

# Introductory Lesson

## Before Reading

① *In pairs, answer the following questions:*

- a Look at the chapter titles. What do you think they mean?
- b Look at the chapter titles again. In which chapters do you think the main characters are/are not in danger of being hurt or killed? Explain your choices.
- c Look at some of the pictures in the chapters. In which period of time do you think the story is set?

② *Look at the following pictures. How do you think they are connected to the story?*



Jules Verne



Jules Verne was born in France on 8th February 1828. His father was a lawyer and his mother came from a family that owned a shipbuilding business. Young Jules Verne loved the sea and this is why the sea is important in his stories. When he was a young boy, he ran away from home and got on a ship going to the

West Indies, but he was caught and sent home.

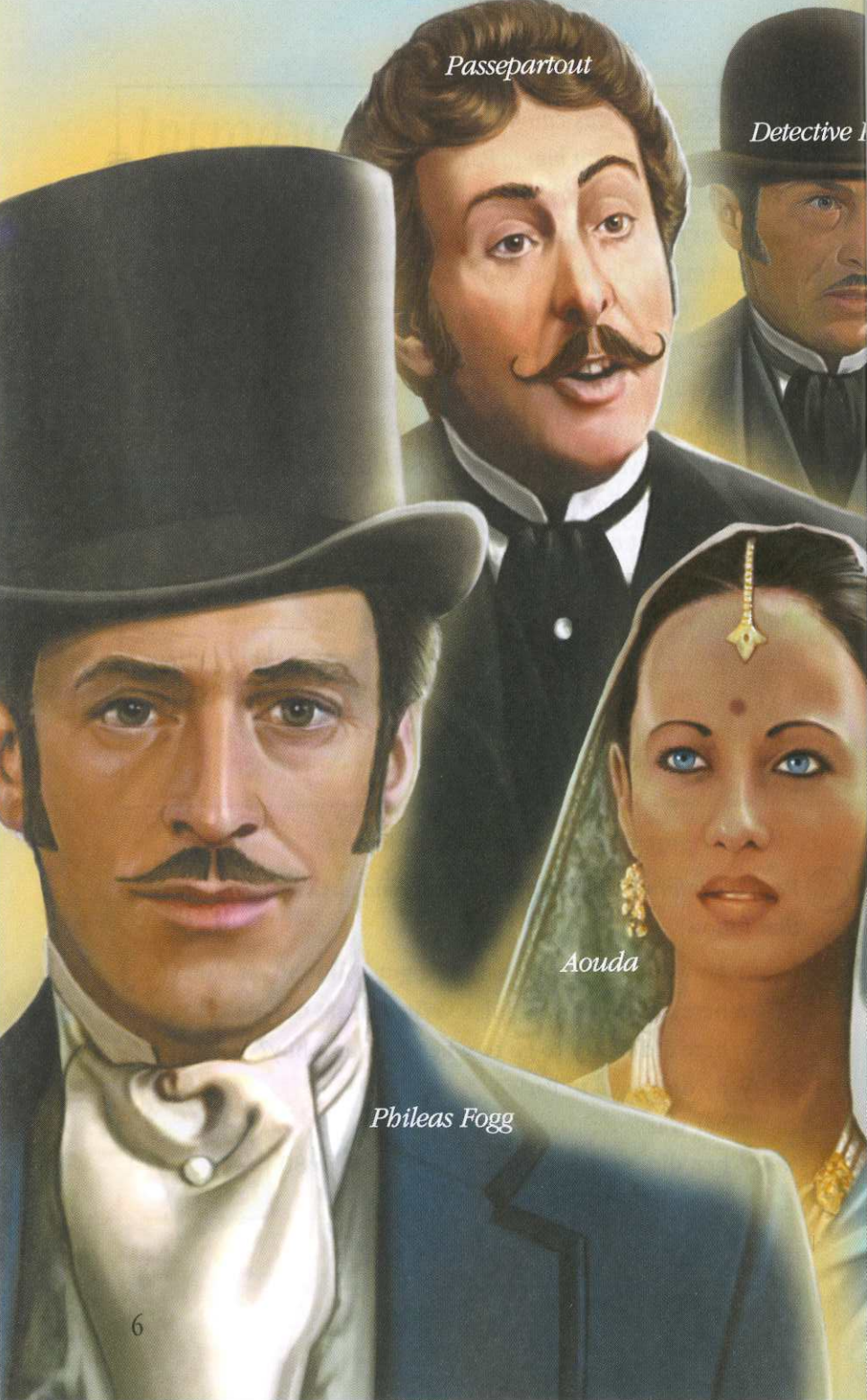
In 1847, his father sent him to Paris to study law. However, Verne spent most of his time writing plays for the theatre. In 1850, his first play was published and his father was very angry and stopped sending him money. In 1857, he married Honorine Morel and worked as a stockbroker. At the same time, he continued writing and in 1863 his first novel, "Five Weeks in a Balloon", was published. It was a great success and Verne became rich. Verne wrote many other adventure books which showed his knowledge of science, technology and travel – "20,000 Leagues Under the Sea", "Journey to the Centre of the Earth" and "From the Earth to the Moon".

Jules Verne went on many trips to different parts of the world. These experiences and his love of travel inspired him to write "Around the World in 80 Days" in 1873.

Jules Verne died on 24th March 1905. Many people believe that Verne invented science fiction. In his books, he predicted many things about the future which actually came true.

3 Read the information about Jules Verne and answer the questions that follow.

- Where and when was Jules Verne born?
- Where did he try to go to when he was a boy?
- Why did he go to Paris?
- What was the title of his first novel?
- When did he write "Around the World in 80 Days"?
- When did he die?



*Passepartout*

*Detective Fix*

*Aouda*

*Phileas Fogg*

## The Bet

"Here's your newspaper, sir."  
"Thank you."

### THE DAILY TELEGRAPH

London

Wednesday, 2 October 1872

## Bank of England Robbed! Daring Robbery Puzzles London Police

Fifty-five thousand pounds mysteriously disappeared from the cashier's desk at the Bank of England on Monday, 30th September.

The robbery was discovered when the cashier returned to his desk after serving a customer. Since there were no guards in the room, no one actually witnessed

the crime. However, other clerks and customers noticed a well-dressed young gentleman enter and leave the room.

Police believe this may be the bank robber and a detailed description has been given to the detectives in all major ports in England, and abroad ...

"Well, without any guards, what do they expect?" thought Phileas Fogg.

He continued reading his paper as other members of the Reform Club sat playing cards, talking and drinking the best tea in London. The sound of their conversation did not bother him. Although Fogg was a rich and respected Englishman like the others, he was very different from them. He was a handsome man in his early forties who liked routine. He liked to sit alone in the same armchair in the same room at the same time every day. His routine never changed. But today's news would change Phileas Fogg's life forever.

Several hours passed and after dinner, some other members entered the reading room. Thomas Flanagan, a businessman, was talking about the latest news.

"Any news about the robber?"

"He'll never escape! The police told me that their best detectives are all over the city and the rest of the world looking for him," said Gauthier Ralph, one of the Directors of the Bank of England.

"Have they got a description?" asked Andrew Stuart, an engineer.

At that point, Fogg folded his newspaper, placed it on the table beside him and joined the conversation.

"*The Daily Telegraph* says that a well-dressed gentleman was in the paying room when the money disappeared. A description of him was then given to the detectives."

Ralph nodded.

"I'm sure they'll get him. There's a reward of two thousand pounds – *any* detective would be eager to catch him for *that* kind of money!"

"But then it won't be easy for him. Even if he gets out of the country, where could he go? Where could he hide?" asked Stuart.

"Lots of places!"

Fogg believed nothing was impossible.

"There are many places he could go. Travelling is faster and easier these days. The world is getting smaller. Why, just today the *Telegraph* has an article which says it's possible to travel around the world in only eighty days. They even show the exact route."

Fogg showed them the article, but Stuart only laughed.

"Yes, of course travelling is a lot faster now, Fogg ... but around the world in eighty days! It's impossible! What about bad weather and railway accidents? There are hundreds of problems that could stop you!"





*The Daily Telegraph*  
**Bank of England Robbed!**

Now the others began to laugh, too. Fogg was a proud man and their laughter made him angry. He stood up and looked at them.

"I'll bet you *I* can do it."

"I'd like to see you! And I'll bet you four thousand pounds that you can't!"

"And I'll bet you *twenty* thousand that I *can*!"

Fogg's friends looked at each other. It was a lot of money. They went and talked about it in a corner of the room. When they agreed that Fogg could not win, Stuart turned to him.

"We accept!"

Fogg looked at them calmly.

"Excellent! Today is Wednesday, 2nd October, 1872. The train to Dover leaves at 8:45 pm. I'll be on it and I'll be back in this room on Saturday 21st December at 8:45 pm – after a trip around the world. Goodnight, gentlemen!"

Fogg marched out of the room and left the Reform Club for his home.

Fogg's valet was shocked to see his master arrive home so early. Jean Passepartout was a pleasant young Frenchman with curly brown hair and a moustache. Although he was rather new in his position with Mr Fogg, he knew that if his master said he would be home at midnight – as he was every night of his life – he meant *exactly* at midnight and not a minute before or after.

"Passepartout! We are catching the 8:45 to Dover! Don't pack any bags. We're travelling light."

"What do you mean, sir?"

"We're going around the world in eighty days! Bring my travelling coat."

Passepartout was too shocked to speak; he simply did as his master told him. He rushed upstairs thinking about the many kinds of jobs he had in the past, when he was still in France – a singer, a fire fighter, a teacher of gymnastics, even a circus acrobat – he was so tired of travelling from place to place! He took the job with Fogg hoping to work in a normal, stable home where life was as regular as clockwork. Until now, he thought he had.

With a long face, Passepartout carried out the order, while his master prepared for the journey. Fogg took twenty thousand pounds from his safe and put the money in a small travelling bag. He also packed *The Daily Telegraph*, which showed their route, and a guidebook with the timetables they would need for the trains and ships. When Passepartout returned, Fogg gave him the bag.

“This is everything we need, including twenty thousand pounds. Take care of it!”

Passepartout nervously took the bag and followed his master into a cab for Charing Cross railway station.

