
- every place the story's calm tone doesn't match what's actually happening

Dusk by *Saki*

While you read again, notice:

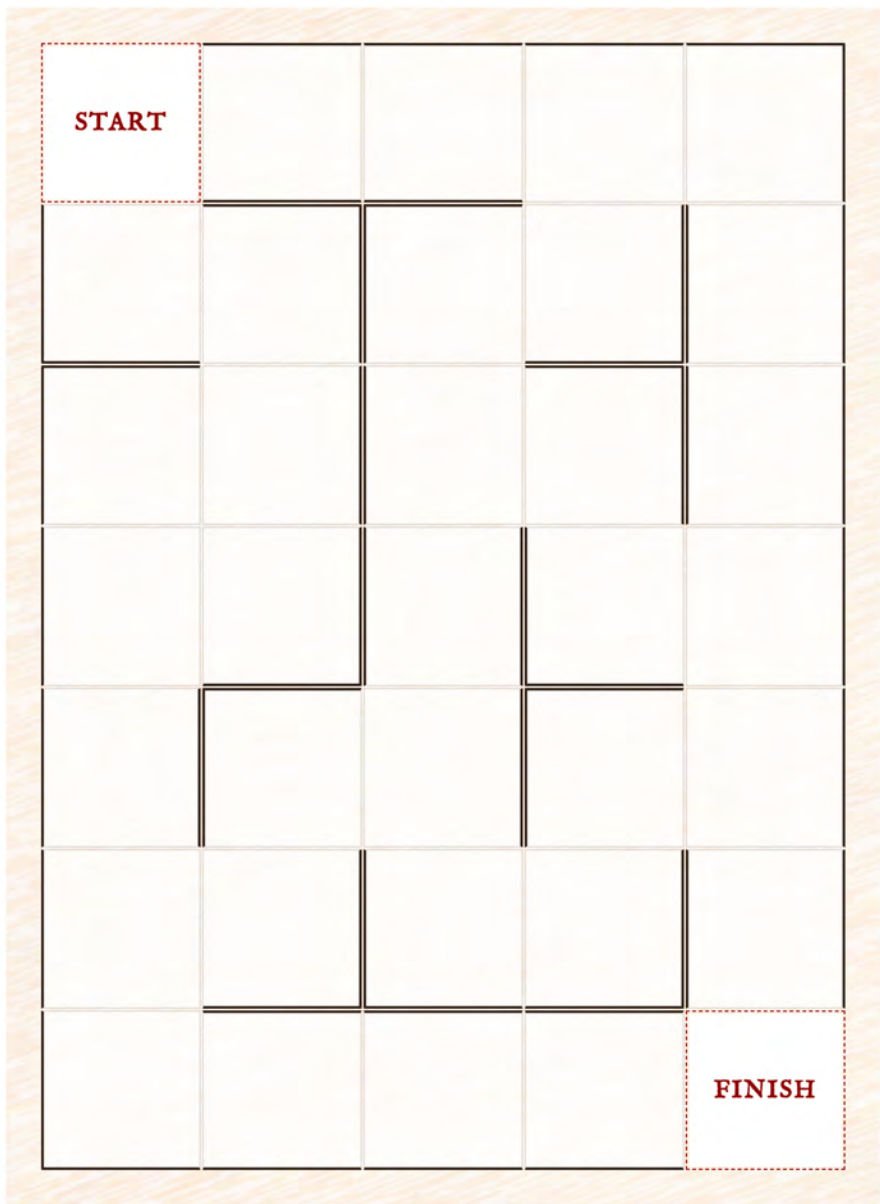
- every reason Gortsby gives himself for feeling sure the young man is lying
- every small detail Gortsby is proud of noticing
- every moment Gortsby's confidence in his own judgment is mentioned directly

A Dilemma by *S. Weir Mitchell*

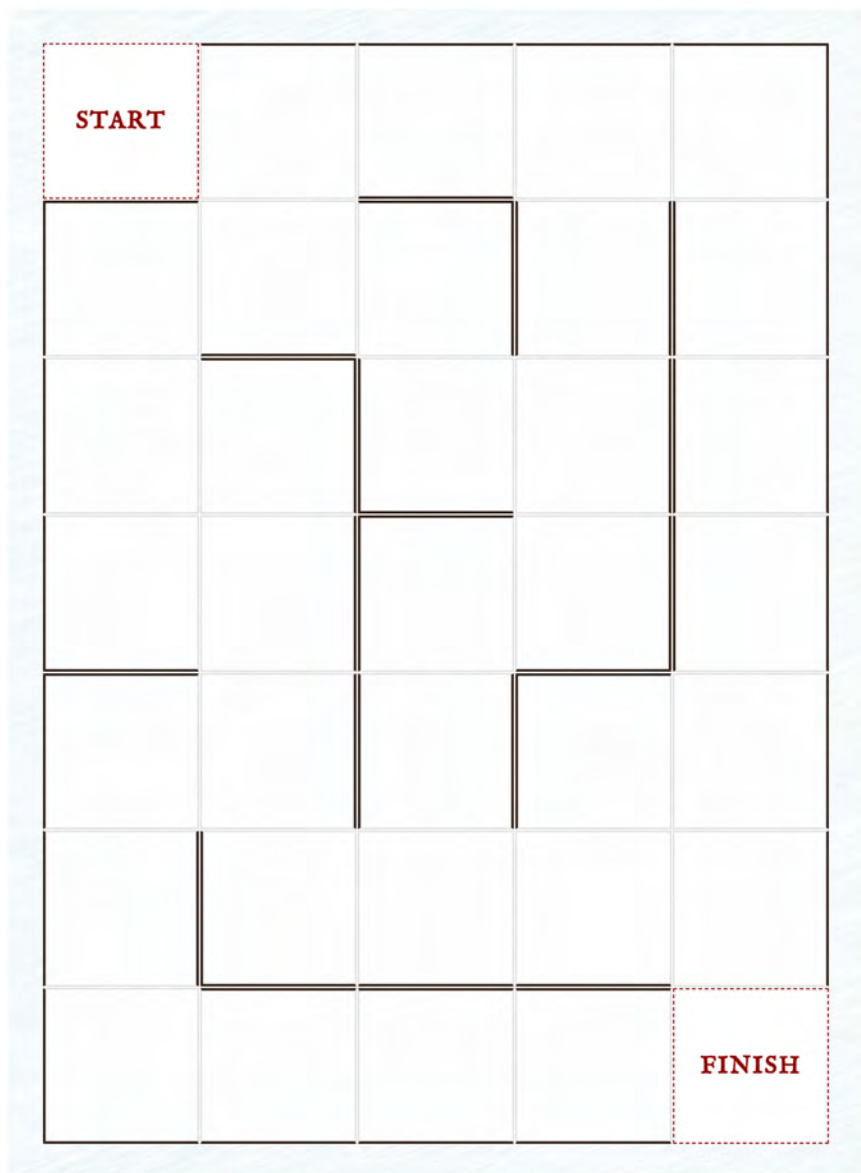
While you read again, notice:

- every plan the narrator considers for opening the box safely
- every part of his life the box quietly starts to affect
- every moment he sounds completely reasonable, even as the situation becomes absurd

TEMPLATE STORY PATH



TEMPLATE STORY PATH



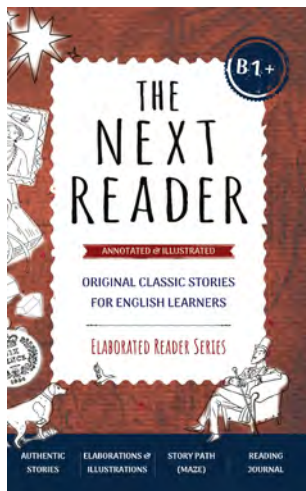
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B0HFN5LHVW

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