

Frances Hodgson Burnett
Little Lord Fauntleroy

In the mid-1880s, young Cedric Errol lives with his mother in New York. They're quite poor after the death of Cedric's father, but live a simple happy life together. Then, one day, an English lawyer comes to visit them. He has a message from the Earl of Dorincourt, Cedric's rich English grandfather that will change Cedric's life forever. Will he be happy? Will he win the heart of his angry old grandfather? Enjoy reading about this little boy and find out if he stays true to himself even with all the changes in his life.

In this reader you'll find:

- Information about Frances Hodgson Burnett
- CLIL History July 4 - *American Independence*
- A section focusing on films, cartoons and game about Little Lord Fauntleroy
- Glossary of difficult words
- Comprehension and grammar activities including A2 Key style exercises and 21st century skills activities
- Final test

Tags

Classic literature | Love | Kindness

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Classic

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Frances Hodgson Burnett

Little Lord Fauntleroy

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Stage 2 A2

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Book brief

- 1** *Little Lord Fauntleroy* is Frances Hodgson Burnett's first book for children and is considered a true classic of children's fiction.
- 2** First serialised in an American magazine between November 1885 and October 1886, it was an immediate success with the public.
- 3** Set in England in the mid-1880s, it tells the story of Cedric Errol, whose life changes when he moves from a poor area of New York to go and live in England with his rich grandfather, the Earl of Dorincourt.
- 4** Instead of the Earl teaching Cedric to be an aristocrat, Cedric teaches his grandfather to be a better person.
- 5** The main theme of the story is that good wins in the end.

Frances Hodgson Burnett

Little Lord Fauntleroy

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Main Characters



Mrs. Errol (Dearest)

Cedric's mother, she teaches her son to be a kind, loving boy.



Mr. Mordaunt

Head of the church where the Earl lives, he tries to help the poor people who live on the Earl's farms.



Dick

One of Cedric's friends in New York, his job is to clean people's shoes.



Mr. Harrison

One of Dick's customers, he's a lawyer and helps Dick and Mr. Hobbs when Cedric has a problem.



Earl of Dorincourt

Cedric's grandfather, he's an angry old man with no friends, and he doesn't like Cedric's mother because she's American.

Mr. Havisham
The Earl of Dorincourt's lawyer, he goes to New York to bring Cedric and his mother to England.



Mr. Hobbs

Cedric's best friend. They spend hours together talking about lots of different things.



Cedric

Everyone loves Cedric because he's such a kind, happy little boy.



Reading A2 Key

- 1 Read about *Little Lord Fauntleroy*. Choose the correct word (A, B or C) to complete the text.

Little Lord Fauntleroy _____ *is* a story

about a kind little boy (1) _____

Cedric Errol.

He (2) _____ with his mother,

Mrs. Errol (3) _____

New York. They're happy

(4) _____ and Cedric knows

(5) _____ of people

(6) _____ he's very friendly.

(7) _____ day, a man arrives

(8) _____ England.

He has come to visit Cedric and his mother in (9) _____ simple little home. From here, Cedric's (10) _____ changes.

He (11) _____ to leave all his friends in New York. In the story, you (12) _____ see if Cedric changes and if his kind ways win the heart of his angry English grandfather, the Earl of Dorincourt.



~~A~~ is

1 A said

2 A is living

3 A at

4 A together

5 A some

6 A why

7 A The

8 A by

9 A our

10 A live

11 A has

12 A have

B was

B called

B live

B to

B again

B lots

B if

B A

B from

B their

B living

B must

B are

C has been

C told

C lives

C in

C against

C much

C because

C One

C to

C your

C life

C should

C will

Vocabulary

2 Read the sentences and complete the words.

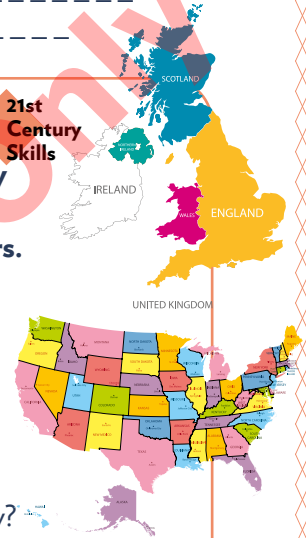
- You live in this sad. h o u s e
- You sometimes do this when you're sad. c _ _
 - Children play with these sad. t _ _
 - You can read the news in this sad. n _ _ _ _ _
 - A person who works in a kitchen sad. c _ _
 - You can sit in this sad. a _ _ _ _ _
 - There are twenty-four of these in a day sad. h _ _ _

Speaking and Writing

3 In the story, Cedric has to leave New York City to go and live in England. Discuss these questions with a partner and write your answers.

- Which problems do you think Cedric will have when he goes to live with his grandfather?
- Think of reasons why people decide to go and live in another country.
- Would you like to move to another country? Why / Why not?
- Which country would you most like to visit? Why?
- Why do you think it's important to visit other countries?
- What would you like to tell someone about the place where you live?

21st
Century
Skills



Listening

▶ 2 4 Listen and make true sentences about Chapter 1.

When Cedric arrived home, the house was very quiet / noisy.

- His mother was *sitting* / *standing* near the window.
- His mother was wearing a *short* / *long* black dress.
- Cedric asked if his father was *worse* / *better*.
- Cedric's father was *horrible* / *good-looking*.
- Cedric's father was *American* / *English*.
- Cedric's father had *brown* / *blue* eyes.
- Cedric decided *not to talk* / *to talk* about his father again.

A Surprise from England

- ▶ 2 Cedric arrived home after staying a month with some family friends. The house was very quiet.

He entered the room and saw his mother in her chair near the window. Her face was white and she was very thin. She was wearing a long black dress. The little boy ran to her and said:

‘Dearest, (his father always called her that) is my papa¹ better?’

‘Oh, my sweet little boy. Yes, your papa is well where he is, but now we only have each other.’

She pulled the little boy into her arms and cried and cried. Even if Cedric was only little, he understood his papa was dead; his big, young, good-looking, English papa, with his bright blue eyes. He kissed his mamma² again and again, and decided not to talk about his father anymore, because he didn’t want her to cry. ■

- ▶ 3 Cedric and his mamma didn’t have any other family in New York. They lived in a cheap little house in a quiet street.

¹ **papa** (here) daddy

² **mamma** mum

When he sees how sad his mum is, Cedric understands that his dad is dead. He and his mum now only have each other in New York.

Little Lord Fauntleroy

His mamma, Mrs. Errol, had no family and she never spoke about his papa's family in England.

Cedric only knew that his papa's father was a very rich man in England who lived in a very big house.

Everybody in the area loved Cedric because he was such a happy, kind little boy and so beautiful with his big, brown eyes and soft, curly blond hair. Even though he was very young, he knew his mamma was sad. Every day, he brought her his toys, climbed up, kissed her and put his little, curly head on her neck. He wasn't old enough to know of anything else to do, so he did what he could and his little, kind ways soon helped his mamma to smile again.

As he grew older, they walked, talked and played together, and Cedric was so much fun that his mamma didn't need any other friends. Cedric was clever too, and learned to read quickly. He spent his evenings talking to his mamma about everything he saw, read and did.

Cedric's best friend was Mr. Hobbs. Every day, he talked to Mr. Hobbs in his store¹ for hours.

They talked about everything, for example, the Fourth of July. Mr. Hobbs didn't like 'the British'

His mum never talks about his rich grandfather who lives in England.

Everybody loves Cedric because he's such a kind, friendly boy and he soon helps his mum to smile again.

Mr Hobbs is Cedric's best friend and they talk about everything in his store.

¹ **store** shop

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Mr Hobbs doesn't like the British and says bad things about the nobility and earls.

and got very excited when he talked about how the Americans won against them and became free. They also spoke about England and the Queen, and Mr. Hobbs said some very bad things about the nobility¹, above all, earls². One day, Cedric was talking to Mr. Hobbs in his store, when Cedric's cook, Mary, came for him.

'Come home, Cedric,' she said, 'your mamma wants you.'

Cedric could see that Mary's face was red.

'What's the matter, Mary?' he said. 'Is it the hot weather?'

'No,' said Mary, 'but strange things are happening to us.'

Cedric didn't understand but quickly went home with Mary. When they got home, his mamma was talking to somebody in their living room. After changing into his best clothes, Cedric went to his mamma.

A tall, thin, old man was sitting in an armchair in the living room.

Cedric's mamma was standing near the man. Her face was very white.

¹ **nobility** rich families who served the Royal family

² **earl** a title given to somebody who's part of the nobility

Cedric's cook comes to get him at Mr. Hobbs' store. He must go home quickly. At home, there's a man in the living room with his mum.



Cedric comes into the living room and sees a man there with his mamma.



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‘Oh! Ceddie!’ she said, running to her son.

The tall man stood up and looked at Cedric.

‘And so,’ he said at last, slowly, ‘and so this is little Lord Fauntleroy.’

Cedric didn’t understand but he smiled at this strange man anyway. Then his mamma explained everything to him. She had to tell him the whole story two or three times before he began to understand. After all, he was only seven years old and it was certainly the strangest story ever!

His grandpapa¹ was an earl! The Earl of Dorincourt!

‘Mr Hobbs won’t be pleased about that,’ thought Cedric. But there was more. Once, Cedric’s papa had two brothers, but they were both dead now, like his own poor papa. Cedric began to feel really sorry for his English grandpapa even if he was an earl. Then, the biggest surprise came.

‘There’s only you now, Ceddie, in your grandpapa’s family,’ said his mamma, ‘and when he dies, you’ll become Earl. For now you’ll be Lord Fauntleroy.’

Cedric’s grandfather is the Earl of Dorincourt. All his sons are dead now so Cedric is the only one left in the family. He’ll become Earl of Dorincourt when his grandfather dies. For now, he’ll be Lord Fauntleroy.

¹ **grandpapa** grandfather

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‘Oh! Dearest!’ he said. ‘I really don’t want to be an earl. None of the other boys are earls.’

‘I’m afraid, you’ll have to be an earl,’ said his mamma. ‘Your grandpapa has sent this kind man, Mr. Havisham, to take us to England. You’ll grow up in the beautiful house where your papa once lived. I know he always wanted you to do that. When you’re a man, you’ll understand better.’

‘I’ll be very sorry to leave Mr. Hobbs and all my other friends,’ said the little boy. ‘I’m afraid they’ll miss me and I’ll miss them all.’

Mrs. Errol pulled her little son into her arms and kissed his soft curly head. She didn’t tell him that his grandpapa only wanted Cedric in his castle and that she was going to live in another house near them. His grandpapa didn’t like her or anything American.

Mr. Havisham was the Earl of Dorincourt’s lawyer. He came to see Cedric again the next day.

‘You’ll be a very rich man one day, Cedric, with castles and parks,’ said Mr. Havisham.

But Cedric was worried about his friend, Mr. Hobbs, and he went to his store to tell him everything. Mr. Hobbs couldn’t believe his ears!

Cedric and his mother have to go and live in England. Cedric isn’t happy at the thought of leaving his friends.

Cedric’s mother won’t live in the same house as her son in England, because his grandfather doesn’t like her or anything American.

Mr Havisham tells Cedric he’ll be very rich one day, but Cedric is worried about what Mr Hobbs will say.

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‘Don’t worry, Mr. Hobbs. If I have to be an earl, I can try to be a good one,’ said Cedric. ‘But I’ll miss you very much.’

‘Me too,’ said Mr. Hobbs. He couldn’t say anything else. He felt he was going to cry, and he never cried!

Mr. Havisham came to visit Cedric and Mrs. Errol many times. He liked the little boy and knew that he wasn’t happy about leaving his home in New York. One morning, while they were talking, Cedric told him about a poor family with problems.

‘You see,’ said Cedric, ‘there’s Mary’s sister, Bridget. Her husband is ill and they have twelve children.’

‘Well, you can give them some money if you want,’ said Mr. Havisham. ‘Here’s twenty-five dollars.’

‘Can I really give Bridget all this money, mamma?’

‘Of course! Ceddie, it’s your money now.’

‘Oh! Mamma! Maybe it won’t be so bad to be an earl after all,’ said Cedric as he ran to look for Bridget. ■

Cedric is happy when Mr. Havisham says he can help a poor family he knows by giving them some of his money.



Cedric is rich now and Mr. Havisham gives him some of his money so that Cedric can help a poor family he knows. Cedric is really happy and excited about this.

Think

What would you like to do with a lot of money?



Reading Comprehension

1 Choose A, B or C to make true sentences about Chapter 1.

Cedric stayed with family friends for

A ☐ a year.

B ☒ a month.

C ☐ a week.

1 Cedric's best friend was

A ☐ Mr. Havisham.

B ☐ Mary.

C ☐ Mr. Hobbs.

2 When Mr. Havisham arrived, Cedric was

A ☐ at home.

B ☐ with a friend.

C ☐ in the park.

3 Mr. Havisham was

A ☐ thin and old.

B ☐ young
and short.

C ☐ short
and thin.

4 The Earl of Dorincourt once had

A ☐ two sons.

B ☐ three sons.

C ☐ one son.

5 Mr. Havisham was a

A ☐ lawyer.

B ☐ police officer.

C ☐ businessman.

6 Cedric's grandfather lived in

A ☐ an apartment.

B ☐ a little house.

C ☐ a castle.

Writing A2 Key

2 You're Bridget. Write a letter to Cedric. In the letter:

- thank Cedric for the money
- tell him what you're going to do with the \$25
- wish him good luck and why you'll miss him

Write at least 25 words.

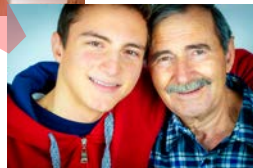
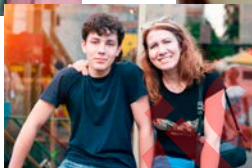


Speaking and Writing

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3 In Chapter 1, we find out that Cedric doesn't know his grandfather. Discuss these questions with a partner and write your answers.

- 1 Who do you live with?
- 2 What do you do with your family in your free time?
- 3 How often do you see your grandparents, aunts, uncles or cousins?
- 4 Does anybody in your family live in another city or country?
- 5 Who do you talk to in your family if you have a problem?
- 6 Who do you have the most fun with in your family?



Before-reading Activity

Listening and Speaking

4 **4** Decide with a partner if the following sentences about Chapter 2 are true (T) or false (F). Then listen and check your answers.

- | | T | F |
|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Cedric only had a week left in New York. | ☒ | ☐ |
| 1 Mr. Havisham came to visit Cedric every day. | ☐ | ☐ |
| 2 Cedric didn't enjoy his last few days in New York. | ☐ | ☐ |
| 3 Cedric wanted to buy lots of things for himself. | ☐ | ☐ |
| 4 Mr. Havisham didn't like Cedric now that he knew him better. | ☐ | ☐ |
| 5 Cedric wants to know how much money he'll have as an earl. | ☐ | ☐ |
| 6 Mr. Havisham tries to explain what an earl is. | ☐ | ☐ |