

Eleanor H. Porter Pollyanna

Pollyanna is eleven when she arrives in Beldingsville to live with her aunt, Miss Polly Harrington. It isn't easy for Pollyanna. Her aunt is a difficult, cold woman and everyone she meets in the town is sad. But Pollyanna always looks for the good in life and she knows how to make friends. Soon the people she meets start to change. There is only one person who does not change... Will Pollyanna's aunt learn how to be happy?

In this reader you will find:

- Information about Eleanor Porter's life
- Focus on sections: Glad Clubs - *The World of Happy*, Children Who Change the World
- Glossary of difficult words
- Comprehension and grammar activities including A1 Movers style exercises and 21st century skills activities
- Final test

Tags

Family | Love | Friendship | Society

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STAGE 2	800 headwords	Pre-intermediate	A2	Flyers/Key
STAGE 3	1000 headwords	Intermediate	B1	Preliminary

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Pollyanna

Stage 1 A1

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Book brief

- 1 *Pollyanna* is Eleanor H. Porter's most famous book and is considered a classic of children's literature.
- 2 Pollyanna's father taught her the 'glad game' to help her in difficult moments of her life. Pollyanna uses this philosophy of looking on the bright side to help lots of people in the story.
- 3 Pollyanna was immediately popular with both children and adults and became a bestseller, first in the USA, then worldwide.
- 4 Porter said about Pollyanna: "People think Pollyanna was glad about everything. This is not right... Of course, people are sad and bad things are in this world, I don't say that everything is lovely! But I always think it's better to meet the day in a good way, finding the best in everything."
- 5 There are also several film versions and TV series of *Pollyanna* and the book is still popular today.

Eleanor H. Porter

Pollyanna

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For Review Only

Contents

6	Main Characters	
8	Before you read	
10	Chapter 1	<i>Pollyanna Comes to Stay</i>
22	Activities	
24	Chapter 2	<i>Pollyanna Meets ‘The Man’</i>
38	Activities	
40	Chapter 3	<i>The Broken Leg!</i>
54	Activities	
56	Chapter 4	<i>“It’s a Woman or a Child who Make a Home”</i>
70	Activities	
72	Chapter 5	<i>“How Can I Be Glad Now?”</i>
84	Activities	
86	Chapter 6	<i>“I Must See that Child!”</i>
102	Activities	
104	Focus on...	<i>Eleanor H. Porter</i>
106	Focus on...	<i>Glad Clubs</i>
108	Focus on...	<i>Children Who Change the World</i>
110	Test Yourself	
111	Syllabus	

Main Characters



Miss Polly Harrington

Pollyanna's aunt, a cold, difficult woman who looks after Pollyanna after her father dies.



Nancy

15 years old, she works for Miss Polly so she can give money to her mother and brother and sisters.



Dr. Thomas Chilton

A kind man who's sad because he has no wife and no family. He still loves the same woman he loved many years ago.



Pollyanna

Miss Polly Harrington's niece. Her mother and father are both dead now. She always tries to see the good in everyone and live a happy life.



Old Tom

Old Tom is Miss Polly Harrington's gardener. He knows the history of the family, about Pollyanna's mother and her aunt.



Timothy

Timothy helps his father with the jobs he has to do.



Jimmy Bean

A poor little boy with no family. Pollyanna tries to find a home for him.



Mr. John Pendleton

He doesn't usually talk to anyone and is sad and angry, but he changes when he meets Pollyanna.

Reading Comprehension

1 Read about Pollyanna. Are the sentences below true (T) or false (F)?

Pollyanna's mother died when she was very young. She lived with her father but then he died, too. Now she has to find a new home.

Pollyanna goes to live with Miss Polly Harrington. Miss Polly is her mother's sister, her aunt. She's a cold woman. Her house is beautiful, but sad and there's no noise.

Pollyanna is sad about her mother and father, but she's a very happy child. She talks a lot and asks questions. She doesn't walk, she always runs! Nancy works in Miss Polly's house.

She's happy when Pollyanna comes to live with them.

- | | T | F |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Pollyanna is a young woman. | ☐ | ☐ |
| 2 Pollyanna's mother had a sister. | ☐ | ☐ |
| 3 Her name's Miss Polly Harrington. | ☐ | ☐ |
| 4 Pollyanna's aunt is a happy, warm person. | ☐ | ☐ |
| 5 Pollyanna is a happy person, who talks a lot. | ☐ | ☐ |
| 6 Nancy doesn't want Pollyanna to come to the house. | ☐ | ☐ |

Reading and Writing **MOVERS**

2 Look at the pictures of the characters on pages 6-7.

Complete the sentences and answer the questions.

Dr Thomas Chilton has got a moustache.

- 1 What's Old Tom wearing on his head? _____
- 2 Pollyanna's hair is long and her eyes are _____.
- 3 How many characters are there? _____
- 4 What's Pollyanna doing? _____

Writing

21st
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Skills

3 Read these sentences and answer the questions.

- 1 You're a young child. You come to live with your aunt, who you don't know. How do you feel?

- 2 You're happy to meet your aunt, but she's cold and doesn't look happy. What do you say to your aunt?

- 3 Your aunt's house is beautiful with lots of nice things. Do you like it?

- 4 Your bedroom is small. It only has a bed, a chair and a table. There are no nice things in it. How do you feel?



Listening

2 4 Listen to the start of Chapter 1, then put these sentences in the right order.

- a ☐ Miss Polly says Nancy has to clean the small bedroom.
- b ☐ Nancy works in Miss Polly's house, but she doesn't like her job.
- c ☐ Nancy likes the idea of having Pollyanna with them.
- d ☐ Nancy is washing the plates.
- e ☐ Miss Polly says her sister's child is coming to live in the house.
- f ☒ Miss Polly comes into the kitchen.

Pollyanna Comes to Stay

- ▶ 2 Miss Polly Harrington walked into the kitchen. Nancy was washing up. Nancy started to worry. Miss Polly never walked into the kitchen!

“Nancy!”

“Yes, Miss Polly,” she answered, washing a large¹ plate.

“When I’m talking to you, please stop what you’re doing and listen to what I’m saying.”

Nancy went very red.

“Yes, Miss Polly, but you said I have to finish early today...”

“Nancy! Please listen! When you finish here, go to the little room under the roof². Clean it and make the bed.”

Miss Polly went to the kitchen door, then she stopped.

“My sister’s child, Miss Pollyanna Whittier, is coming to live with me. She’s eleven years old and

Nancy is washing up in the kitchen. Miss Polly Harrington walks in and tells her to stop and listen. She wants Nancy to clean the little room under the roof and make a bed for Pollyanna.

¹ large big

² roof 

Pollyanna

can sleep in that room. Her mother died when she was five and now her father is dead, too.”

Nancy’s father died a few months before. She was only fifteen but she had to get money for her family. She found a job at the big house on the hill¹, with Miss Polly Harrington. Nancy didn’t like the job very much. Miss Polly was a cold, difficult person, but now a little girl was coming! Nancy thought of her three sisters, brother and mother at home. She loved her sisters and brother very much. With a little girl in the house, she thinks the house can be happier and her job nicer.

“A little girl, Miss Harrington? Oh! That’s nice!” said Nancy.

“Nice? I don’t think it’s nice!” said Miss Polly, and she left. ■

▶ 3 Nancy cleaned the room for the child, but when she finished she wasn’t happy.

“It’s clean, but that’s all. There’s nothing in here for that poor little girl who doesn’t have a mother or a father.”

Nancy cleans the room for Pollyanna, Miss Polly Harrington’s niece. The little girl’s parents are both dead so she has to stay with her aunt now. Nancy feels sorry that the room has nothing nice in it for this little girl.

¹ hill 

When she shut¹ the door, it made a lot of noise. Oh dear! Miss Polly didn't like noise. Nancy went outside to find Old Tom, who was in the garden.

"Mr. Tom," said Nancy, "did you know a little girl is coming to live here?"

"A – what?" said the old man.

"A little girl is coming to live with Miss Polly. It's her sister's child."

Then Old Tom looked sad. "That's Miss Jennie's daughter."

"Who's Miss Jennie?" asked Nancy.

"She was Miss Polly's younger sister and the best girl in the world," he answered. "There was a rich² man in this town who wanted her for his wife, but she loved a poor man. Miss Polly and her family didn't like Miss Jennie's husband because he was poor. Miss Jennie and her husband moved to the south and the family didn't speak to her again." He stopped to think. "Miss Polly's family are all dead now. It's a quiet house. I think Miss Polly will find it difficult to live with a child!"

¹ **shut** close

² **rich** if you're rich, you have a lot of money

Pollyanna

“I think a child will find it difficult to live with Miss Polly!” said Nancy.

Old Tom thought this was funny.

“Miss Polly was pretty when she was young, you know,” he said. “There’s a man in this town who was in love with her!”

“No! It’s not possible for anyone to love that woman!” said Nancy.

“She’s only forty years old, Nancy! She wears black now, but she had pretty clothes when she was young. She and the man she loved had problems after Miss Jennie left. Everything changed after that,” said Old Tom.

A few days later, Miss Polly called Nancy.

“My niece¹ is coming tomorrow at four o’clock.” she said, “Go with Timothy to the station and bring her back here.”

“Yes, Miss Polly, but...”

“I don’t want to go with you. That is all.”

The next day at twenty to four, Nancy and Timothy, who was Old Tom’s son, went to the

Mr. Tom tells Nancy about Miss Polly’s family. The family didn’t speak to Miss Jennie, Pollyanna’s mother, after she married a poor man. He says that Miss Polly, who’s 40, was once pretty and she had problems with a man she loved after her sister left.

¹ **niece** the daughter of your sister or brother

station. The train arrived¹ and everyone got off and with them there was a little girl with long hair and a hat on her head.

“Are you Miss Pollyanna?” Nancy asked.

“Yes, I’m Pollyanna! Oh! I’m glad², glad, GLAD to see you,” said the girl. “I’m glad you came to meet me, Aunt³ Polly!”

“I’m not Aunt Polly,” said Nancy. “I’m very different from your Aunt Polly. You can meet her soon.” Nancy thought about cold, difficult Miss Polly and this happy little girl, and she felt sad.

Timothy took Pollyanna’s things and they drove back to the house. Pollyanna didn’t stop talking. For her, everything was pretty.

“Father said Aunt Polly is very rich! Does she have ice cream on a Sunday?”

Timothy thought this was funny.

“No, Miss. Your aunt doesn’t like ice cream,” answered Nancy.

“Does she have nice things in her house?”

“Yes,” said Nancy, but Pollyanna’s little room under the roof didn’t have any pretty things in it!

Poor little girl, thought Nancy.

¹ **arrive** come (here - come into the station)

² **glad** happy

³ **aunt** the sister of your mother or father



Pollyanna runs to her aunt when she meets her for the first time and puts her arms round her, but her aunt isn’t very happy about this.



Eleanor H. Porter

“Father and I didn’t have any money and we didn’t have nice things. I hope there are nice things in my room. Maybe¹ pictures? I love pictures.”

Nancy didn’t say anything!

When Pollyanna and Nancy arrive at the house, Pollyanna runs to her aunt and puts her arms around her. When Pollyanna starts to talk about her father, her aunt says she doesn’t want to talk about him and takes Pollyanna to her room.

When Pollyanna and Nancy arrived at the house, Miss Polly Harrington was in her garden.

“Good afternoon, Pollyanna. I...” Pollyanna ran to her aunt and put her arms round her.

“Oh, Aunt Polly, Aunt Polly. I’m so glad! When Father died I was so sad. Now I have you and Nancy, I’m so happy! Father said...”

“Pollyanna, I don’t want you to talk about your father. Do you understand?”

“Oh, but Aunt Polly...” Pollyanna had tears² in her eyes.

“Come with me to your room,” said Aunt Polly.

Pollyanna followed³ her aunt, with Nancy after her. The house was full of beautiful things.

“Oh, Aunt Polly, Aunt Polly,” said the little girl, looking around. “It’s a lovely⁴, lovely house. You’re very rich!”

¹ **maybe** when we say ‘maybe’ we think that something is possible

² **tears** 😭

³ **follow** walk behind someone

⁴ **lovely** very nice, beautiful

Reading Comprehension

1 What is the right answer: A, B, or C?

- 1 Why did Nancy come to work at Miss Polly's house?
A ☐ Because she had too many brothers and sisters.
B ☐ Because Miss Polly didn't like her job.
C ☐ Because Nancy's father died, and she had to get money for her family.
- 2 Old Tom says Miss Polly...
A ☐ can find it difficult to have a child in the house.
B ☐ never liked her sister, Jennie.
C ☐ married a rich man and went to live in the south.
- 3 On the way home from the station Pollyanna asks Nancy...
A ☐ "Is my aunt beautiful?"
B ☐ "Is she rich and does she live in a big house?"
C ☐ "Does she have ice cream on Sundays?"
- 4 What does Pollyanna find to be glad about in her room?
A ☐ Her room is lovely and full of nice things.
B ☐ There are pictures of houses and trees in her room.
C ☐ She sees houses and trees from the window.
She doesn't need a picture.
- 5 Why didn't Pollyanna have dinner with her aunt on the first evening?
A ☐ She was late for dinner, so she had bread and milk in the kitchen.
B ☐ Her aunt didn't want to eat with her.
C ☐ Pollyanna likes Nancy so she ate in the kitchen with her.
- 6 Pollyanna's father said she could be glad about the crutches because...
A ☐ she could play with them.
B ☐ she didn't need them.
C ☐ they were better than a doll.

Reading and Writing **MOVERS**

- 2 Look at the picture on page 15. Complete the sentences and answer the questions.

- The people are in the garden .
- 1 What's behind the house? _____
 - 2 The man is wearing a white _____ .
 - 3 How many flowers are there in the picture? _____
 - 4 What's Pollyanna doing? _____

Speaking and Writing

- 3 Pollyanna has to go and live with her aunt and her bedroom isn't very nice. Discuss these questions with a partner and write your answers.



- 1 Where do you live and who do you live with?
- 2 Do you like where you live? Why / Why not?
- 3 What's your house like? How many rooms are there?
- 4 What is there in your bedroom?
- 5 What can be difficult about going to live in a new place you don't know?

**21st
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Skills**

Before-reading Activity

- 4 Listen to the first part of Chapter 2. What can you hear?

- 1 ☐ Birds singing
- 2 ☐ Miss Polly and Old Tom talking
- 3 ☐ Pollyanna running down to the garden
- 4 ☐ Someone at the front door
- 5 ☐ Pollyanna speaking to her aunt
- 6 ☐ Miss Polly speaking to Pollyanna
- 7 ☐ Pollyanna and Old Tom talking
- 8 ☐ Nancy making lunch
- 9 ☐ Nancy calling Pollyanna