





# INTRODUCTION

Deep in the forest, next to the tallest spruce, is a bear's den. Under a thick covering of snow, it is easy to overlook. It is winter, you see, and bears sleep in winter. All bears but Francis, who lives in this very den. Francis reads, reads and reads some more. Why should he sleep when there is so much reading to do?

## A LOVE OF BOOKS

Francis is what is known as a bookworm. He is obsessed with lines of writing and the stories that emerge from them. No other bear will ever have as many adventures as he has had in and with books.



## VARIETY IS THE SPICE OF LIFE

Thanks to books, Francis can be a gallant knight, a scholarly alchemist, or a helpless castaway. The spells cast by great literature are wonderful!



## BUT WHAT IS LITERATURE?

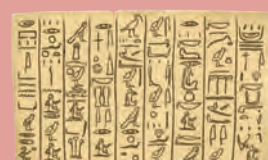
Literature comprises collections of writing produced by individual nations in different historical periods. Literature serves to educate people and Francis the bear. It shapes opinions, develops the imagination, and delights and improves the mind by the beauty of its stories, words, verse and the noble feelings it evokes in the reader.

## SCRIPT

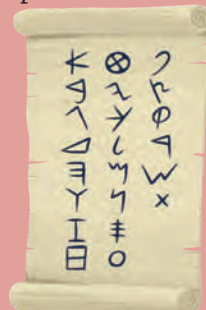
Without script, there would be no literature – obviously! As if knowing that this would be so, people invented it, long, long ago. They went through pictographic and cuneiform script before settling on alphabetic. The emergence of writing marked the end of pre-history and the beginning of antiquity.



cuneiform script on a clay tablet



hieroglyphs on papyrus



Phoenician script on papyrus

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I must get there before the new books sell out!



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## I KNOW EVERYTHING!

Through his reading, Francis has come to know more than other animals in the forest do. He knows where to find the Mediterranean Sea, and the Caspian. He knows who Odysseus is, as well as the meaning of “fighting windmills” (to engage in a battle you have no hope of winning). As you see, he is a very well-read bear. He doesn't read only in winter. He reads in spring, summer and autumn too – all year round!



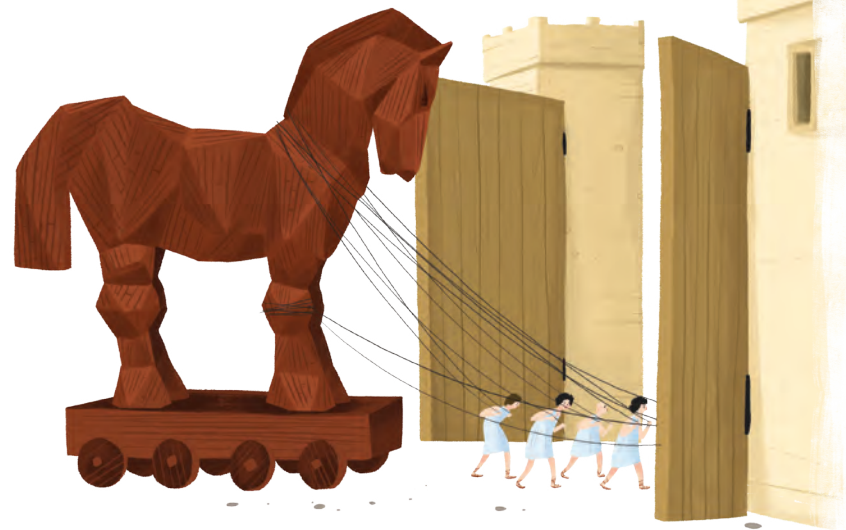
How beautifully Goethe expresses it!



# ODYSSEUS

ANCIENT GREECE 9TH CENTURY BCE

This ruse must not be revealed. Before the gates of the ancient city of Troy stands a huge wooden horse. The Trojans are rejoicing! The protracted war against Greece is over. There is not a Greek in sight. The horse is a gift from the defeated army. The Trojans accept the gift by pulling the horse through the gate to within the city walls. But the horse's belly contains a band of Greek soldiers...



## GET INTO THEM!!!

No sooner have the victory-intoxicated Trojans fallen asleep than the Greek soldiers jump from the horse to put the Trojans to the sword and raze Troy to the ground. The ten-year war is over. One-nil to the Greeks. Who came up with this ingenious trick? The cunning, stout-hearted, valiant king of the Greek island of Ithaca, Odysseus!



Don't be sad, Penelope. I'll be back soon.

## GOODBYE, MY LOVE

Odysseus doesn't want to go to war against the Trojans at all. He has had to leave his beloved wife Penelope and his son Telemachus behind. Had he only known that the brutal fighting would last for ten years! It will take Odysseus a further ten years to get home.

## OBSTACLE AFTER OBSTACLE

There are many temptations at sea. Odysseus has to save himself and the crews of his 12 ships from the Sirens, whose lovely song lures sailors to the rocks. He must break a spell cast by the witch Circe, who has turned Odysseus's men into swine on her island.



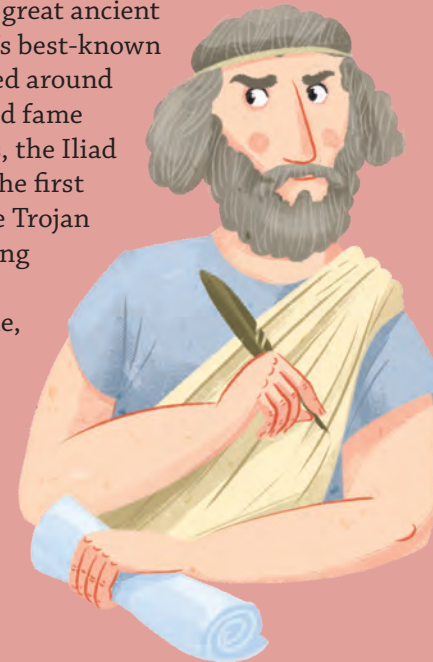
Abacadabra! Be a pig again!

## ONE-EYED CYCLOPS

It is a wonder that valiant Odysseus doesn't lose his life to the one-eyed giant Cyclops. Again, the king is saved by his cunning and cleverness. He outsmarts the Cyclops, deprives him of his sight, and flees from his cave, all the while mocking him.

## HOMER (8TH CENTURY BCE)

Odysseus is one of great ancient Greek poet Homer's best-known epic heroes. He lived around 850 BCE and gained fame for two epic poems, the Iliad and the Odyssey. The first poem describes the Trojan War, the second King Odysseus's return journey to his home, Ithaca.



What do they call you, little man?



My name, Mr Cyclops, is Nobody!

## HOME AT LAST

'Now that you are back on Ithaca, Odysseus, you must hurry to your Penelope! She is threatened by hordes of suitors!' Francis bites his claws nervously. Odysseus is calm, however. He disguises himself as a beggar and wonders what to do next. He has nothing to fear: there is no more faithful wife than Penelope, and she is devoted to her brave husband. After twenty long years, all turns out well.



This is an awkward situation. I must find a solution.

**!** AN **EPOS** IS A LONG EPIC POEM THAT DEALS WITH DEEDS OF HEROISM AND/OR IMPORTANT EVENTS.

## PENELOPE, FAITHFUL WIFE

She has waited twenty years for her husband's return, rejecting all suitors in the meantime. Now she sets a test. She presents the suitors with Odysseus's bow, declaring that she will marry whoever uses it to shoot an arrow through a dozen axe-heads. And, wouldn't you know, the contest is won by a strange beggar who has recently appeared on Ithaca!

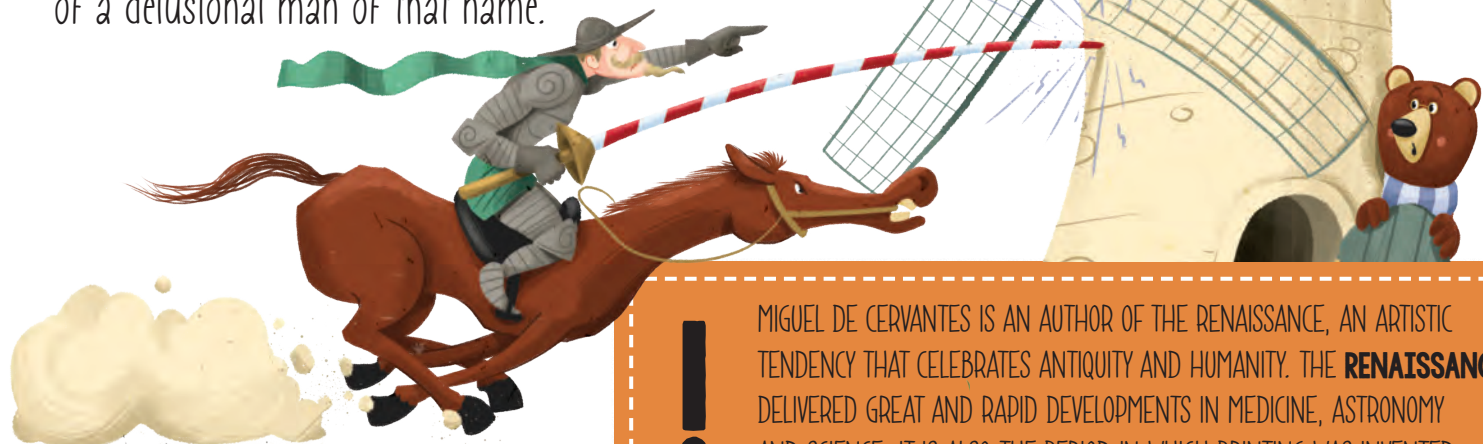


# DON QUIXOTE

SPAIN

17TH CENTURY

Hey, what's that odd-looking chap up to? What he's doing, kids, is riding sword in hand against windmills as though they were fairy-tale dragons. Francis reads with bated breath, squirming in his chair, as if he himself is about to come under attack. Welcome to Don Quixote, the adventures of a delusional man of that name.

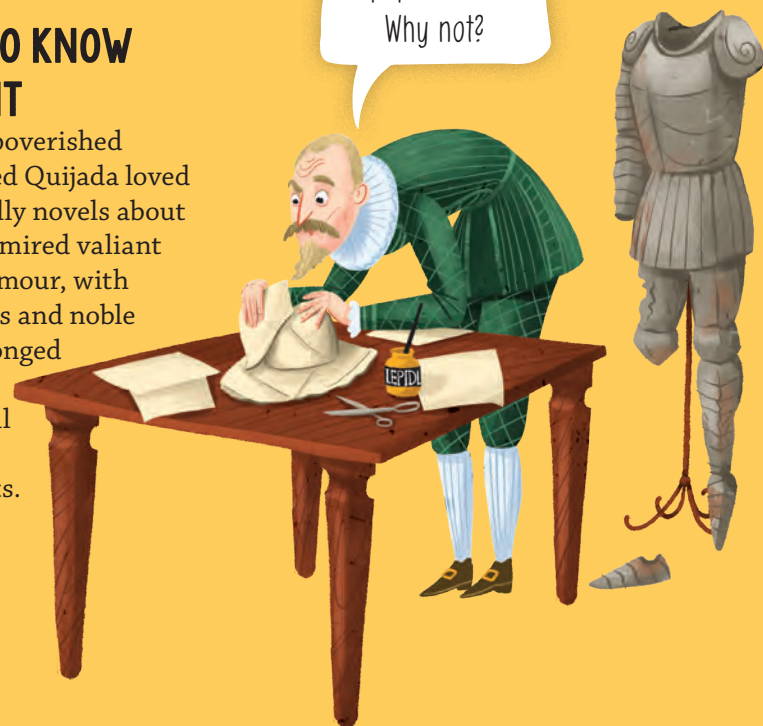


! MIGUEL DE CERVANTES IS AN AUTHOR OF THE RENAISSANCE, AN ARTISTIC TENDENCY THAT CELEBRATES ANTIQUITY AND HUMANITY. THE RENAISSANCE DELIVERED GREAT AND RAPID DEVELOPMENTS IN MEDICINE, ASTRONOMY AND SCIENCE. IT IS ALSO THE PERIOD IN WHICH PRINTING WAS INVENTED.

## GETTING TO KNOW THE KNIGHT

An ageing, impoverished aristocrat called Quijada loved books, especially novels about knights. He admired valiant men in iron armour, with all their virtues and noble qualities. He longed for a return to the medieval times of fair-minded knights.

A paper helmet? Why not?



## BECOME A KNIGHT

As the days of knights had fallen into the abyss of history, Quijada decided to go back in time. He polished the rusted armour of his distant ancestors. Missing parts in the armour he replaced with cardboard. Then he jumped onto his skinny steed Rocinante and set out into the wider world, there to defend the honour of all honourable maidens and ladies, but especially that of Dulcinea, his chosen one from a neighbouring village.

## KNIGHT'S ATTENDANT

Who is the paunchy gentleman riding alongside Don Quixote on an overworked donkey? Quixote's squire, of course! Quixote has persuaded his neighbour Sancho Panza to join him by promising him governorship of an island as a reward for faithful service. Off they go together to perform chivalrous deeds and spread the word about the beauty of Dulcinea, girl of Quixote's dreams.



Help! This guy is crazy!



Stop! They're just ordinary monks!

## FIGHTING WINDMILLS

As he goes about his chivalrous deeds, Don Quixote de la Mancha imagines an ordinary inn to be a mighty castle, the innkeeper to be the castle's lord, and his maid to be a noblewoman in need of protection. Imagining two friars he meets on his way to be wicked enchanters, he gets into a fight with them. He mistakes windmills for fairy-tale giants. It goes without saying that the outcome of a battle with such colossi is clear at the outset.



## MIGUELE DE CERVANTES (1547 - 1616)

Spaniard Miguel de Cervantes wrote Don Quixote in prison. Just imagine! In the course of his wild life, he had travelled all over Spain, spent five years as a captive of Turkish pirates, worked as a tax collector, and now he was behind bars. What else could he do in prison but write, write, write?



## WHAT'S THAT MAN DOING?

'What is that man up to?' the people who meet him keep asking. Faithful Sancho Panza asks the same question. But if he were to leave his master, he would lose the chance to govern an island. So the two of them travel on, making themselves a laughingstock to all and sundry, and bringing tears to Francis's eyes.



## WISDOM DAWNS

Finally, at the very end of his life's adventure, Don Quixote comes to his senses. After the veil of his intoxication with knights and novels of chivalry falls away, he comes to see the foolishness of his behaviour. Even so, he will look back with fondness on his moments of greatest adventure.



# FRANKENSTEIN

ENGLAND 19TH CENTURY

Someone is hiding in the shed. A scary someone. A monster, for want of a better word. Francis is afraid. But why, and of what? The scary creature studies by day and searches for firewood, shovels snow and performs other chores at night. That he is so scarily ugly is hardly his fault...

## VIKTOR FRANKENSTEIN

'I'm Victor Frankenstein. I was born into a wealthy family, and I love learning, especially about the natural sciences. The monster of whom Francis is so afraid, is my creation. I wish to prove that science can outwit death. I have created an artificial being by breathing life into a dead man...'

## GOOD HEART, HIDEOUS APPEARANCE

Frankenstein's monster has a good heart, but what good does it do him? At night he performs tasks to help the family in whose shed he secretly lives. When at last he reveals himself to them, to tell them they have no need to fear him, they drive him away. No one has ever felt so alone as Frankenstein's monster does at that moment.



## SECOND ATTEMPT AT CREATION

'As he wanted for a companion, I set about making him one. But in the course of my work, I became afraid. What if the two monsters were to destroy us? I ended my work: I couldn't take such a risk in good conscience. Now I'm afraid that the monster will take revenge on me.'

## VENGEANCE OF AN ACHING HEART

'Don't do it, monster, I beg you...' pleads Francis – but in vain. The broken, tormented soul that is Frankenstein's monster does indeed take revenge – by killing Frankenstein's friend and Frankenstein's fiancée, so that his creator, too, will know loneliness.

## REVENGE

Dress up warm, kids! Victor Frankenstein is sailing to the North Pole, in pursuit of his creature. The ship breaks through ice floes, and the cold is terrible. And it is here on the big ship that the story ends – tragically, as a work of horror demands. Only the captain returns from the long journey... The world has lost a proud scientist and an unhappy monster.



Boo, boo, boo,  
boo-oo-oo...



## MARY SHELLEY (1797-1851)

This English author of Gothic novels and her poet husband spent a summer with a very famous English poet, in which the three of them read scary stories. At summer's end, the poet – Byron was his name – suggested each of them try to write something similarly haunting. Mary Shelley came up with the story of Victor Frankenstein and his artificial being.

**!** A **GOTHIC NOVEL** IS CHARACTERIZED BY DARKNESS, TERROR, HORROR, AND AN ATMOSPHERE OF GRAVEYARDS AND RUINS. ITS PROTAGONISTS MAY BE GOOD OR EVIL. THE GOTHIC NOVEL ORIGINATED IN ENGLAND IN THE ROMANTIC PERIOD.



# OLIVER TWIST

ENGLAND **19TH CENTURY**

Slums with crooked streets, gangs of wandering pickpockets, beggars... Wherever you look, greyness, fog, gloom. The eerily dark River Thames. Where has our Francis taken himself? To London, of course! The clock of the Tower is striking the 19th century, when those born into less well-off, low-status families can expect a hard life. If you want to know more, ask Oliver Twist.



## CHILDHOOD IN AN ORPHANAGE

No sooner does little Oliver Twist enter the world than he becomes an orphan. And what was done with crying, motherless bundles? Well, in the England of those days, the poor child would end up in a dirty, loveless orphanage. It is in such a place that Oliver spends his first nine years, his tummy forever growling.

## FROM MUD TO PUDDLE

Imagine having to work at the age of nine! Believe it or not, young Oliver has to work for a gravedigger – digging graves! Although the gravedigger is kind to Oliver, his other apprentice takes against him. Able to put up with this boy's bullying no longer, Oliver runs away from London in search of a better life.



## I DON'T WANT TO STEAL

'I don't want to steal!' young Oliver rages. Abandoned and homeless in London, he has found himself in the clutches of pickpockets. He doesn't want to steal, but he must. By not stealing, he would starve. Fate must be obeyed. So Oliver steals everything his two cunning, thieving masters tell him to... and continues to do so until he is caught in the act.



CHARLES DICKENS'S FAITHFUL DESCRIPTIONS CAPTURED THE AUTHOR'S WITNESS TO WHAT WAS TRULY GOING ON IN 19TH-CENTURY ENGLAND. DICKENS WAS A LEADING REPRESENTATIVE OF WHAT IS KNOWN IN LITERATURE AS **REALISM**.



Phew! I'm so glad that Mr Brownlow accepted Oliver as his own.



## HARD-WON HAPPINESS

No sooner has Francis sighed with relief than Oliver is back in trouble. He is kidnapped and returned to the pickpockets against his will. Then he discovers his half-brother Edward, who would like to be rid of Oliver once and for all. After the bear has shared more than enough thrilling moments with the English orphan boy, the story comes to a happy, almost fairy-tale ending.

## EVERYTHING BAD IS GOOD FOR SOMETHING

If you, like Francis, are dreadfully fearful of what will happen to Oliver, there is no need to be afraid, believe us. Oliver is rescued from his dark prison by the venerable Mr Brownlow, who has recognized the scruffy little boy for the honest, good-hearted unfortunate that he is. At long last, Oliver is surrounded by love and kindness; at long last, his stomach no longer growls from morning till night.



## CHARLES DICKENS (1812 - 1870)

English writer Charles Dickens didn't produce *Oliver Twist* out of nowhere and nothing. In many respects, Charles's childhood was like Oliver's. Charles worked in a factory from a tender age, while his father was in a debtors' prison. Like Oliver, young Charles knew hunger, poverty and great hardship.

Yes, there is something of myself in Oliver.





# CHARACTERS IN LITERATURE AND THEIR STORIES

ŠTĚPÁNKA SEKANINOVÁ & JAKUB CENKL

A book lover, otherwise known as a bookworm, who reads from morning till evening and evening till morning, need not be a human. A bear can be a bookworm, too. If you don't believe this, meet Francis, bear protagonist of this book. This great reader reads whatever he can get his paws on. As for literary heroes, Francis knows Robinson Crusoe, Oliver Twist, Anne of Green Gables, Romeo, Juliet, and many, many more. Because he can tell you all about them, he has decided to introduce you to some. So let us go and meet them! Let us look under the hood of the stories of literary heroes and become bookworms like Francis the bear!

JOIN US  
ON A JOURNEY  
TO CHARACTERS  
IN LITERATURE

**JIM HAWKINS**  
SCOTLAND 19TH CENTURY

Francis has had a dream: He goes on a desert island, digging. The work may be tiring, but that he kicked off his bedcovers. But if it was worth it, he reached treasure. That gold is mind-bogglingly large, loud enough to wake the bear – loudly.

**BEWARE THE ONE-LEGGED MAN!**

After reading the first chapter of the book, Francis thought of a one-legged man. He thought of the one-legged man who had been in the story. He thought of the one-legged man who had been in the story. He thought of the one-legged man who had been in the story.

**THE HISPANIOLA SETS OUT**

With the first map in his hand, Jim Hawkins and his friends set out on the Hispaniola. Danger is around every corner. They have to be careful. They have to be careful. They have to be careful.

**ON TREASURE ISLAND**

Francis has read the story of the treasure island. He has read the story of the treasure island. He has read the story of the treasure island.

**LOUIS STEVENSON (1850-1894)**

Although the Scottish novelist, Stevenson is known for his novel, Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde. He is known for his novel, Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde. He is known for his novel, Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde.

**TO THE TREASURE!**

The treasure is the treasure. The treasure is the treasure. The treasure is the treasure.

**WHERE IS THE TREASURE?**

The treasure is the treasure. The treasure is the treasure. The treasure is the treasure.



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