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Reflections: A Student Response Journal



*Around the World
in Eighty Days*
Jules Verne

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ISBN 978-1-60389-509-5

Item No. 302304

Response Journal

To The Student

Although we may read a novel, play, or work of non-fiction for enjoyment, each time we read one, we are building and practicing important basic reading skills. In our ever-more complex society, in which reading has become more and more crucial for success, this, in itself, is an important reason to spend time reading for enjoyment.

Some readers, however, are able to go beyond basic reading techniques and are able to practice higher thinking skills by reflecting on what they have read and how what they read affects them. It is this act of reflection—that is, stopping to think about what you are reading—that this journal is attempting to encourage.

To aid you, we have included writing prompts for each section; however, if you find something that you wish to respond to in the book more compelling than our prompts, you should write about that. We hope you enjoy reading this book and that the act of responding to what you have read increases this enjoyment.

After you read the indicated sections, choose the questions to which you will respond. Keep in mind that there are no right or wrong answers to these prompts, and there is no one direction in which you must go.

Around the World in Eighty Days

**CHAPTER I
IN WHICH PHILEAS FOGG AND
PASSEPARTOUT ACCEPT EACH
OTHER, THE ONE AS MASTER, THE
OTHER AS MAN**

1. Phileas Fogg is described as an “enigmatical personage” even to those who know him from the Reform club. As a biographer, write a one or two paragraph description of Phileas Fogg. Include information about his work, leisure activities, home life, personal habits, and relationships with others.
2. Jean Passepartout describes his past accomplishments for Fogg in hopes of obtaining the job as Fogg’s new servant. Write a brief character sketch of Passepartout based on these accomplishments. The character sketch might begin as follows:

Passepartout is unable to stay in any one job for long. He is a man who, whether he admits it or not, craves new environments and new adventures. Passepartout is also...

**CHAPTER II
IN WHICH PASSEPARTOUT IS
CONVINCED THAT HE HAS AT LAST
FOUND HIS IDEAL**

3. As Passepartout, write a diary entry discussing your hopes concerning your new job.

CHAPTER XI
IN WHICH PHILEAS FOGG SECURES
A CURIOUS MEANS OF CONVEYANCE
AT A FABULOUS PRICE

18. As Sir Francis, write a letter home describing Fogg and giving your opinion of the man and his adventure.
19. As Passepartout, write a diary entry describing your feelings about the delay reaching Calcutta and about Fogg's calm behavior in the situation.

CHAPTER XII
IN WHICH PHILEAS FOGG AND HIS
COMPANIONS VENTURE ACROSS THE
INDIAN FORESTS, AND WHAT
ENSUED

20. The guide tells Fogg that the young woman's sacrifice is not voluntary. Then Fogg decides to try to rescue her. Suppose the guide *did not* give this information to Fogg. Do you think he would have still wanted to rescue her?

Rewrite the ending of this chapter assuming Fogg knows that the woman is voluntarily sacrificing herself.

21. As a reporter for an Indian paper, write an editorial discussing the English government's interference with the ancient customs of the Indian people. Remember that an editorial expresses an informed opinion that can be supported.

**CHAPTER XXVIII
IN WHICH PASSEPARTOUT DOES NOT
SUCCEED IN MAKING ANYBODY
LISTEN TO REASON**

48. Verne describes the train engineer's plan to cross the damaged bridge. Passepartout thinks to himself that the plan is "a little too American." This suggests that Verne might be poking fun at Americans in this incident.

Write a dialogue between two students discussing the incident and what Verne is suggesting about the character of Americans.

**CHAPTER XXIX
IN WHICH CERTAIN INCIDENTS ARE
NARRATED WHICH ARE ONLY TO BE
MET WITH ON AMERICAN RAILROADS**

49. "Deus ex machina" is a literary term meaning the intervention into the plot of a person, force, or unexpected occurrence that resolves a seemingly impossible situation. Example: A village is about to be destroyed by a fire but a drenching rain suddenly puts out the blaze.

Some critics believe this term applies to this chapter. Do you agree or disagree? Explain your answer.

**CHAPTER XXXIII
IN WHICH PHILEAS FOGG SHOWS
HIMSELF EQUAL TO THE OCCASION**

54. You are a reporter for a French newspaper who is interviewing Passepartout. Write out an interview, in which Passepartout outlines the different obstacles Fogg must overcome, starting from when he pays Captain Speedy for passage to Bordeaux.
55. As Fix, write a diary entry explaining why you decide to arrest Fogg just six hours outside of London. Discuss your mixed feelings about Fogg at this point in the story. Remember that you have witnessed Fogg's abilities and his determination to complete the journey. All of these qualities suggest that he is not the criminal you seek.

**CHAPTER XXXIV
IN WHICH PHILEAS FOGG AT LAST
REACHES LONDON**

56. As soon as Fogg reaches Liverpool, Fix presents him with the arrest warrant and locks him into prison. Passepartout feels responsible for Fogg's arrest. As Passepartout, write a letter to Fogg explaining to him why you feel responsible for his arrest.