

# Famous British Criminals

from The Newgate Calendar

*The Newgate Calendar* recorded the lives of famous British criminals of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.

This reader uses the **EXPANSIVE READING** approach, where the text becomes a springboard to improve language skills and to explore historical background, cultural connections and other topics suggested by the text. As well as the stories, this reader contains:

- An introduction about *The Newgate Calendar*
- A wide range of activities practising the four skills
- Dossiers: *Crime and Punishment in the Eighteenth Century* and *Eighteenth-century London*
- Internet projects
- FCE-style activities
- Trinity-style activities (Grade 7)
- A full recording of the text
- An exit test with answer key

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Step Two	■	CEFR <b>B1.1</b>	Exam Preparation PET
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READING & TRAINING

# Famous British Criminals

from The Newgate Calendar



AUDIO CD



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Famous British Criminals from The Newgate Calendar

Step Four B2.1



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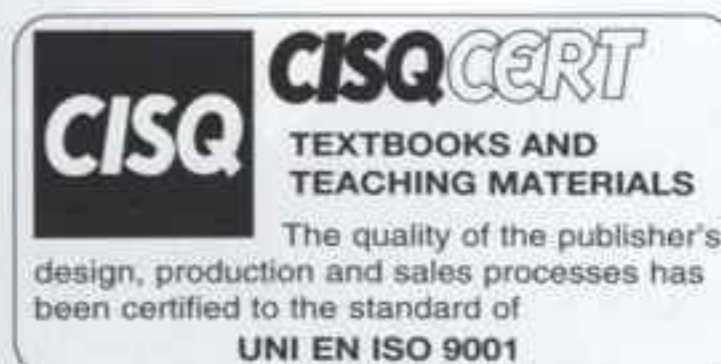
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## The Newgate Calendar

*The Newgate Calendar* is not the title of one individual book, but of several books which were published from the late 1700s to the mid-1800s. Originally *The Newgate Calendar* was a document written by an official of Newgate prison in London. It contained the names of all the prisoners admitted to the prison during the previous month. It was only later that this name became the title of a collection of accounts of famous prisoners who had been held in Newgate prison. During the 1700s stories about the executions, confessions and the last words of prisoners were very popular. They were sold as large single pages or as inexpensive publications of around sixty pages.

In 1776 the Reverend John Villette, the Ordinary Chaplain<sup>1</sup> at Newgate prison, collected these publications of popular crime stories into four volumes. This is the first of the collections which were soon known as *The Newgate Calendar*.

The collections soon became extremely popular. Even parents were happy if their children read the stories, because they also contained an important moral lesson: if you do bad things, you will be punished. People who could not read could also enjoy the excitement and horror of *The Newgate Calendar* because it often inspired the popular drama of the day. Dick Turpin, Jack Sheppard and Jonathan Wild were almost universally known during the 1700s. *The Newgate Calendar* can be considered the first important book of crime stories in English, but they are very different from the detective and police stories and films we know today. The first

1. **Chaplain** : priest who works in a hospital, school or prison.

**FCE** First Certificate in English Examination-style exercises

**T: GRADE 7** Trinity-style exercises (Grade 7)

This story is recorded in full.



These symbols indicate the beginning and end of the extracts linked to the listening activities.



modern police force was not founded until 1829, so there are no policeman or detectives in these stories. The stories concentrate completely on the life of criminals, and not on the detection or capture of criminals. They usually show how criminals chose not to follow a moral life, and how, only because they made a stupid mistake or because a 'gentleman' noticed something strange, they were caught. The world presented in *The Newgate Calendar* is a reassuring world, where it is almost inevitable that criminals are caught and punished.

*The Newgate Calendar* inspired many great writers like Charles Dickens and Robert Louis Stevenson, along with the writers of popular crime magazines of 1800s. Indeed, the mystery and crime fiction and films we enjoy today owe much to this collection of stories.



Newgate prison from *A Rake's Progress VII* (1734) by William Hogarth.

## Newgate prison

Newgate prison was first mentioned in the Middle Ages, but it was rebuilt several times: in 1422, in the 1590s, and after the Great Fire of London (1666).

In the eighteenth century life in prison was very different from today. First, prisons were used to keep criminals until they were tried. At the time imprisonment was not seen as a punishment. Secondly, prisons were private institutions, and prisoners had to pay for almost everything. When a prisoner first arrived, he was chained to the floor with iron chains. If the prisoner had money, he could pay to have lighter chains, and if he had a lot of money, he could even pay not to have chains at all. Then he had to pay for soap, clothes, beds and candles. Richer prisoners could even pay to have cleaning women and prostitutes visit their rooms. Otherwise, prisoners had very few clothes and had to sleep on the floor.

Food was bought from the prison authorities, or, if the prisoner had no money, it was supplied by charities. Cooking, however, was not included, so poor prisoners often ate their food raw. But that was not all. Health conditions at Newgate were horrendous. Almost all the prisoners were infested with lice,<sup>1</sup> and lice transmitted a deadly bacterial disease called typhus. It is estimated that only a quarter of prisoners at Newgate survived until their executions.

The bodies of prisoners were not buried, but left to decompose, unless their families came to collect them. The smell that came from Newgate was so horrendous that nearby shops were forced to close down during the summer months.

In the end, if prisoners did not die of typhus, they were tried. If

1. **lice** : small insects that live on people's bodies (singular: louse).



prisoners were found guilty they were executed. Until 1783, prisoners were hanged at Tyburn, near the north-eastern corner of Hyde Park. In those days executions were a kind of public festival. There were even stands<sup>1</sup> set up around the gallows<sup>2</sup> for the public! Frequently, though, criminals received some sort of pardon, and instead of being executed, were sent to do forced labour in the American colonies. This punishment was known as transportation. But if the prisoner was not found guilty, he still could not leave the prison. First he had to pay a sum of money, and if he did not have the money, then he had to stay in prison.

Newgate prison, described as a 'symbol of hell' by Daniel Defoe, the author of *Robinson Crusoe*, was only demolished in 1902.

### 1 Comprehension

Say if the following statements are True (T) or False (F), and then correct the false ones.

- |  | T                        | F                        |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| a. Several different books were called <i>The Newgate Calendar</i> .                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b. Parents did not want their children to read <i>The Newgate Calendar</i> .                             | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. Only people who could read knew about the famous criminals described in <i>The Newgate Calendar</i> . | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d. Newgate prisoners had to pay for their food.  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| e. About 75% of Newgate prisoners died before their trial.   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| f. Almost all prisoners found guilty were executed.  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

1. **stands** : wooden seats for an audience.

2. **gallows** : wooden instrument used to hang people.

## John 'Jack' SHEPPARD




**Famous robber and escape artist**



## CHAPTER ONE

## A Life of Crime

 John Sheppard was a thief and highwayman,<sup>1</sup> but he became a very popular figure in his lifetime because of his extraordinary courage. At least two plays were written about him, and society was fascinated by his life and adventures.

John Sheppard's father was a carpenter<sup>2</sup> in a poor part of London called Spitalfields. He had two sons, John, who was born in 1702, and Thomas. John was always known as Jack. The two brothers both became famous robbers.

Jack was the first of the two brothers to begin a life of crime. He worked for a carpenter in London, but he soon began to spend a lot of time at the Black Lion pub in Drury Lane. It was

1. **highwayman** : someone who stole money from people travelling on public roads.
2. **carpenter** : someone who works with wood.

here that he met a woman called Elizabeth Lyon, but more commonly known among her friends as Edgeworth Bess.<sup>1</sup> Jack fell under her influence and they formed a partnership.

'I can make you rich,' she told him.

'How?' he asked her.

'Listen,' she said. 'You're a carpenter. You work in rich people's houses. That gives you the perfect opportunity to steal valuable objects.'

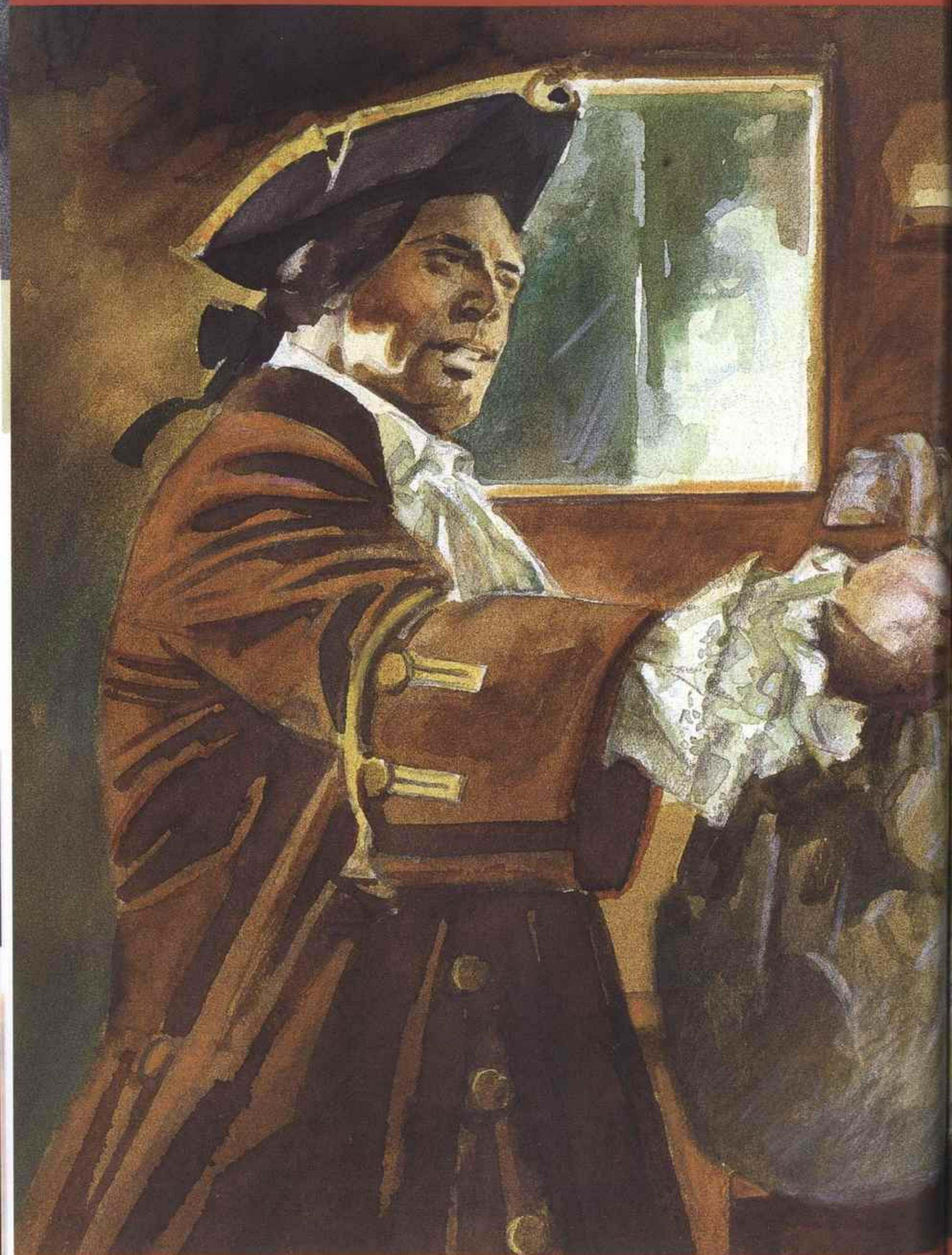
At first Jack was very successful and no one suspected him of the robberies that were taking place in the houses where he worked. He stole valuable items for Edgeworth Bess and she sold them for him.

Jack also had another woman friend named Maggot, and she persuaded him to rob a local merchant, Mr Bains, who was a trader in valuable cloth. First Jack went to Mr Bains' house and bought some cloth in order to see what the house was like inside. He went home and put the piece of cloth in his trunk.<sup>2</sup> The same night he returned secretly to the house. He broke in<sup>3</sup> and stole money and other property, which he then took to Maggot.

Jack did not go back to his master's home that night, or the next, and his master began to be suspicious of the young man's activities. He decided to open Jack's trunk to see what was inside. He found the piece of cloth that Jack had bought from Mr Bains. When Jack finally returned home, he realised that his master now had evidence that connected him with Mr Bains. So Jack stole the piece of cloth back from his employer and hid it.

1. **Edgeworth Bess** : Edgeworth is an area of Greater London. Bess is an abbreviated form of Elizabeth.
2. **trunk** : large box used to store things.
3. **broke in** : entered the house illegally, by force.







When Jack's master heard about the robbery at Mr Bains' house, he was sure that Jack was involved. He contacted Mr Bains and described the piece of cloth that he had seen in Jack's trunk. Mr Bains knew immediately that Jack was the young man who had bought the cloth, and he too guessed that the purchase of the cloth was a trick to enter his house.

When Jack heard that he was suspected, he pretended to get very angry.

'I haven't stolen anything,' he shouted. 'My mother gave me that piece of cloth!'

'Did she?' Mr Bains said. 'And where did she get it from?'

'Ask her yourself,' Jack said.

'I think I will,' his master replied.

Jack's master sent for the boy's mother and asked her about the cloth.

'My son's telling the truth,' she said. 'I bought the cloth at a market in Spitalfields.'

'Where exactly in the market did you buy it?' the master asked.

'I don't remember,' Jack's mother said.

Jack's master and Mr Bains did not believe what Jack and his mother told them, but they had no direct evidence against Jack for the robbery. Despite his suspicions of him, Jack's master decided to let the boy continue to work for him as an apprentice.<sup>1</sup>

Jack became more and more involved in crime, and he finally became part of a gang<sup>2</sup> led by Jonathan Wild, another famous criminal. He now worked for himself as a carpenter and this

1. **apprentice** : someone who learns a job by working for a master.

2. **gang** : organised group of criminals.

meant that he continued to have easy entrance to rich people's houses. In one case he was repairing a house belonging to an elderly gentleman in a rich area of London. He robbed the gentleman of money, jewellery and expensive clothes.

Shortly after this robbery Edgeworth Bess was arrested and sent to a local prison. Jack went to the prison and demanded to see his friend. When the prison officer refused him permission, Jack attacked him and went in.

'You're coming with me,' he told Edgeworth Bess.

'What do you mean?' she asked him. 'I'm a prisoner here. I can't come with you!'

'Yes, you can!' Jack told her with a laugh. 'I knocked the officer out — <sup>1</sup> he won't give us any trouble now!'

He picked up Bess and carried her out of the prison. This episode made him very popular with the criminal world in London, especially with the women.

The brothers, Tom and Jack, worked together, robbing houses and selling the items that they had stolen. They also continued to work with Edgeworth Bess. They broke into the house of a merchant, Mrs Cook, and stole some valuable items. Tom tried to sell them but he was arrested and taken to Newgate prison, where some of London's most notorious criminals were kept. He offered to give evidence against his brother Jack and Edgeworth Bess in order to receive a lighter punishment. The authorities looked everywhere for Jack and Edgeworth Bess, but they could not find them.

One day Jack met a friend of his in the street, a man called James Sykes. Sykes knew that the authorities were looking for

1. **knocked ... out** : hit him so hard that he lost consciousness.



## Famous British Criminals

from **The Newgate Calendar**

Jack, and he made a plan. He hoped to get a lot of money for capturing Jack. He took Jack into a pub and bought him a lot of beer. While Jack was happily drinking, Sykes sent for a constable. The constable arrested Jack and took him to prison. Jack waited until the middle of the night and then made a hole in the roof of the prison and escaped.

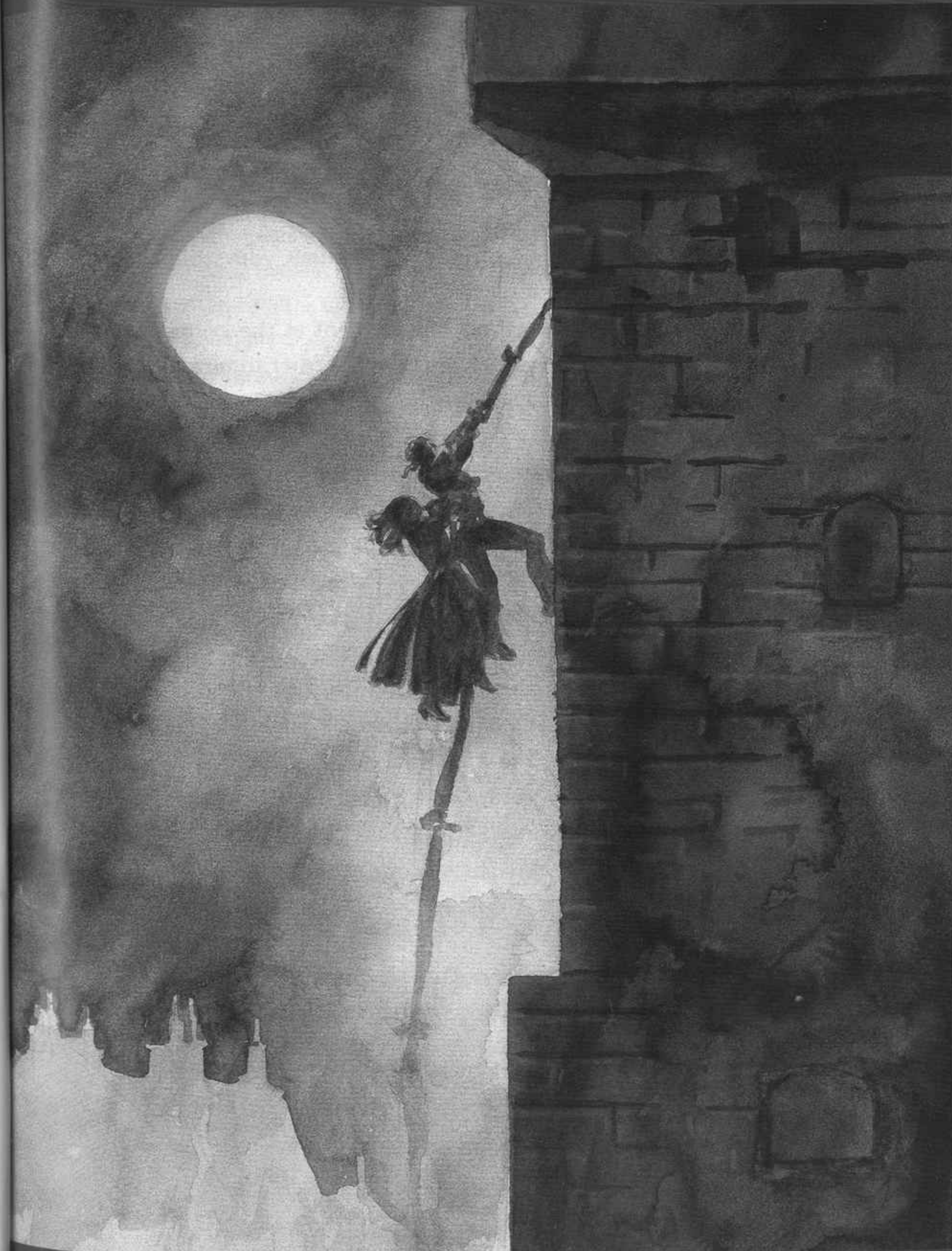
Jack's freedom did not last long. He was soon arrested again, and this time he and Edgeworth Bess were taken to another prison. The authorities thought that Jack and Bess were husband and wife, and they allowed them to live together in a room in the prison called Newgate Ward.

A few days after their arrival at the prison, Jack managed to cut off his iron chains. He then made a hole in the prison wall, and removed one of the iron bars from the window. He looked down and saw that it was too far to jump to the ground. So he tied some sheets together, and tied one end around a bar in the window. Then he helped Edgeworth Bess to climb down to the ground, and he quickly followed her. They were now in front of a high prison wall, but they managed to climb over it and escape into the city.

The criminal class of London enjoyed hearing about Jack's adventures and he became a hero to them. One criminal, Charles Grace, asked if he could work with Jack, and Jack agreed.

Charles and Jack made friends with a young man called Anthony Lamb, who worked for a maker of mathematical instruments. They planned to rob a wealthy gentleman who lived in the instrument maker's house. Late one night Lamb opened the door of the house and let Jack and Charles in and they stole a lot of money.

When the robbery was discovered the next morning, Anthony Lamb was very frightened. His master sent for him and asked what had happened.





## Famous British Criminals

from **The Newgate Calendar**

'I don't know, sir,' Lamb replied.

His master looked at him suspiciously. He saw that the young man's hands were shaking.

'I don't believe you,' he said angrily. 'I think you stole the money, and you'll be hanged for it!'

In the end Lamb confessed his involvement in the crime. He was sent to Newgate prison, tried, and then transported.<sup>1</sup> Thomas Sheppard was also tried for the robbery of Mrs Cook and he was transported as well.

Jack Sheppard then started working with another famous criminal, a man called Blueskin. They sometimes sold the items that they had stolen to a man called William Field. Meanwhile, they hired a stable in which they kept what they had stolen before selling it. Among the other stolen items in the stable was a length of cloth that had been taken from a certain Mr Kneebone. It was stealing this piece of cloth that led to Jack's next arrest. One day Jack and Blueskin asked William Field to go to their stable and look at the items they had, so that he could find buyers for them. Field, who was a coward<sup>2</sup> but an imaginative criminal, did more than that. He broke into the stable and stole everything. Then he went to Jonathan Wild, knowing his influence in the criminal world, and told him that Jack was working with Blueskin.

Jack and Blueskin were arrested soon after and sent to Newgate prison, where they were tried for their robberies, and Jack was sentenced to death for the theft of the cloth belonging to Mr Kneebone.

1. **transported** : sent to one of the colonies as a punishment (see pages 20 and 30).

2. **coward** : person who has no courage.

### Go back to the text

#### 1 Comprehension

Answer the questions below.

- What was the job of Jack Sheppard's father?
- What evidence did Sheppard's employer have against him?
- Why did the women of London's criminal world especially like Jack Sheppard?
- Why did Tom Sheppard agree to give evidence against his brother?
- Why did James Sykes want to help the authorities arrest Jack Sheppard?
- Why could Sheppard and Edgeworth Bess live together in prison?
- How did Anthony Lamb's master know he had taken part in the robbery?
- What was going to be Sheppard's punishment for stealing Mr Kneebone's cloth?

### 'Jack was the young man who had bought the cloth'

Look at how we can combine two sentences:

*Jack was a young man. He had bought the cloth.*

→ *Jack was the young man **who** had bought the cloth.*

'**who had bought the cloth**' is a defining relative clause. A defining relative clause identifies the subject or object of the sentence. It is not separated from the rest of the sentence by a comma.

We use '**who**' or '**that**' when we are talking about people:

*Jack is the criminal **who/that** escaped from Newgate.*

We use '**which**' or '**that**' when we are talking about things:

*That's the sheet **which/that** Jack used to escape from prison.*



## 2 Defining relative clauses

Using defining relative clauses, say who did the following actions (one of these characters is used twice).

- A Anthony Lamb      C ~~Edgeworth Bess~~      E Jack Sheppard  
B William Field      D Tom Sheppard      F James Sykes

Example: He/She promised to make Jack Sheppard a rich man.  
*Edgeworth Bess is the woman who promised to make Jack Sheppard a rich man.*

1. ☐ He/She reported his/her friend to the authorities for money.
2. ☐ He/She bought stolen goods from Jack Sheppard.
3. ☐ He/She became a hero of the criminal world.
4. ☐ He/She let Jack Sheppard into the house of his/her master, a wealthy instrument maker.
5. ☐ He/She carried Edgeworth Bess out of prison.
6. ☐ He/She gave the authorities evidence against his/her own brother.

## FCE 3 Transportation and the founding of Australia

For questions 1-12, read the text about the transportation of criminals and think of the word which best fits each space. Use only one word in each space. There is an example (0) at the beginning.

Anthony Lamb and Thomas Sheppard were both transported.  
(0) *This* means they were sent to work as slaves in Britain's colonies. (1) ..... were two main reasons (2) ..... transportation became important in the 1700s. First, many poor people came to the cities looking (3) ..... work. They often had to steal (4) ..... survive, and so crime increased. It was cheaper to send criminals away than keep them all in prison. Second, the American colonies needed labour. The perfect solution was to send criminals to America (5) ..... they worked as 'bond servants'. After America won independence in 1783, British prisoners could no (6) ..... be sent there. The government soon began to look for a new place (7) ..... transport criminals.

It was eventually decided that Australia was the best place. In 1787 Captain Arthur Philips sailed for Australia with eleven ships carrying

759 convicts, the youngest of (8) ..... was nine years old. This was the beginning of Britain's first permanent settlement (9) ..... Australia. It was also the first time a colony was used (10) ..... a penal colony. Although around 160,000 convicts were transported to Australia, in the (11) ..... transportation did little to stop crime. But it did help to found another English-speaking country on the (12) ..... side of the world.

## Before you read



### 1 Listening

Listen to the beginning of Chapter Two. For questions 1-5, choose the best answer, A, B or C.

- 1 When did the order for Jack's execution arrive at Newgate prison?  
A ☐ 13 August 1734  
B ☐ 30 August 1734  
C ☐ 30 August 1724
- 2 Jack escaped with the help of  
A ☐ some women friends.  
B ☐ some other prisoners.  
C ☐ some prison guards.
- 3 After Jack escaped, where did he and his friend Page go?  
A ☐ to the east of London  
B ☐ into the country  
C ☐ to Scotland
- 4 What did Jack do when he saw that only a boy was guarding the watchmaker's shop?  
A ☐ He broke the window and stole some watches.  
B ☐ He ran away to get his friend Page.  
C ☐ He went into the shop and stole some watches.
- 5 When Jack returned to London, his friends told him that  
A ☐ Jonathan Wild was looking for him.  
B ☐ he was now a famous man.  
C ☐ the authorities were looking for him.



## CHAPTER TWO

## Great Escapes



**A**n order for the execution of Jack Sheppard arrived at Newgate prison on Monday 30 August 1724. Once again Jack showed his extraordinary courage. There was a place in the prison where friends could come to talk to the prisoners. The visitors and the prisoners were separated by a hole in the wall that had bars in it. Jack loosened<sup>1</sup> one of the bars. When some women friends came to visit him, he broke the bar off the wall completely and the women pulled him through the hole. He was a free man once again.

Jack went to see a friend of his called Page, and they went into the country for a week. On their return to London they

1. **loosened** : moved to try and detach it from the wall.

passed a watchmaker's shop. They were surprised to see that the shop was open, but that there was only a boy guarding it. Jack immediately broke the shop window and pulled out some valuable watches.

Jack's friends now knew that he was back in London, and they warned him that the authorities were looking everywhere for him. They eventually found where he was hiding and took him back to Newgate prison. This time they were determined to stop him escaping.

'You've been very lucky in the past,' one of the officers told him, 'but you're not going to escape from us again. We'll make sure it's impossible!'

They put iron chains on his legs and handcuffs<sup>1</sup> on his wrists. The chains on his legs were attached to a ring in the floor of his prison cell.

His adventures had by now made Jack famous with all social classes, and many important people came to visit him. Some of his visitors gave him money. 'Who knows if he'll try to escape again,' they thought.

Sheppard found a nail<sup>2</sup> in the room, which he used to open the lock that attached his chain to the ring in the floor. Then he used the same nail to open his handcuffs. He could not remove the chains, but he pulled them as high up his legs as he could.

His next move was to climb the chimney in the room, but his way was blocked by an iron bar. He then worked with his hands to free the iron bar. He climbed back up the chimney and made

1. **handcuffs** : metal objects used to secure people's hands.

2. **nail** : thin piece of metal used to attach pictures to a wall, etc.



## Famous British Criminals

from **The Newgate Calendar**

his way into the room above. No one had used this room for many years and the door was locked, but it did not take Sheppard long to break it. He then went into the prison chapel and climbed onto the roof of the prison. He looked down, and saw that the nearest building was a long way below him. If he jumped, it would be very dangerous. He went back to his original cell and took the blanket from the bed. Then he went back onto the roof. He tied one end of the blanket to the roof of the prison, and then climbed down to the neighbouring house.

It was midnight by now, and Sheppard was exhausted after his escape. He walked to the edge of the city and found a stable where he slept for some hours. It was raining when he woke up and he was cold and hungry. He bought some food from a little shop nearby and returned to the stable. Next he tried to remove the chains from his legs by hitting them with a stone. Two long, miserable days passed. Finally, a shoemaker passed by the stable and Sheppard asked him to help remove the chains, offering to pay the man twenty shillings.<sup>1</sup> The shoemaker agreed, and by five o'clock that afternoon Sheppard was able to walk freely.

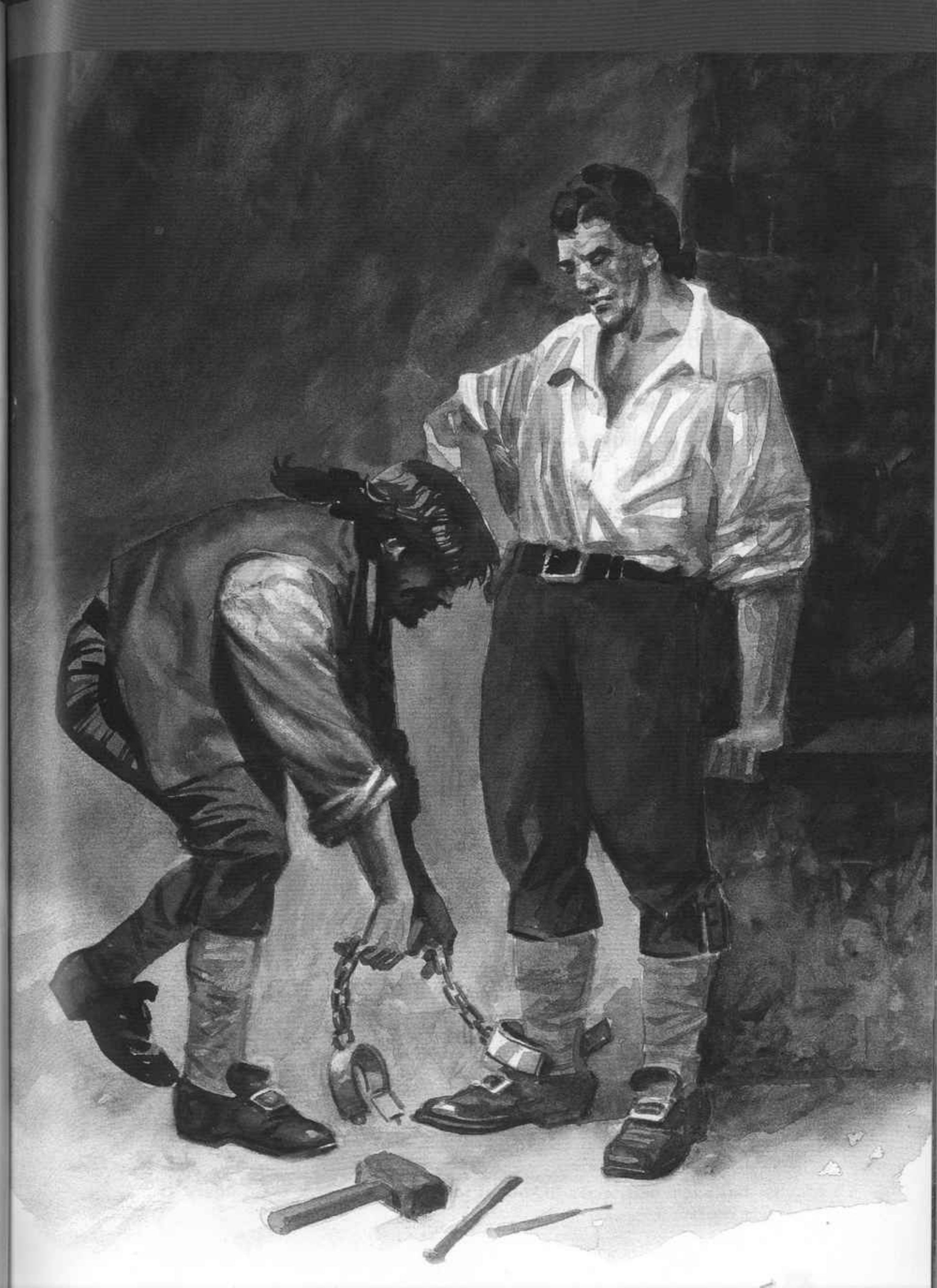
He tore his clothes to make himself look like a beggar and walked back to London. He stayed in a poor tavern in the city and talked to the landlady<sup>2</sup> about the adventures of Jack Sheppard.

'I hope he escapes again,' the woman said. 'He's a brave young man!'

'So do I,' Jack replied. 'He might do it, too!'

1. **shillings** : old money; there were twenty shillings in one pound.

2. **landlady** : female owner of a pub or tavern.





## Famous British Criminals

from **The Newgate Calendar**

Jack then walked around the streets, where he heard two ballad<sup>1</sup> singers singing about his adventures.

A few nights later he broke into a shop in Drury Lane and stole some fine clothes, a sword, rings, watches and other items. He put on the stolen clothes and went to find his old friends. He ate in taverns with his friends, and he even visited his mother to tell her that he was free once more. He celebrated his new freedom by drinking a lot of wine and brandy. At midnight, the boy who worked in the tavern where Jack Sheppard was entertaining his friends recognised who he was. The boy called the authorities and they arrested Sheppard and took him back to Newgate.

Up until the end Jack Sheppard hoped to escape his death at Tyburn. He hid a sharp knife in his pocket on the journey to the place of execution, but an officer discovered it and took it away from him. He had another plan for survival. 'After they hang me,' he told his friends, 'you must put me into a warm bed and open a vein in my arm. I'm sure this will help me recover from the hanging.'

He behaved with courage and dignity at the execution, and confessed his crimes. He was executed on 21 November 1724.

1. **ballad** : traditional song about famous people or extraordinary events.

### Go back to the text

#### 1 True or false?

Say whether the following statements are True (T) or False (F), and then correct the false ones.

- |   | T                        | F                        |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| a. Jack was well known, but only among the criminals of London.         | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b. Jack opened his handcuffs with a nail he found.                      | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. Jack jumped from the prison roof onto the roof of a house to escape. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d. Jack could not remove the chains by himself.                         | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| e. Songs were written about Jack's adventures.                          | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| f. No one discovered the knife that Jack had before he was hanged.      | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| g. Jack did not think he was going to die when they hanged him.         | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

#### 2 Writing – today a hero died

Pretend you are a journalist and say if you think Jack Sheppard should be considered a hero or not.

Include the following information in your article:

- How Sheppard became famous
- Who thought he was a hero
- How he was celebrated and how he died
- Your opinion of him

You can begin like this:

Today in London a famous man died. His name was John 'Jack' Sheppard. People from all social classes of London thought that.....



### 3 Vocabulary – criminal words in hiding

Look at the word search below and find the 18 words relating to criminals that appeared in the story. There are some clues to help you. Some words appear backwards.

#### Actions of criminals

##### Verbs

1. To s\_\_\_\_\_
2. To \_o\_
3. To \_\_\_\_\_ in

##### Nouns

4. \_h\_f\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_er\_

#### Punishment for criminals

9. \_ri\_
10. \_xe\_
11. To h\_
12. \_\_\_\_\_ation

#### Kinds of criminals

6. \_\_ie\_
7. \_i\_\_\_\_\_a\_
8. \_\_b\_\_

#### Keeping criminals from escaping

13. \_ha\_
14. \_and\_
15. \_oc\_

#### Three other words of the criminal world

16. Somebody who is famous for crimes is \_\_to\_
17. A group of criminals is a \_\_\_g
18. Objects or information used to prove that somebody did a crime are \_v\_d\_

G P H U O R N D O K T H Y E R  
N O T O R I O U S A E N W Q O  
H C B X C M H G Y E U H S B B  
E B X Z J E T A R R F Z P C B  
N V D N O S I R P B Y O H D E  
N O I T A T R O P S N A R T R  
U T N D L M L E F U I G B N Y  
B K H A E H Y F B N F A H O R  
S I E I C N U A S B Y N F I R  
L T G H E C C D W T O G J T W  
S Z A Y D F S E T H Z R X U J  
I N V N T H E F T T G R D C H  
G B A K C O L C B N R I O E C  
F H D O X L X H D X H V H X K  
O F A K E P E D R O J M A E N

## Crime and Punishment in the Eighteenth Century

For those who had money, like the wealthy farmers and the merchants and bankers of London, the 1700s was a period of increased physical comfort. For example, cotton clothes, glass windows for houses and water closets were becoming common. The wealthy classes ran the country through Parliament with little or no intervention from the monarchy. In short, a new world, fairly similar to our own, was emerging.

Certainly, many people had money, but the vast majority were poor, and the number of poor and homeless increased throughout the

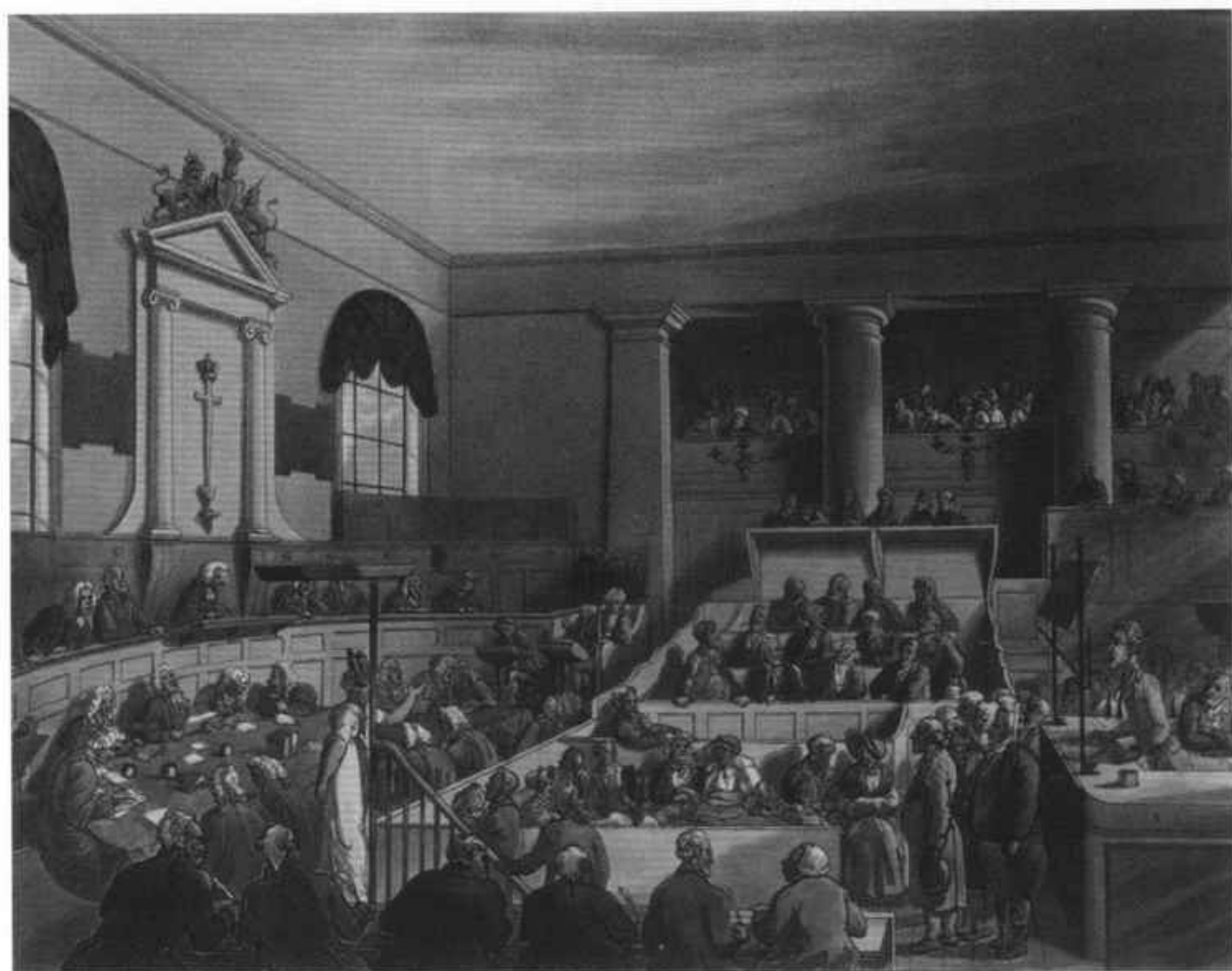


Poor people and traders from **Beer Street** (1751) by William Hogarth.



century. One reason was that agriculture was becoming a large-scale operation run for profit, so many peasant farmers lost their lands. Secondly, machinery was becoming increasingly important in the production of fabrics. Many people lost their jobs, and many others began to move to the towns and cities to look for some sort of work in the early factories or in the homes of the rich.

So, it is not difficult to see why crime increased, especially crimes against property. The wealthy became frightened, and to fight the increase in crime Parliament increased dramatically the number of crimes that could be punished by death. This group of laws became known as the 'bloody code'. In practice, this meant that almost all those tried at the Old Bailey, London's central criminal court, could



The Old Bailey, London, by Joseph Constantine Stadler.

be executed if they were found guilty. For example, a child could be hanged for stealing something worth a shilling. You could be hanged for being seen in the company of gypsies. You could be hanged if you set fire to a town, or if you set fire to a pile of hay.<sup>1</sup>

Despite the 'bloody code', it was obvious that hanging criminals was not a solution to the problem, and around 60% of those condemned to be hanged received other punishments. Some received royal pardons,<sup>2</sup> and others used the 'benefit of clergy'. This meant that if a criminal could read a verse of the Bible, he was considered by the court as part of the church and therefore received a less serious punishment. Women who were pregnant also avoided hanging.

In the 1700s new ways of dealing with crime began to emerge. For example, at the beginning of the century prisons were not seen as a kind of punishment. They were simply places where a person was held until trial. Towards the end of the century, though, the authorities began to see imprisonment with hard labour as a way of reforming criminals. This idea became particularly popular when criminals could no longer be sent to America to work in the colonies after the start of the American Revolution (see also page 20).

Just as ideas about punishment began to change, so did methods of crime prevention and detection. At the start of the 1700s victims of crime had to go to a magistrate, who then sent a policeman known as a constable to look for the criminal. But the authorities were beginning to offer sums of money (rewards) for information about criminals. This system was helped by the appearance of daily newspapers, which printed the reward notices.

1. **hay** : dry grass used to feed animals.

2. **royal pardons** : the King or Queen had the power to free prisoners by pardoning them.



Unfortunately, the system of rewards was exploited by men known as 'thief-takers', who made their living by capturing criminals. Often they too were criminals, and used their power to blackmail<sup>1</sup> other criminals. The most famous of these was Jonathan Wild, who during the early 1720s became quite powerful in the London underworld, and called himself the 'Thief-taker General of England and Ireland'.

A new way of using rewards and thief-takers was developed in 1748 by two magistrates, John and Henry Fielding (also a novelist, the author of *Tom Jones*). They opened offices where magistrates were always available at fixed times, and then employed thief-takers as 'runners'. In other words, whenever the magistrates heard of a crime, they sent out a 'runner' to find and capture the criminal. The Fieldings also collected and published information about criminals and organised patrols along major roads. Their innovations were later copied in other English cities.

Innovations such as these eventually led to the creation of London's Metropolitan Police force in 1829, the world's first modern police force.

**1 Answer the following questions.**

- a. Why did crime increase during the 1700s?
- b. What was the 'bloody code'?
- c. What was the 'benefit of clergy'?
- d. What were prisons used for at the start of the 1700s?
- e. What were prisons used for at the end of the 1700s?
- f. Who were the 'thief-takers'?
- g. Who was Jonathan Wild?

1. **blackmail** : threaten to harm them unless money is paid.



# John GOW



**Captain of a famous  
gang of pirates**





## CHAPTER ONE

# The Life of a Pirate

**4** John Gow, the man who became known as the 'Orkney Pirate', was born in 1698 and grew up in the North of Scotland, on one of the Orkney Islands, where he became a sailor. **0**

He was very good at his profession and soon became third-in-command of a ship sailing for Santa Cruz. The crew of the ship were very unhappy with their conditions on board, and complained particularly about the food. The captain did not take their complaints seriously at first, but he soon changed his mind. He realised that the crew were preparing to take over control of the ship, and called the chief mate. <sup>1</sup>

'I think we may have some trouble with the men,' the captain explained. 'I want you to put some pistols in the cabin.' **1**

'Yes, sir,' the chief mate replied. Two members of the crew heard the conversation and they told John Gow about the

1. **chief mate** : second-in-command of a ship.

John GOW

CHAPTER 1



captain's preparations. Gow, who had always wanted to become a pirate, thought about what to do.

'If you take control of the ship, I'll help you,' Gow told the men. 'But I want to be the new captain!'

Gow was excited. It looked as if his secret desire to be a pirate was really going to happen!

**2** That night a group of rebel sailors attacked the senior officers of the ship, murdering the doctor, the chief mate and then the captain. They elected John Gow the new captain of the ship.

Not all of the crew had been involved in the mutiny, and the innocent men were now hiding, frightened that they might be







## Famous British Criminals

from **The Newgate Calendar**

killed too. 'Nothing will happen to you if you continue to obey orders as you did before the mutiny, but now I'll give the orders!' John Gow told the men. The sailors agreed.

- 3** The rebels decided to change the name of the ship from the *George Galley* to the *Revenge*. They left for Spain and Portugal, where they hoped to steal a large quantity of wine. During the journey they discovered a British fishing ship, which they decided to attack and capture. They sailed very close to the ship and Gow shouted his commands to the other captain.

'We're pirates and we're going to capture your ship,' he shouted. 'It's useless to resist us. If you try, we'll kill all of you!'

'We won't fight,' the other captain shouted back. 'Come and take what you want.'

They had no use for the cargo<sup>1</sup> or the ship, so they sank<sup>2</sup> the ship and kept its captain and four of his men on the *Revenge*. They then attacked a Scottish fishing ship. Once again they sank the ship and took the men onto the *Revenge*.

- 4** By now they did not have much drinking water, so they decided to go to the Portuguese island of Madeira. They anchored some distance away from the harbour and made a plan. Seven men left for the harbour in a small boat. Their instructions were to capture a ship and bring it out of the harbour. If they could not do this, they had to steal wine and water and bring it back to the *Revenge*. This attempt failed, however, and they decided to leave Madeira.

- 5** They sailed about ten miles along the coast until they reached a small town, Port Santa. Gow sent some men to the town with a

1. **cargo** : goods carried on a ship.

2. **sank** : (sink, sank, sunk) caused something to disappear underwater.

## John GOW

CHAPTER 1



present of fish for the governor. The governor treated them very politely and visited the *Revenge* as a guest. Gow and the rebels entertained the governor and his friends very well at first. Later, however, when the boat they had sent to the island for food and drink came back without any, Gow threatened the governor and his friends.

'We want food and wine,' he told the governor and his friends. 'If you don't get it for us immediately, we'll kill you!'

The governor was very surprised and frightened.

'I'll make sure you get food and wine,' he said. 'There's no need to kill anyone.'

- 6** The pirates then left for the coast of Spain, where they found a British ship carrying slaves. They captured the ship and put on board all the men they had taken from other captured ships. Then they took all the food and drink from the ship and allowed it to continue on its way.

They next captured a French ship, which had a cargo of wine, oil and fruit. The pirates stole the goods and gave this ship to the Scottish captain whose fishing ship they had sunk, and he took his men on board with him.

Gow was delighted with his crew.

'Well done, men!' he cried. 'If we go on like this, we'll all be rich men!'

The pirates cheered<sup>1</sup> their captain.

- 7** Soon they saw another French ship approaching. It was a large ship and had thirty-two guns, so Gow called his crew together to discuss tactics. He told them it was too dangerous to risk

1. **cheered** : shouted loudly to show their approval.



## Famous British Criminals

from **The Newgate Calendar**

attacking a ship with so many guns. All the crew agreed with him except lieutenant<sup>1</sup> Williams, who was a violent, dangerous man.

'You're not brave enough to be in command of a pirate ship,' Williams told him. 'We should attack this ship, capture it, and throw all its men into the sea!'

Gow looked angrily at the lieutenant.

'I say that it's too dangerous to attack that ship,' he replied. 'And I won't throw prisoners into the sea — there's been too much violence already.'

- 8** Williams took out his pistol and pointed it at Gow, but it did not fire. Two pirates immediately shot Williams, injuring him seriously. Williams jumped into the hold<sup>2</sup> and threatened to blow the ship up, but some of the pirates fought him and tied him up, then put him with the French prisoners.

Their next capture was another British ship. Again they stole all the food and drink from the ship and then put their prisoners on board the captured ship. They also put Williams on board, and instructed the captain of the ship to hand Williams over to the British authorities. Williams knew that if he was taken back to England, he would be executed.

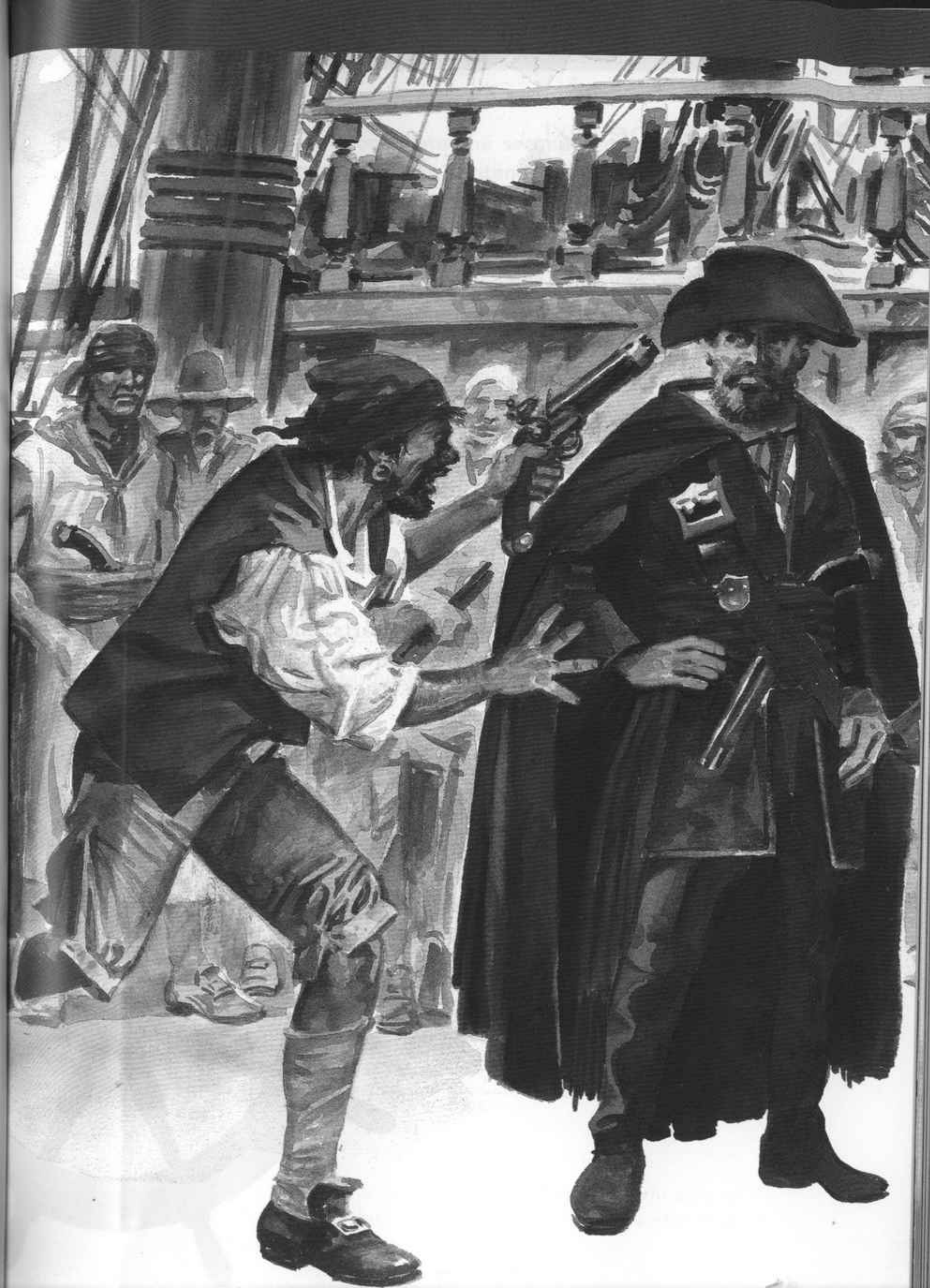
'Don't send me back to England,' he asked Gow very humbly, 'you know what will happen to me there. Throw me into the sea if you like, but don't send me back to England!'

Gow did not say a word to Williams but some of the pirates began to laugh cruelly at him.

'They'll hang you,' they told him. 'Have a good voyage to the gallows.'

1. **lieutenant** [left'enənt] : officer of the ship.

2. **hold** : place on a ship where the cargo and ammunition is kept.





## Go back to the text

### 1 Comprehension

Answer the questions below.

- Why did the crew of the ship sailing for Santa Cruz decide to mutiny?
- What was John Gow's condition for helping the crew to mutiny?
- Who did the rebel sailors kill?
- What was the new name of the ship? Why was it appropriate?
- Why did the crew decide to go to Madeira?
- Why did Gow threaten to kill the governor of Port Santa?
- Why did Williams try to shoot Gow?
- How did Gow punish Williams?

- 2 Chapter One has been divided into eight parts. Choose from the list A-J the most suitable heading for each part (1-8). There is one extra heading which you do not need to use. There is an example at the beginning (0).

- ☐ Thirsty men
- ☐ Food in exchange for sailors
- ☐ A good man or a coward?
- ☐ Getting ready for the attack
- ☐ Home to certain death
- ☐ Little things can be very important
- ☐ Not everyone's bad
- ☐ A very rude host indeed
- ☒ We can't eat this stuff!
- ☐ Their first two jobs



- FCE 3 For questions 1-6, complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. Do not change the word given. You must use between two and five words, including the word given. There is an example at the beginning (0).

- 0 He was very good at his profession and soon became second mate of a ship sailing for Santa Cruz.

that

He was so good at his profession that he soon became second mate of a ship sailing for Santa Cruz.

- 1 Not all of the crew had been involved in the mutiny.

part

Not all of the crew ..... the mutiny.

- 2 John Gow told these men that nothing would happen to them.

you

'Nothing .....,' John Gow said to the men.

- 3 They were now seriously short of drinking water.

out

They had almost ..... drinking water.

- 4 There's no need to kill anyone.

should

You ..... anyone.

- 5 They allowed her to continue on her way.

let

They ..... on her way.

- 6 'I won't throw prisoners into the sea,' replied Gow.

he

Gow replied that ..... prisoners into the sea.



'Gow, who had always wanted to become a pirate, thought about what to do'

Defining relative clauses (see page 19) are essential to the meaning of a sentence:

John Gow was the sailor **who** became the new captain of the ship.

Madeira is the island **where** I spent my holiday.

Some relative clauses, however, add extra information to a sentence and are not essential to its meaning:

John Gow, **who** was born in the north of Scotland, became the new captain of the ship.

The Madeira Islands, **which** are famous for their wine, are in the Atlantic Ocean.

We call these clauses non-defining relative clauses.

#### 4 Non-defining relative clauses

Combine the sentences in column A with a sentence from column B using a non-defining relative clause. Each sentence must make sense within the context of the story.

Example: John Gow, who had always wanted to be a pirate, became the new captain of the ship.

##### A

- ~~John Gow became the new captain of the ship.~~
- The food given to the sailors of the *George Galley* was very bad.
- Williams wanted to attack the French ship.
- The Orkney Islands are to the north of Scotland.
- They captured a British ship off the coast of Spain.
- The *Revenge* was a very successful pirate ship.
- Their captain told them that they would soon be rich.

##### B

- It was carrying slaves to America.
- It was sailing for Santa Cruz.
- He was a violent and dangerous man.
- ~~He had always wanted to be a pirate.~~

- It had once been known as the *George Galley*.
- He had been second mate before the mutiny.
- John Gow learned to be a sailor here.

## Before you read



### 1 Listening

Listen to the beginning of Chapter Two and fill in the gaps.

The pirates' next <sup>1</sup> ..... was where to go.

<sup>2</sup> ....., that's the place for us,' some of them <sup>3</sup> .....  
'We'll be safe there, and we can find all the things we want.'

Gow, however, was against <sup>4</sup> ..... He wanted to go back home.

'We'll go to the Orkney Islands,' he told the crew. 'I know the place well, and we can easily <sup>5</sup> ..... what we've captured and live comfortably off the profits. Anyway,' he continued, 'we need to <sup>6</sup> ..... the ship as well. We can only do that in a northern port.'

Eventually the crew <sup>7</sup> ..... his decision, and the ship sailed for the Orkney Islands.

When they arrived at one of the islands, Gow told his crew how to behave when they went ashore. 'You must say that we were <sup>8</sup> ..... from Cadiz to Stockholm but that <sup>9</sup> ..... winds drove the ship too far north. You must also tell the local people that you want to <sup>10</sup> ..... the ship, and that if they help you, you'll <sup>11</sup> ..... them very well.'

But Gow's luck began to go against him; the sailors on board the ship who had not wanted to join the <sup>12</sup> ..... saw their opportunity. When one of the ship's boats went to the island, a sailor escaped from the pirates and went in search of the local <sup>13</sup> .....

'The *Revenge* is really a pirate ship,' he explained. 'I had to stay on board because they <sup>14</sup> ..... to kill me.'



## CHAPTER TWO

## Captured

**T**he pirates' next problem was where to go. 'North America, that's the place for us,' some of them suggested. 'We'll be safe there, and we can find all the things we want.'

Gow, however, was against this. He wanted to go back home.

'We'll go to the Orkney Islands,' he told the crew. 'I know the place well, and we can easily sell what we've captured and live comfortably off the profits. Anyway,' he continued, 'we need to repair the ship as well. We can only do that in a northern port.'

Eventually the crew accepted his decision, and the ship sailed for the Orkney Islands.

When they arrived at one of the islands, Gow told his crew how to behave when they went ashore. 'You must say that we were sailing from Cadiz to Stockholm but that bad winds drove the ship too far north. You must also tell the local people that

you want to repair the ship, and that if they help you, you'll pay them very well.'

But Gow's luck began to go against him; the sailors on board the ship who had not wanted to join the mutiny saw their opportunity. When one of the ship's boats went to the island, a sailor escaped from the pirates and went in search of the local sheriff.<sup>1</sup>

'The *Revenge* is really a pirate ship,' he explained. 'I had to stay on board because they threatened to kill me.'

'You did the right thing to come here and tell me,' the sheriff replied.

Then the sheriff ordered his men to make preparations to capture the ship.

Another ten sailors who had been forced to join the mutiny stole the ship's boat and sailed to the mainland of Scotland. They were arrested when they arrived in Edinburgh and put in prison because the authorities thought they were pirates.

Despite the loss of these members of his crew, Gow did not move the ship. He decided to stay in the bay and to rob the gentlemen and ladies who lived on the island.

When they had finished, they sailed to a neighbouring island called Calf Sound. Gow wanted to rob the house of a gentleman who lived there, a man called Fea, who Gow had been at school with. Gow brought the *Revenge* too close to the rocks when he anchored the ship, and he sent a letter to Mr Fea asking for a boat so that he could pull his ship away from the rocks. Mr Fea was suspicious of the sailors, because he knew they had robbed a lady on one of the small islands nearby. He ordered his servants to sink his own boat so that Gow and his men could not use it.

1. **sheriff** : Scottish police officer.

END



## Famous British Criminals from *The Newgate Calendar*

That evening five of Gow's men went to Mr Fea's house. They were carrying weapons, and they threatened to kill Mr Fea if he did not help them.

'Our captain, John Gow, says you must give us a boat to leave the island, or we'll kill you this instant!' said one of the men.

'If you want me to help you, you'll have to be nicer than that,' said Mr Fea. 'Let's go to the tavern for a drink, and we can discuss things.'

Before they left for the tavern, Mr Fea secretly instructed his servants to sink the boats they had come in.

'These men are very dangerous. They're pirates, and I'm going to arrest them if I can. I want you to sink their boats, then come back to me immediately.'

After a while one of his servants arrived at the tavern and asked to speak to him for a moment outside. The servant explained that they had followed his orders about the pirates' boats. Mr Fea ordered six servants to hide behind some trees with their weapons. He said that he would walk back that way either with the ship's officer alone, or with all five pirates. His men must be prepared to attack the pirates and capture them.

Mr Fea went back into the tavern and asked the officer to come with him to inspect his boat. The officer agreed, and they left the tavern together. When they passed the hedge where Mr Fea's men were hiding, they ran out and captured the pirate. They tied him up and left one of the six servants in charge of him.

Then Mr Fea and his five remaining servants went back to the tavern. They ran through the two doors, showing their weapons. 'Surrender!' <sup>1</sup> they shouted.

1. **surrender** : allow yourself to be captured.





## Famous British Criminals

from **The Newgate Calendar**

The pirates had no choice, and they too became prisoners.

The next day the wind blew the *Revenge* onto the rocks of the island. Gow sent a message to Mr Fea, telling him that he was offering £1,000 for help in getting the ship away from the island. He also sent a sailor to the island with a present of a bottle of brandy for Mr Fea. Mr Fea, however, was determined to capture all the pirates and send them to prison.

'I'll give you a boat,' Mr Fea offered, 'but you'll have to send the ship's carpenter with two or three men to repair it.'

Gow sent the men, and Mr Fea immediately captured them. Then he sent Gow a message saying that all the pirates had to come and take the boat, as his men were working on it and getting it ready for the pirates' escape. Once again John Gow instructed his crew to go to the island, and this time he came with them. Mr Fea's men were able to capture them all.

All twenty-eight pirates were sent to Edinburgh, and then to Marshalsea prison in London, where they found their former partner, the cruel lieutenant Williams. Twelve of them were condemned to death, including John Gow, but five of them were found not guilty because they had been forced to join the rebellion. John Gow's days as a pirate were finally over. He was sent to Newgate prison and tried at the Old Bailey.<sup>1</sup>

A strange thing happened during John Gow's execution on 11 August 1729. The officials tied the rope around his neck and pushed him off the cart.<sup>2</sup> He hung in the air for a moment, struggling terribly. Then suddenly the rope broke and he fell to the ground. He was in agony. The officials took hold of him and tied

1. **Old Bailey** : central criminal court of London.

2. **cart** : wooden vehicle with wheels.

**John GOW**

CHAPTER 2

the rope around his neck again. Then they put him back on the cart and pushed him off once more. This time the rope did not break and in a few moments the famous pirate was dead. His body was hung in chains by the River Thames as a warning to other pirates.





## Go back to the text

## FCE 1 Comprehension

For questions 1-5, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.

- Which reason did Gow NOT give for going to the Orkney Islands?
  - ☐ It was far away from London.
  - ☐ It was a good place to repair their ship.
  - ☐ They could sell what they had stolen there.
  - ☐ He knew them well.
- One of the members of the crew went to the sheriff because
  - ☐ he had not really wanted to go to the Orkney Islands.
  - ☐ he had not really wanted to take part in the mutiny.
  - ☐ he had not taken part in the mutiny.
  - ☐ he was a friend of Williams.
- Ten sailors from the *Revenge* were arrested in Edinburgh because
  - ☐ they had stolen one of the *Revenge's* boats.
  - ☐ they had taken part in the mutiny.
  - ☐ the authorities did not know they had been forced to join the mutiny.
  - ☐ they had left their ship without their captain's permission.
- Mr Fea told his servants to sink his own boat so that Gow could not
  - ☐ leave the island.
  - ☐ use it to rob an island nearby.
  - ☐ move his ships from the rocks.
  - ☐ go to Edinburgh.
- Which phrase best describes how Mr Fea captured the pirates?
  - ☐ Rocks are my best weapon.
  - ☐ Divide and conquer.
  - ☐ An honest man's servants are the best fighters.
  - ☐ An island can become a prison.

T: GRADE 7

## 2 Speaking

Topic – Youth culture

Films for young people often have heroes who are somehow outside the law. Prepare a short talk for your class on your favourite film hero, using the questions below to help you. Bring in a photo or object to help you.

- Who is your favourite film hero? Why did you choose him/her?
- Why do you think film producers make films with this type of hero?
- What kind of film would you choose to make if you had the chance?

FCE 3 For questions 1-10, read the text below about another famous 'pirate'. Use the word given in capitals at the end of each line to form a word that fits in the space in the same line.

## Francis Drake: pirate or patriot?

The Spanish had no doubts about it: the man was a pirate. For his queen, Elizabeth I, the situation was not so clear. Francis Drake was born around 1540 in Devon, in the South of England, the (1) ..... of twelve children. At the age of twelve, Drake was already learning the difficult profession of (2) ..... in the Thames and Medway estuaries near London. Fifteen years later he went on an expedition to collect slaves along the coast of West Africa to take to the (3) ..... colonies. In that period, though, English sailors and (4) ..... could not (5) ..... go to the Americas, which were then the (6) ..... of Spain and Portugal. But there were huge amounts of gold and silver coming from America, and the (7) ..... to steal it was also great.

OLD

SAIL

AMERICA  
TRADE  
LEGAL  
POSSESS

TEMPT



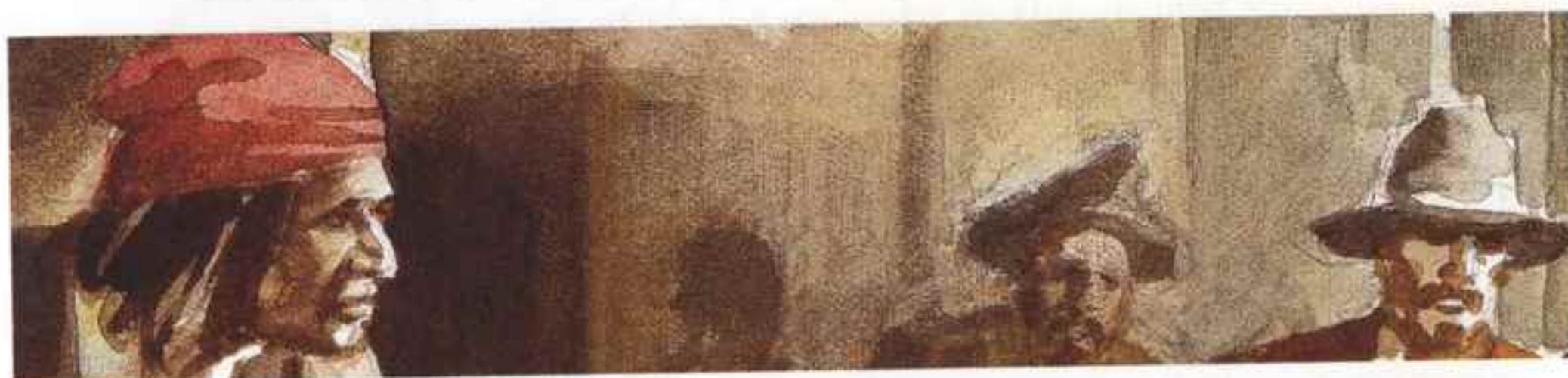
Drake sailed to the Americas (8) ..... times and brought back large amounts of stolen Spanish gold to his Queen.

Finally, the Queen knighted this man who robbed the Spanish.

Sir Francis Drake was (9) ..... working for the Queen, and when war (10) ..... broke out between Spain and England, he played an important part in the defeat of the great Spanish Armada in 1588.

Was Sir Francis Drake a pirate or a patriot? Perhaps he was a little of both.

NUMBER

OFFICIAL  
FINAL


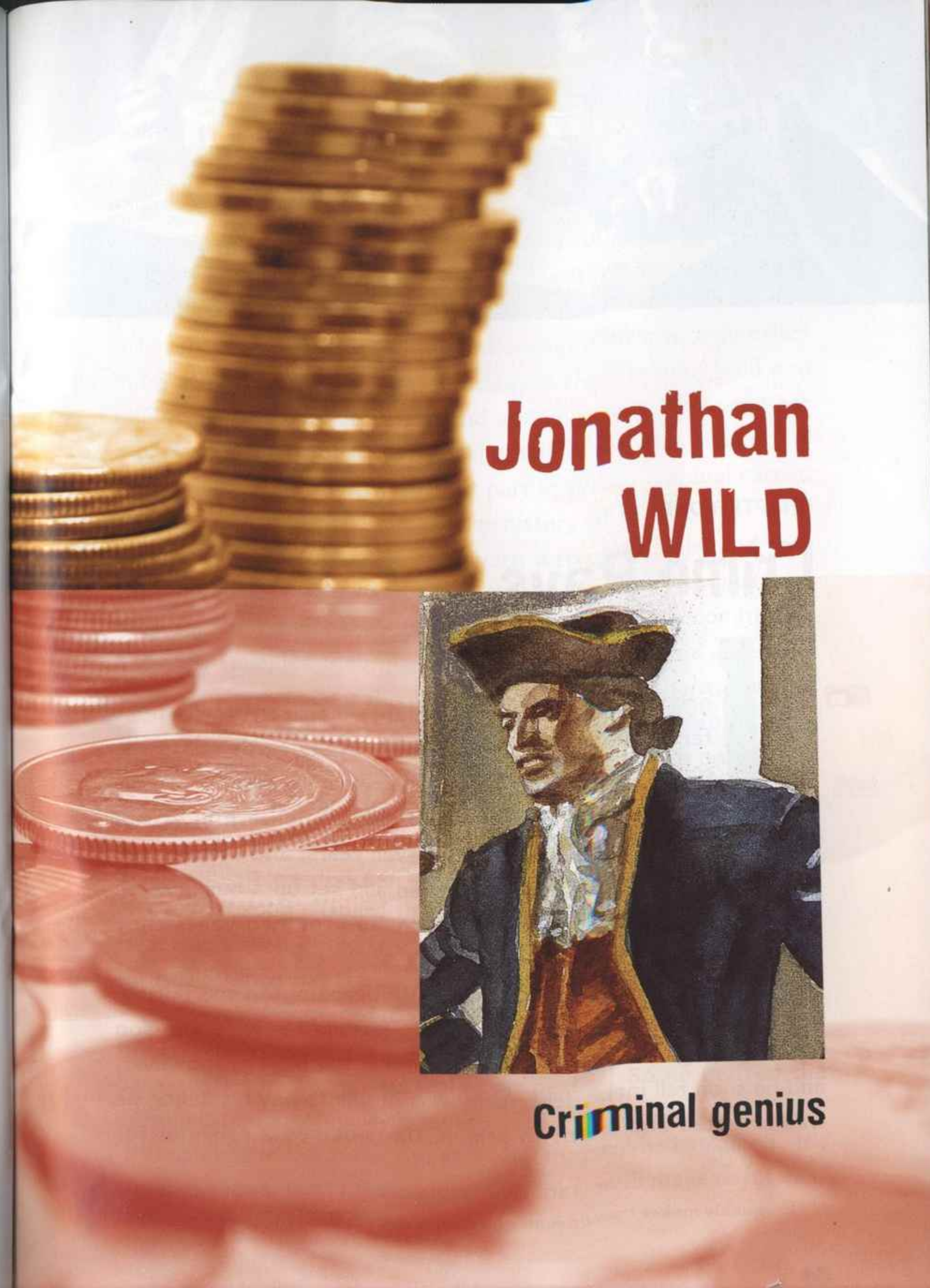
## Before you read



### 1 Listening

Listen to the beginning of Chapter One of Jonathan Wild. For questions 1-7, complete the sentences.

- Jonathan Wild was the eighteenth century's ..... criminal.
- He was born in ..... in .....
- Wild left his wife and child and moved to London because his life in Wolverhampton was .....
- Wild was sent to prison because .....
- He was a prisoner for .....
- After leaving prison, Mary Milliner and Wild lived as .....
- Wild helped criminals by .....



# Jonathan WILD

Criminal genius





## CHAPTER ONE

# Crime Pays



**J**onathan Wild was the eighteenth century's most famous criminal. He was born in Staffordshire in the North of England in 1682, and when he was fifteen his father sent him to work for a buckle maker<sup>1</sup> in Birmingham. He worked there for seven years, and then moved to Wolverhampton where he married and set up a business on his own. He and his wife had a son, and for two years they seemed to live fairly happily together.

Wild, however, found his life in Wolverhampton too boring, and he decided to move to London, leaving his wife and son behind. Things did not go well for him in the big city, however, and he soon fell into debt. As he was unable to pay his debts, he was arrested and sent to prison. He remained a prisoner for

1. **buckle maker** : someone who makes the metal part for belts.

## Jonathan WILD

### CHAPTER 1



more than four years. Later, when he wrote about his criminal life, he said that it was the experience of mixing with criminals in Wood Street prison that made him choose crime as a career.

While he was in prison Wild made many friends among the other prisoners, and formed a relationship with a woman called Mary Milliner. When they were released from prison, Wild and Milliner lived together as husband and wife, and they used her money or their money from illegal practices to open a tavern in Cock Alley. It played an important part in Wild's criminal career, and became a legendary place in the history of crime.

The usual customers of the tavern were criminals, and they soon found that Wild was a sympathetic and interested listener. They told him about the robberies they had recently committed, and they revealed their plans for future crimes. This gave Wild enormous power over them: if Wild told the authorities about the crimes, they might arrest them. Instead of doing this, however, Wild helped the criminals by hiding stolen property in his house and selling it for them.



It was not difficult for Wild to sell the stolen articles because at the time it was not a crime to receive or sell stolen property. Parliament soon changed the law, however, and a new crime of receiving stolen property came into existence. The punishment for this offence was transportation for fifteen years.

Wild was determined to continue his profitable business with the criminals, but the new law worried him: he did not want to be arrested for receiving stolen property. So he invited the criminals to a meeting in his tavern.

'I can't take the goods you steal any more,' he explained. 'It's too dangerous. But I have a suggestion that will make us all rich.'



## Famous British Criminals

from **The Newgate Calendar**

The criminals were very excited. 'You won't make much money if you try to sell the goods to other receivers of stolen property. Bring everything to me,' he continued, 'and I'll arrange to return all the goods to their owners in exchange for some money.'

The criminals were pleased with Wild's plan and they decided to do as he suggested. Wild found several places around London to keep the stolen goods that the criminals gave him.

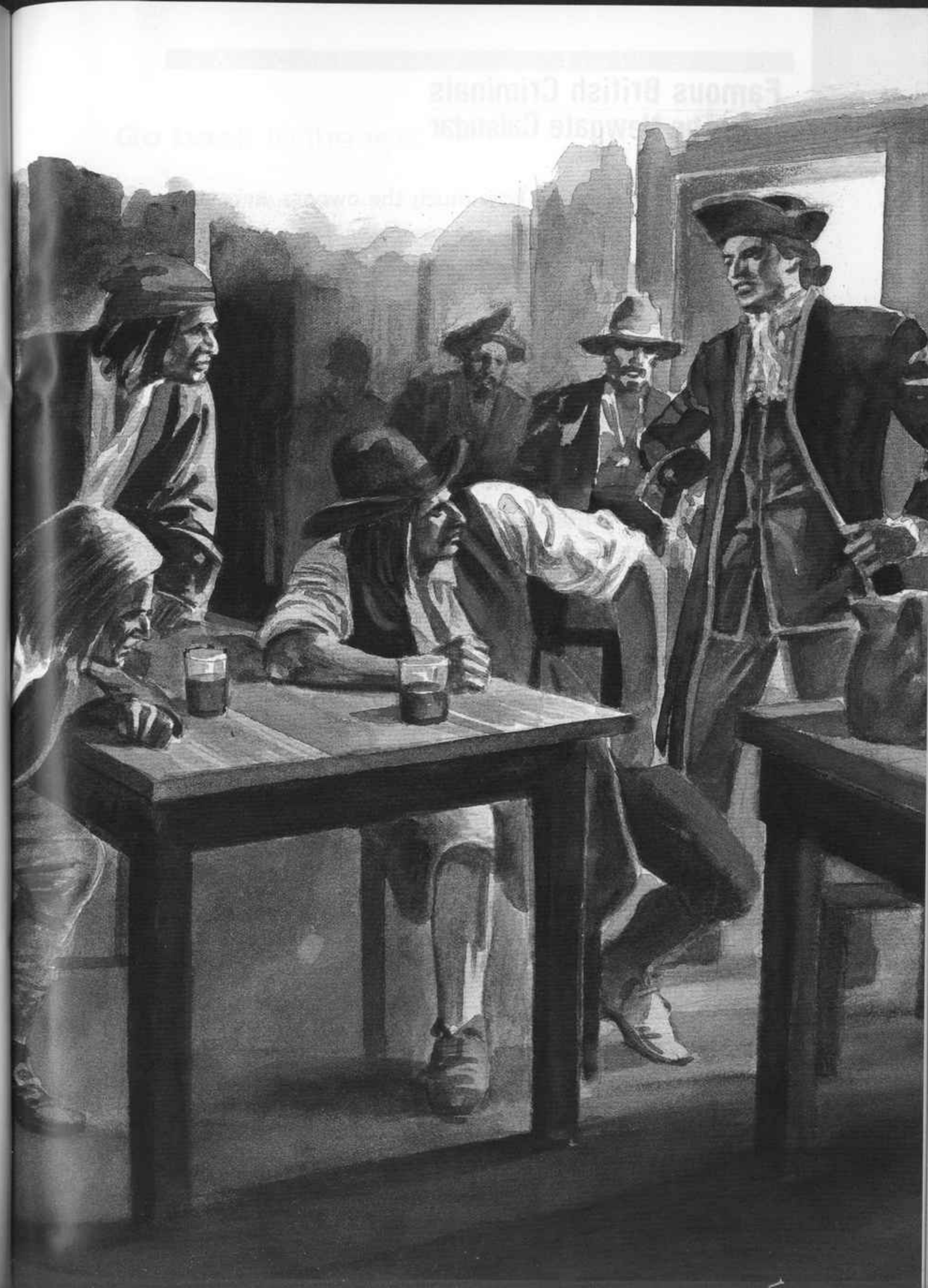
The new plan worked very well. When a criminal came to him with an item that he had stolen, Wild went to the person who had been robbed. He explained that he had a friend, an honest trader, who had bought the item and wanted to return it because he guessed that it had been stolen. Wild suggested that the owner should pay the honest trader a fee<sup>1</sup> for the goods. Many people were so pleased to have the chance of getting their property back that they willingly paid half the value of the property as the fee to Wild's trader friend. This fee, of course, was then divided between Wild and the criminal.

Wild did not receive any money directly from the owners of the stolen property, who only paid the fee to his non-existent trader. There was no law against this type of business, and for a considerable time Wild was very successful and became very rich. He even opened an office where people who had been robbed could come and ask his help in getting their property back.

Wild charged<sup>2</sup> everyone who came to the office a small fee for his advice. He then asked for a full description of the goods

1. **fee** : amount of money paid for a service.

2. **charged** : asked for money.





## Famous British Criminals

from **The Newgate Calendar**

that had been taken, and how much the owners were prepared to pay to recover the goods.

'All you have to do is describe the stolen goods and tell me how much you're willing to pay for their recovery, and I'll make investigations into your case,' Wild told the client. 'I'll do the rest.'

The client then returned to Wild's office to find out how the investigation was proceeding.

'Unfortunately, on this occasion I haven't been able to recover your property,' Wild began. 'I've heard through a contact that the thieves are determined to sell the property for more money than you've offered to recover the object. However, if you wanted to offer more money, maybe they'd reconsider.'

This tactic was so successful that most of the owners increased their offer for the return of their goods.

Wild's interviews with the victims of crime allowed him to find out how truthful the thieves were with him. The thieves were frightened of Wild's power over them, and most of them told him the truth about their crimes.

Wild's imagination was now so involved in the planning of crimes that he even invented some new forms of crime. He realised that there were a lot of articles that had no real value, except to the owners themselves. 'The things I want you to steal are books of accounts, watches and rings,' he told his thieves. 'All of these are personal items that are important to their owners, and I'm sure they'll pay very high fees in order to recover them.'

### Go back to the text

#### 1 Comprehension

Answer the questions below.

- How did Wild learn about being a criminal?
- How did Wild first start to have power and influence with criminals?
- How did Wild first start making money with criminals?
- Why wasn't this activity very risky for Wild at first?
- When Wild's first activity became too risky, how did he change his way of operating?
- How did Wild discover if his criminal partners were being honest with him?
- Why did Wild advise thieves to steal things with no real value?

#### 2 Speaking – 'a public service'

Below is a conversation between Jonathan Wild and a gentleman who is trying to recover some stolen goods. Use information from the chapter and your imagination to fill in the blanks, and then practise speaking with a partner.

**Wild:** Good morning, sir

**Gentleman:** Good morning to you.

**Wild:** How can I help you?

**Gentleman:** Last night some thieves broke ..... into my house, and .....

**Wild:** Oh, I'm very sorry to hear that. What ..... ?

**Gentleman:** Two of my wife's necklaces.

**Wild:** Would you please ..... ?

**Gentleman:** Yes, of course. Both of them are gold. One of them has a heart-shaped pendant with a diamond, and the other .....

**Wild:** How much ..... ?

**Gentleman:** Well, about .....



**Wild:** Good, I ..... Come back in a couple of days, and well,  
I don't know if I—

**Gentleman:** What is it?

**Wild:** Well, I'm sure you know that sometimes there's a fee for  
services which, well, how do you say—

**Gentleman:** (*Handing Wild £40*) I hope that .....

**Wild:** How very kind of you to think of me!

### 3 'He married and set up a business on his own'

Match the phrasal verbs with 'set' with their correct definitions. Use the examples below to help you.

1. ☐ To set in

2. ☐ ☐ To set up (2)

3. ☐ ☐ To set off (2)

4. ☐ To set back

a. To begin (a trip or journey).

b. To arrange something.

c. To block or delay the progress of something.

d. To start a business or to give someone money or means to start a business.

e. To make explode.

f. To begin and seem likely to continue (often used for bad weather or illness)

- Don't move or you might **set off** the bomb!
- Can you **set up** a meeting for me on Thursday with the men who stole my rings?
- The snow **set back** our departure for London by a whole day.
- When are you **setting off** for Birmingham?
- Wilde wanted to leave the tavern before the cold weather **set in**.
- Wilde has **set up** a business helping other thieves.

### 4 Phrasal verbs

Now use the phrasal verbs from exercise 3 to complete these sentences.

- I have ..... a meeting with the thieves for tomorrow afternoon at five.
- Be careful! Don't put the fireworks there. The heat of the fire will ..... them .....
- Mary isn't here. She ..... for London about an hour ago.
- I cut myself and it did not seem serious, but then an infection .....
- The owner of the house left very late. This ..... our robbery by two hours.
- The ship transporting criminals ..... for America this morning from London.

## Before you read



### 1 Listening

Listen to the beginning of Chapter Two. For questions 1-6, say whether these statements are True (T) or False (F).

- |  | T                        | F                        |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Most thieves were afraid of Wild.  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 Wild never paid the thieves what he promised to pay them.                      | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 Wild never helped thieves when they were arrested.                             | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 If a thief did not want to work with Wild, Wild immediately tried to kill him. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5 Criminals would be freed if they told the court about other criminals.         | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6 Wild said that he knew many thieves, but he never worked with them.            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Now read the text and correct the false statements.



## CHAPTER TWO

## The Thief-taker

**W**ild's reputation with the thieves was by now firmly established. Nearly all of them were afraid of him and so they obeyed him. He always paid them what he had promised, and they knew that he would always help them if they were arrested. There were some thieves, however, who resented<sup>1</sup> his power in the criminal world and they refused to work for him. In these cases he used to send for the thief concerned, with a message guaranteeing the thief's safety. He then tried to persuade the thief to change his attitude and to work for him. If the man refused, he ended the interview with a sinister threat.

'Remember what I told you: you can come here perfectly safely, and leave here perfectly safely, and I'll keep my promise.'

1. **resented** : felt the situation was unfair.

But the next time you see me, you'll see your worst enemy!'

One of the ways that Wild helped his criminal friends who were unlucky enough to be arrested was very clever. He visited them in prison and suggested that they could escape punishment if they offered 'evidence'. A criminal who told the court about more important crimes committed by other people could be given his freedom as a reward<sup>1</sup> for helping the justice system. The 'evidence' that Wild gave his friends always concerned criminals who had refused to work for him.

He also helped his colleagues when they went to prison by making sure that witnesses<sup>2</sup> against them did not appear in court on the day of the trial. He did this by threatening the witnesses so that they were too frightened to come to court. If there were no witnesses against the criminals, the judge had to let them go because there was no evidence.

Jonathan Wild was often asked how it was possible for him to recover so much stolen property if he was not really working with the thieves themselves. His reply to this question was always the same.

'I know many thieves, and when I hear about a particular crime, I make enquiries about it. I leave a message for the criminals, telling them that they'll receive the reward if they leave the goods in a certain place. I also promise them that no questions about the crime will be asked. I don't commit a crime myself, because I don't talk to the thieves personally, and I don't receive the stolen property myself.'

1. **reward** : something you are given if you behave well.

2. **witnesses** : people who have seen a crime take place or have evidence about a crime.



## Famous British Criminals

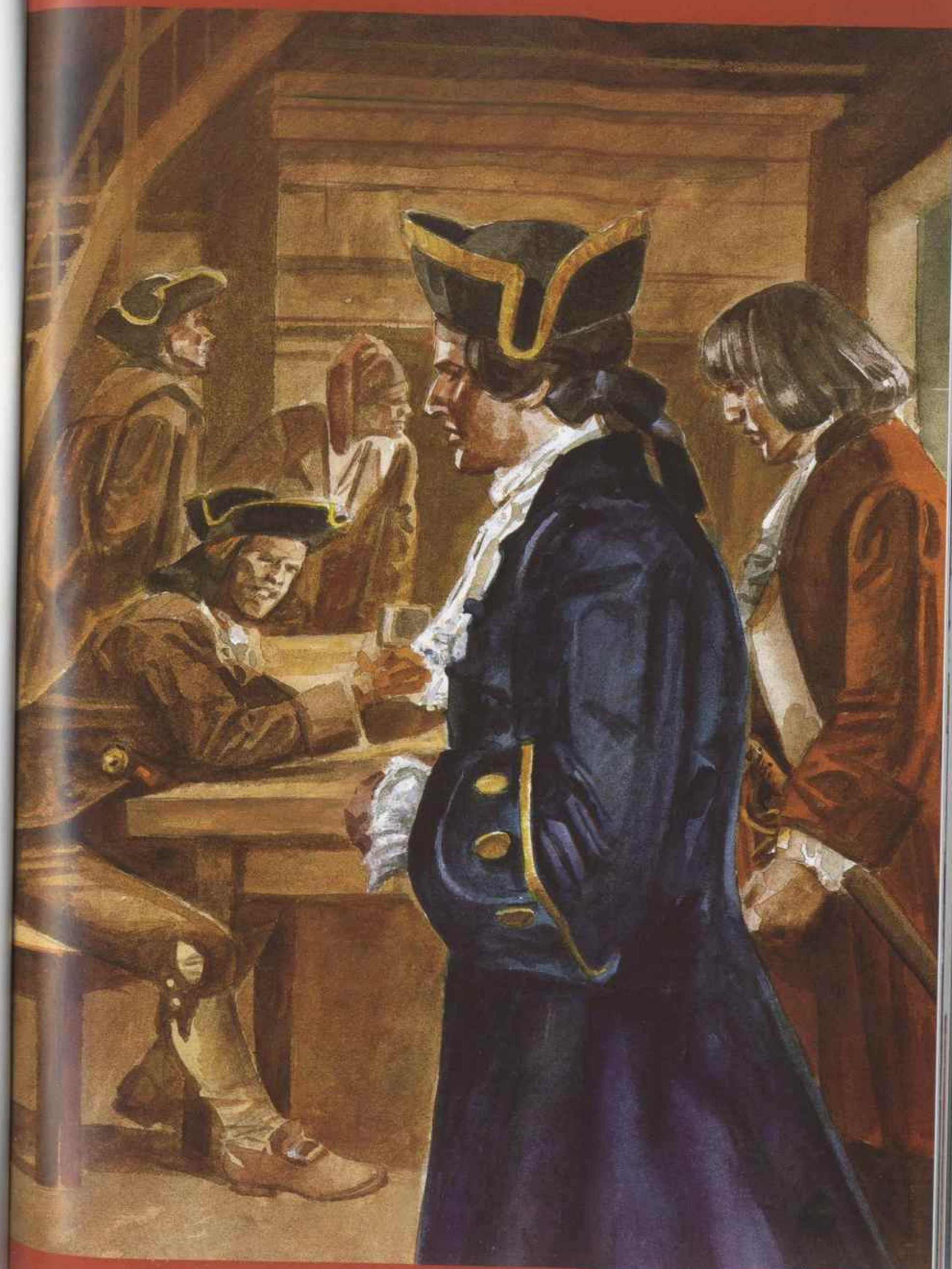
from **The Newgate Calendar**

Wild was a very dangerous enemy to the criminals who refused to work for him, as the following story shows. One evening in March 1716, a young gentleman called Knap and his mother were walking back from the opera together. They were attacked by five men. His mother shouted out for help, but one of the five men shot her dead.

An account of the terrible murder appeared in the newspapers and a substantial reward was offered for the discovery of the murderer. Wild read the descriptions of the men in the paper, and when he recognised who they were, he decided to find them and give them up to the authorities. He hoped to be rewarded as a thief-catcher.

Wild heard that some of the gang were drinking in a tavern. He went to there with his servant Abraham and found one of the gang members, and took him to prison. Wild then heard that another enemy, a man called Aires, was at a tavern in Smithfield. Once again Wild and Abraham went to get him. The man who had been described as Aires was really Thomas Thurland, a member of the gang that had killed Knap's mother. Thurland had two pistols but as he was surprised by the appearance of Abraham and Wild, he had no chance to use them. They took Thurland into custody as well, along with another member of the gang, a certain Edward Darvel, who was captured the following night.

Soon afterwards the authorities were looking for yet another criminal, Isaac Rag, for a burglary. Wild and his men found Rag and delivered him over to the authorities. Rag tried to save himself by giving 'evidence' of other crimes and criminals. He told the magistrate about twenty-two other accomplices and a





## Famous British Criminals

from **The Newgate Calendar**

vast number of crimes. The court accepted him as a witness for the crown.<sup>1</sup>

The other gang members were tried at the Old Bailey. The charges included the attack on Mr Knap and the murder of Mrs Knap. They were found guilty and all three were executed at Tyburn on 8 June 1716.

Wild, however, was still determined to find the remaining member of the gang, Timothy Dun. Dun was hiding with his wife at home, but he became bored and decided to send her to ask Jonathan Wild if he was now safe from the authorities. Dun's wife came to Wild's office to talk to him, but she did not trust him completely. Afterwards she went home a long, complicated way to avoid being followed by one of Wild's men. But this is exactly what happened: she was followed.

After finding out where he lived, Wild, Abraham and two other men went to the house. Dun tried to escape through a window and Abraham fired a shot that hit Dun in the arm. He fell out of the window, then another of Wild's men shot him in the face. He was captured and taken to Newgate and executed at Tyburn soon after.

In this way Jonathan Wild succeeded in capturing all the members of the gang involved in the murder of Mrs Knap, and removed his enemies without committing a single murder.

1. **crown** : (here) state.

### Go back to the text

#### 1 Comprehension

Answer the questions below.

- What did it mean to offer 'evidence'?
- How did this help someone who was arrested?
- How did Wild use evidence to punish his enemies?
- What did Wild do with witnesses to protect his colleagues?
- When it became a crime to receive stolen goods, how did Wild explain his 'services' to people who had been robbed?
- Why did Wild want to find the gang responsible for the murder of Knap's mother?
- How did one of the gang members escape execution?
- What happened to the other members?

#### 2 Writing – a great man?

Pretend you are Jonathan Wild, and say why you are not a criminal, but a good man who helps others. Of course, you will not say the real reason why you do all these things, and you must make them seem like good and noble actions.

Include the following information:

- Wilde's 'services' for the recovery of stolen goods
- How he and his friends often 'offer evidence'
- The story of the murder of Mrs Knap

You can begin like this:

I know that many journalists say that I am nothing but a common criminal. However, I ask you, dear friends, to consider the many good people I have helped. First, how many sad and worried people have come to me because .....



### FCE 3 Jonathan Wild – the musicals

Read the text about how Jonathan Wild inspired great writers. Decide which answer (A, B, C or D) best fits each space.

Jonathan Wild was extremely (1) ..... during his lifetime, and after his death he provided inspiration for several of the best writers of the period.

Daniel Defoe, often (2) ..... the father of the modern novel, wrote *The True and Genuine Account of the Life and Actions of the Late Jonathan Wild* (1725). Another great novelist of the period, Henry Fielding, wrote *The History of the Life of the Late Mr Jonathan Wild the Great* (1743). Fielding exaggerates the respectable and pompous ways of the great thief to (3) ..... fun of other people considered respectable by society.

Perhaps the greatest work inspired by Wild was written by John Gay. It is called *The Beggar's Opera* (1728). The main character is Peachum, who is (4) ..... on Wild and England's first Prime Minister, Robert Walpole. When Wild was executed, newspapers compared Wild with the corrupt politician. One wrote that Walpole's political party and Wild's criminal organisation had the same motto: 'Keep what you get, and get what you can.'

*The Beggar's Opera* was a great success, and Walpole (5) ..... attended the first performance. The play creates an upside-down world where morality and good are not even thought about, (6) ..... where corruption and crime are considered normal. At one point Peachum says, 'Murder is as fashionable a crime as a man can be guilty (7) .....'

*The Beggar's Opera* continues to be a (8) ..... popular play, and it also inspired another famous work by the German playwright Bertolt Brecht and the German composer Kurt Weill, *The Threepenny Opera* (1928). It was a big hit when it came (9) ..... in Germany, and later in New York in the 1950s.

So perhaps crime doesn't pay, as we (10) ..... in English, but it does inspire good music.

- |                |             |              |            |
|----------------|-------------|--------------|------------|
| 1 A known      | B famous    | C considered | D famed    |
| 2 A considered | B thought   | C believed   | D regarded |
| 3 A do         | B create    | C make       | D have     |
| 4 A founded    | B developed | C based      | D inspired |
| 5 A also       | B still     | C too        | D even     |
| 6 A however    | B although  | C and        | D though   |
| 7 A of         | B on        | C about      | D with     |
| 8 A much       | B great     | C greatly    | D very     |
| 9 A out        | B in        | C over       | D into     |
| 10 A tell      | B say       | C speak      | D think    |

## Before you read

### 1 Listening

Listen to the beginning of Chapter Three and fill in the gaps.

Wild by now had so much <sup>1</sup> ..... property in London that he decided to sell some of it. He bought a <sup>2</sup> ..... and transported the goods to Bruges, Ghent and Brussels. Here they were sold in <sup>3</sup> ..... for wine, brandy and other items that were then smuggled <sup>4</sup> ..... into England. This scheme was very successful for about two years until the <sup>5</sup> ..... of the boat, Johnson, and his assistant had an argument. The assistant told the <sup>6</sup> ..... about Johnson's illegal activities, and the ship was captured and the captain was arrested in a <sup>7</sup> ..... Johnson immediately sent for Jonathan Wild.

When he arrived Wild realised that he had to do something quickly if he wanted to <sup>8</sup> ..... his friend. He poured a glass of <sup>9</sup> ..... over a large man who was sitting with some friends. This made the man very angry.

'What did you do that for?' he shouted at Wild.

'You and your friends are <sup>10</sup> ..... !' Wild shouted back. 'Come outside and fight me — all of you!'

The man and his friends stood up. One of them threw a <sup>11</sup> ..... at Wild but it missed him, and hit another group of men who were



sitting at a table. They stood up as well and everyone began

12 .....

'Now's your chance,' Wild whispered urgently to Johnson. 'Get out now!'

Johnson took Wild's 13 ..... and ran out of the tavern as fast as he could.

## 2 The end?

Look at the picture on page 73. It illustrates a scene from the chapter you are about to read.

a. Describe the picture to your partner.

.....  
.....

b. What is happening?

.....  
.....

## 3 Looking at pictures

Look at the picture on page 75. It illustrates the evidence a woman gave at the trial against Jonathan Wild.

a. Where is Wild?

.....  
.....

b. What, in your opinion, is he saying to the woman?

.....  
.....

c. What do you think will happen next?

.....  
.....



## CHAPTER THREE

# Stolen Property

8

Wild by now had so much stolen property in London that he decided to sell some of it. He bought a ship and transported the goods to Bruges, Ghent and Brussels. Here they were sold in exchange for wine, brandy and other items that were then smuggled<sup>1</sup> secretly into England. This scheme was very successful for about two years until the captain of the boat, Johnson, and his assistant had an argument. The assistant told the authorities about Johnson's illegal activities, and the ship was captured and the captain was arrested in a tavern. Johnson immediately sent for Jonathan Wild.

When he arrived Wild realised that he had to do something quickly if he wanted to save his friend. He poured a glass of beer

1. **smuggled** : brought things into the country illegally.



## Famous British Criminals

from **The Newgate Calendar**

over a large man who was sitting with some friends. This made the man very angry.

'What did you do that for?' he shouted at Wild.

'You and your friends are cowards!' Wild shouted back. 'Come outside and fight me — all of you!'

The man and his friends stood up. One of them threw a chair at Wild but it missed him, and hit another group of men who were sitting at a table. They stood up as well and everyone began fighting.

'Now's your chance,' Wild whispered urgently to Johnson. 'Get out now!'

Johnson took Wild's advice and ran out of the tavern as fast as he could.

The officers reacted too slowly. They saw their prisoner escape, but they could not do anything about it. They knew, however, that Jonathan Wild was responsible for the riot and they wanted their revenge for what he had done.

The authorities began searching for Jonathan Wild, and a number of charges were prepared against him. His good luck was about to come to an end.

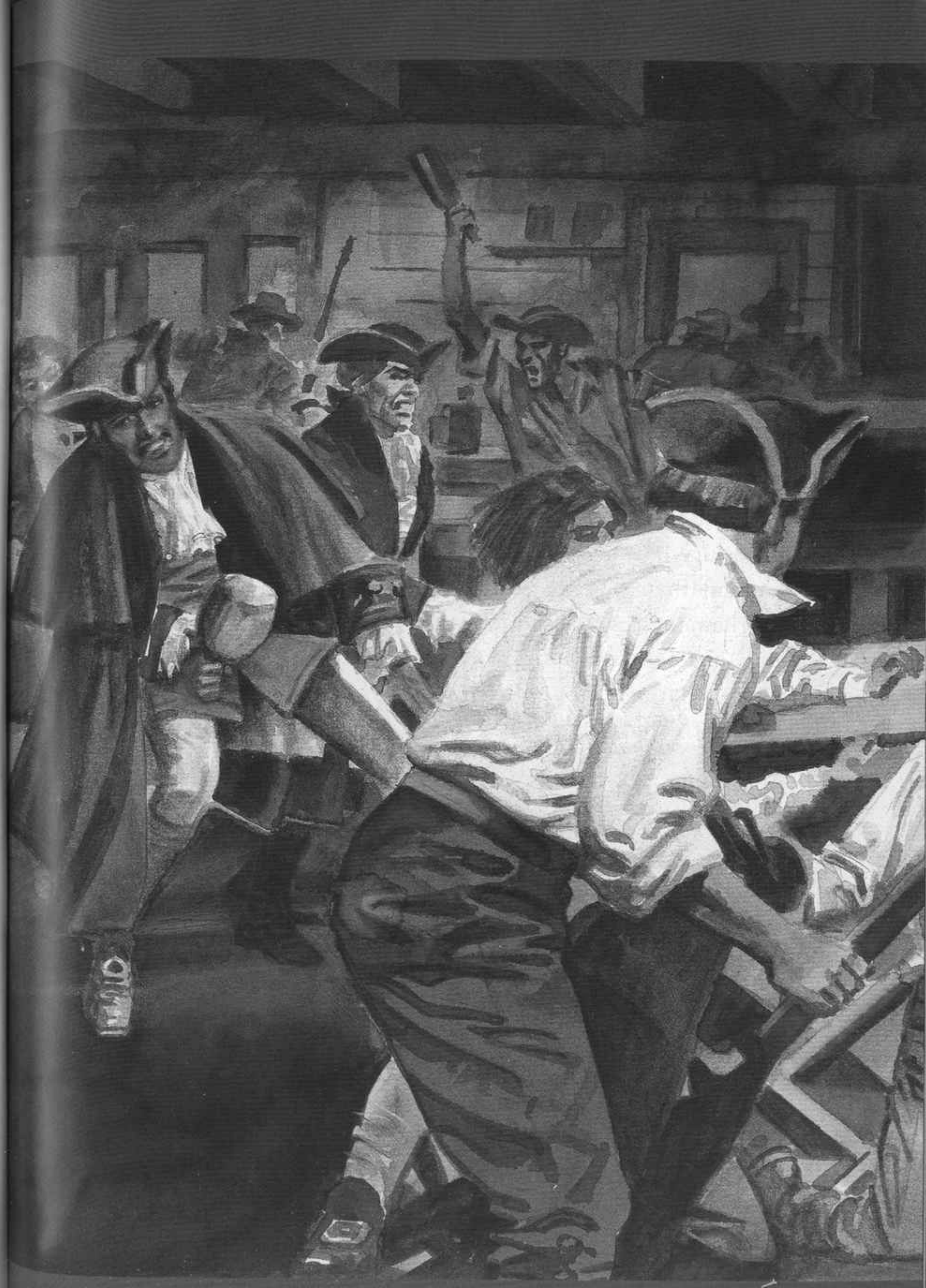
Mr Jones, the high constable of Holborn,<sup>1</sup> issued a warrant<sup>2</sup> for the arrest of Wild. When the authorities discovered where he was, they arrested him and took him to Newgate prison. Mr Jones produced a long list of crimes that he said Jonathan Wild had committed, including two crimes which were punishable by death.

On 15 May 1725 Wild was tried for the theft of fifty yards of lace<sup>3</sup> from the house of Mrs Streatham. During the trial it emerged that Jonathan Wild had organised the theft of the lace,

1 **high ... Holborn** : official responsible for law in this area of London.

2. **warrant** : official legal document.

3. **fifty yards of lace** : approx. 50 metres of a delicate, expensive material.





## Famous British Criminals

from **The Newgate Calendar**

but that he had not gone into the house himself: he had sent his men into the house to steal the lace. They had delivered it to him in the street outside the house. Wild's defence lawyer argued that Wild was not guilty of the offence.

'The charge explicitly states that my client stole the lace in the house,' the lawyer argued. 'But the evidence shows that Mr Wild didn't steal the lace in the house because he was outside in the street. Therefore my client isn't guilty of the crime.'

'You're right,' the judge agreed. 'The charge against your client isn't accurate.'

The jury listened to the judge's words carefully and they found Jonathan Wild not guilty of the crime.

Parliament now passed a new law. The new law said that if people had secret dealings with criminals, and took money for recovering stolen property from their criminal contacts, they should be treated as if they had committed the crimes themselves.

The second charge brought against Jonathan Wild was based on this new law. It concerned the same crime as before, the theft of the lace from Mrs Streatham. She gave evidence that after the lace was stolen, she went to Wild's office to ask for his help in recovering it. He told her that he would investigate the crime for her. She said that she would be prepared to pay twenty-five guineas<sup>1</sup> for the recovery of her property. Shortly afterwards Jonathan Wild was arrested and imprisoned in Newgate. Mrs Streatham said that Wild wrote to her from prison. 'Bring me ten guineas, and your property will be returned to you,' he wrote. She went to the prison to see Wild and found another man with him. Wild told her to give the other man the ten guineas. She gave him

1. **guineas** : gold coins. One guinea was equal to 21 shillings of old money.





## Famous British Criminals

from **The Newgate Calendar**

the money and he left. He returned soon afterwards with a box containing the stolen lace.

The judge decided that the new law applied to Jonathan Wild. He said that it was clear that Wild had secret dealings with thieves and that he took money for returning stolen property to its owners. The jury found Jonathan Wild guilty of the crime, and he was condemned to death.

Wild tried to escape the consequences of his crimes by arguing that he had done society a service by returning stolen property to the people from whom it had been taken. He wanted some of the important and influential people who had paid him for his services to organise a royal pardon for him. These hopes, however, were in vain; it was clear that there was no hope for Wild. He became desperate and tried to poison himself before the day of the execution, but he did not succeed. Jonathan Wild was taken to Tyburn to be executed on 24 May 1725. His notoriety as a criminal was so great that people threw stones at him on his last journey. The executioner told him that he could have a reasonable period to prepare himself for the execution. Jonathan Wild sat in the prison cart for a considerable time. This made the crowd frustrated and angry.

'Hang him!' they shouted at the executioner. 'Hang him now, or we'll hang you!'

The executioner was afraid and performed his duty immediately, and the career of one of the most successful eighteenth-century criminals came to an end.

### Go back to the text

#### FCE 1 Comprehension

For questions 1-5, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.

- 1 Wild poured a glass of beer over the man because
  - A ☐ he wanted to start a fight to give Johnson the chance to escape.
  - B ☐ the man was one of the officials who had arrested Johnson.
  - C ☐ Wild thought that the man and his friends were cowards.
  - D ☐ the man had told the officials about the smuggling.
- 2 Jonathan Wild was found not guilty of the theft of the lace because
  - A ☐ they never found the lace in Wild's possession.
  - B ☐ Wild did not actually take the lace himself.
  - C ☐ there were no witnesses who saw him steal the lace.
  - D ☐ the witnesses who saw him steal the lace were too frightened to speak at the trial.
- 3 Wild was eventually condemned to death because the judge thought that he
  - A ☐ had probably stolen the lace.
  - B ☐ had probably worked with thieves and got money to recover the lace.
  - C ☐ had helped Mrs Streatham recover her stolen lace.
  - D ☐ had helped the thief steal Mrs Streatham's lace.
- 4 After he was found guilty, Wild said that he should not be hanged because
  - A ☐ he had important friends.
  - B ☐ he had obtained a royal pardon.
  - C ☐ his crime was not yet a crime when he committed it.
  - D ☐ he helped people when he recovered their property.



- 5 What meaning does the author give to the life of Jonathan Wild?
- A ☐ Intelligent, talented people are not necessarily honest and honourable.
- B ☐ Wild deserved to die because he was dishonest.
- C ☐ Intelligent, talented people should also be honest and honourable.
- D ☐ Wild helped people, but in a selfish and dishonourable way.

## 2 A Wild crossword

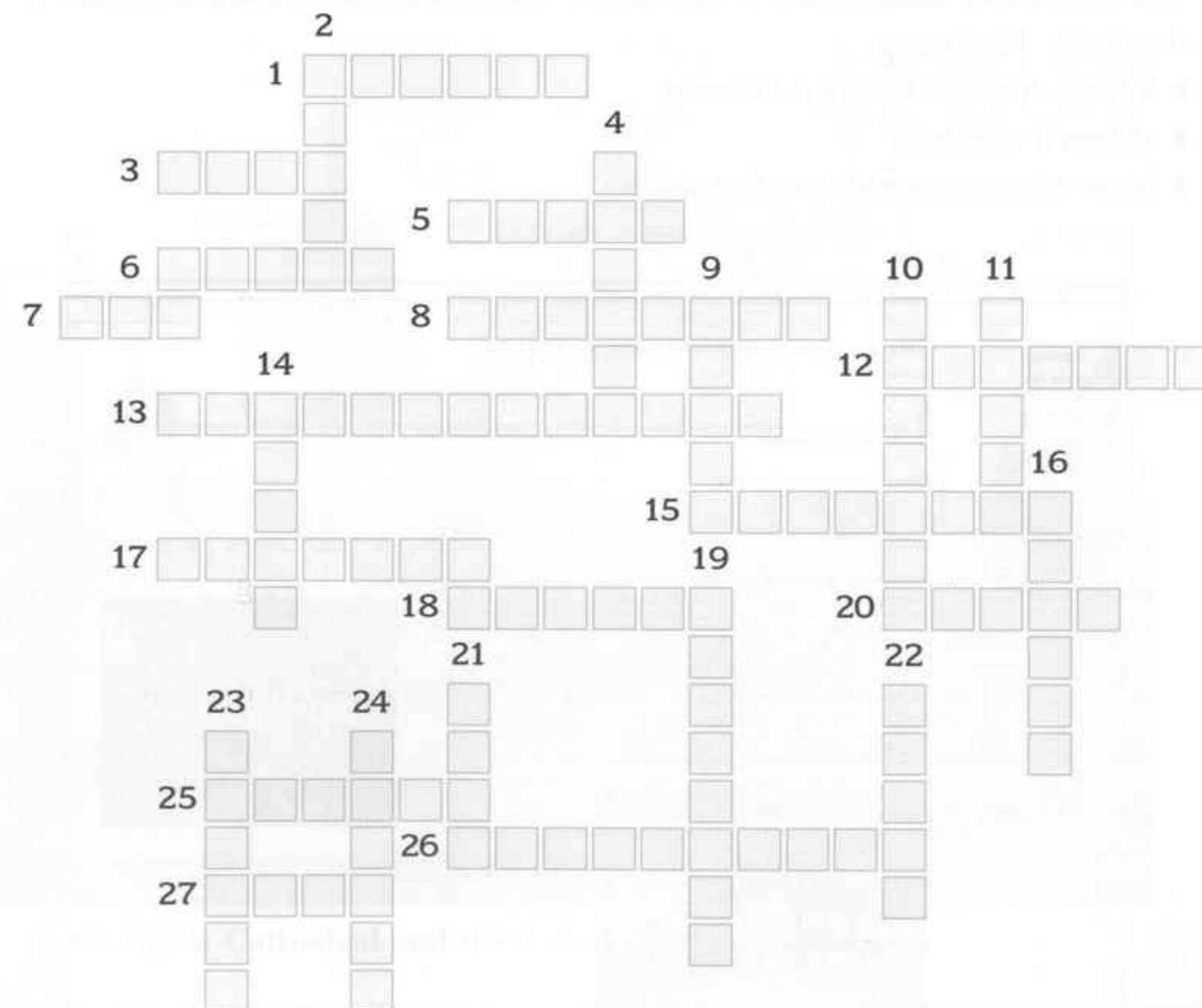
Complete the crossword with words from the story of Jonathan Wild. Many of the words appear in the notes, but not all of them.

### Across

1. To ask someone for money, usually for a service.
3. He walked ..... the pub.
5. The opposite of interested.
6. Things that are bought and sold.
7. Money you pay for professional services.
8. Freed.
12. Item or object, especially one that is part of a group.
13. Examination or search for something.
15. To tell someone that you will do something bad to them.
17. To transport goods illegally into a country.
18. Something you receive if you behave well.
20. Legal procedure before a judge to see if a person is guilty or innocent.
25. Somebody's opinion about what somebody else should do.
26. Sensible, rational.
27. Money that you owe.

### Down

2. A large group of people.
4. To feel a situation is unfair.
9. The infinitive of 'shot'.
10. Official legal document.
11. The Past Simple of 'to steal'.
14. Worth.
16. Almost.
19. Transactions, business.
21. An alcoholic drink.
22. The person who possesses something is the .....
23. When the authorities decide that a condemned criminal should not be punished.
24. The person who is robbed is the ..... of a crime.





### 3 Your opinion

The author of this account of Jonathan Wild admits that he was both intelligent and talented.

- What are some of his talents?
- How does Wild show himself to be intelligent?
- Do you think a man like Jonathan Wild would be successful today? Why/why not?

## INTERNET PROJECT

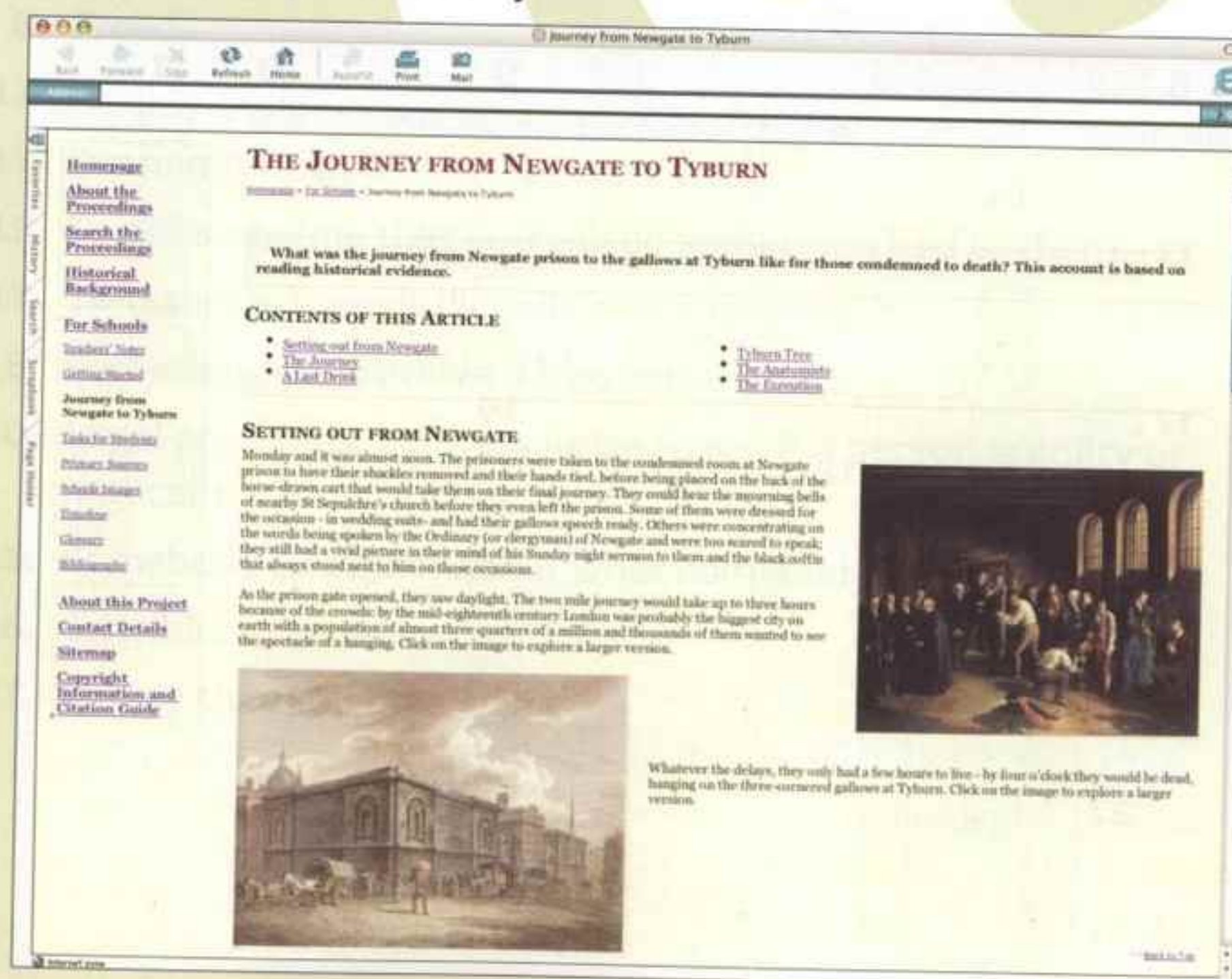
### The Old Bailey

Connect to the Internet and go to [www.blackcat-cideb.com](http://www.blackcat-cideb.com) or [www.cideb.it](http://www.cideb.it). Insert the title or part of the title of the book into our search engine.

Open the page for *Famous British Criminals from the Newgate Calendar*. Click on the Internet project link. Go down the page until you find the title of this book and click on the relevant link for this project.

The Old Bailey was London's central criminal court in the period covered by this book. Find out:

- ▶ Where the Old Bailey is located
- ▶ When it was built
- ▶ How it has changed over the years



## Eighteenth-century London

The Great Fire of London of 1666 lasted for three terrible days, destroying 80% of London. This tragedy did, though, open the way for the birth of modern London. New buildings were no longer built of wood but of brick, and the famous architect Christopher Wren designed many elegant neoclassical buildings, including St Paul's cathedral, which became a symbol of the modern city.

At the start of the 1700s London had a population of 500,000. This was enormous for the time, especially if we consider that any town of over 5,000 people was considered large in those days.



St Paul's Cathedral and the City of London by George Chambers.



In the 1700s the upper classes began to construct a new style of residence in the fashionable West End<sup>1</sup> of London, called terraced houses. In these elegant rows of houses, the service areas were on the ground floor, while the bedrooms, sitting rooms and dining rooms of the masters were on the upper floors. They were often built around large public squares surrounded by iron fences to keep out the common people. These neighbourhoods contained exclusive shops with large windows, which were being introduced just then. In addition, these neighbourhoods began to have street lighting and paved streets, with the pavement separate from the roadway.

The West End was busiest when the parliamentary sessions began in the autumn. Then the upper classes came to London to do all the things that they could not do in the country. They went to see their bankers, doctors, architects, wig-makers, tailors and dressmakers and all the other professionals and traders who served them.

The historic centre of London, known as the City, was then the centre of the insurance business, merchant banking and trading. But the merchants who worked there began to move outside the circle of slums<sup>2</sup> that surrounded the City to new residential areas, and to travel daily to their places of work.

Besides being the heart of a great commercial empire, the London of the 1700s was also a great cultural and intellectual centre. This was the age of the coffeehouses, where people could talk freely and learn about the news.

London was certainly an exciting place from almost every point of view, and a place where it was possible for people to rise in the

1. **West End** : today, the area of shops and theatres to the west of the 'City of London', the business centre of London.

2. **slums** : very poor, overcrowded areas of a city.



**An Early London Coffeehouse** (c. 1706) signed A. S.

world. But there was another side to London: the East End. This was the area of the docks<sup>1</sup> and the home of manufacturing of all kinds, beer brewing and textile production. It was also the home of the poor, and many of these poor were immigrants from various parts of the British Isles and the world, who came to London looking for work. It is interesting to note that in this period there were already distinctive neighbourhoods of the various immigrant groups such as the Irish, Jews from Portugal, Spain, Poland and Germany, and blacks from Africa, the Caribbean and North America.

Immigrants were the main cause of the huge rise in London's population from 500,000 in 1700 to around 1,000,000 in 1800. They were mostly young, from around fourteen to twenty years of age, and the majority of them – around 54% – women. The reason for this was that many young women came hoping to find jobs as servants. Unfortunately, many of them did not find jobs, and became

1. **docks** : area where ships are loaded and unloaded.



prostitutes in order to earn money. It is estimated that there were about 10,000 prostitutes in London in this period.

The poor lived in badly built houses known as tenements, which often collapsed. Those people lucky enough to have a single room often rented them to as many as twenty people. Perhaps, though, the most striking characteristic of the East End was its terrible smell. The streets were often little better than open sewers.<sup>1</sup> The Thames itself received all the rubbish that the city produced. Churchyards also produced a horrible smell; poor people were buried in large communal graves, and they were not covered until they were full. In addition, the air was dark with all the fumes of industry of this coal-burning city.

This poverty and misery, of course, led many to crime, and at times the London poor revolted all together. It is at the start of the 1700s that we first hear of groups of people known as 'mobs'.

This, then, was the London of the 1700s, an immense city of contradictions where, according to many, our modern world was born.

**1** Answer the questions below.

- a. Who was Christopher Wren?
- b. Who lived in the West End of London?
- c. What was (is) the City?
- d. What was the East End like?
- e. What was the population of London in 1700? In 1800?
- f. What was the cause of this increase in population?
- g. What caused the terrible smells in the East End?
- h. What was the name of the large groups of poor people who revolted in eighteenth-century London and England?

1. **sewers** : channels carrying human and industrial waste.

## Richard 'Dick' TURPIN



**Highwayman  
and horse thief**



## Before you read



### 1 Listening

Listen to the beginning of Chapter One of Dick Turpin. For questions 1-6, choose the best answer, A, B or C.

- 1 Dick Turpin's father was from
  - A ☐ Sussex.
  - B ☐ Wessex.
  - C ☐ Essex.
- 2 Dick Turpin first worked as a
  - A ☐ baker.
  - B ☐ butcher.
  - C ☐ farmer.
- 3 He began his criminal career by
  - A ☐ robbing shops.
  - B ☐ stealing animals.
  - C ☐ receiving stolen goods.
- 4 To enter people's houses, Turpin and his gang of robbers
  - A ☐ knocked down doors if no one opened them.
  - B ☐ knocked on doors and waited for people to open them.
  - C ☐ climbed in through open windows.
- 5 What were Mr Saunders, his wife and friends doing when Turpin's gang entered the house?
  - A ☐ playing cards
  - B ☐ eating dinner
  - C ☐ dancing
- 6 Turpin's gang arrived at Mr Lawrence's house
  - A ☐ just as Mr Lawrence was going in.
  - B ☐ and realised that Mr Lawrence was out.
  - C ☐ and knocked down the door.



## CHAPTER ONE

# The Essex Gang



**R**ichard Turpin, more commonly known as Dick Turpin, was the son of an Essex farmer. He was brutal and cruel even as a young man, and he seemed destined for a life of crime.

Turpin eventually became a butcher, and he married soon afterwards. He began stealing his neighbours' farm animals, which he used to sell in his shop. His crimes were discovered and an order for his arrest was prepared, but he ran away before the authorities came to his house and joined a gang of smugglers in another part of Essex. The gang then moved to London, where they robbed people's houses.

Their strategy worked like this. One of the gang used to knock on the door of a house, and when someone opened it, the rest of the gang ran in and stole what they could find. Their first victim was an old man who had a shop. They robbed him but they were not violent with him.

They carried out a series of such robberies, and Dick Turpin was increasingly cruel to his victims. He held one old woman over a fire until she told the gang where her money was hidden.



## Famous British Criminals

from **The Newgate Calendar**

On 11 January 1735 the gang robbed a rich farmer, Mr Saunders, in Kent. They rushed into his house, where they found Mr Saunders with his wife and friends playing cards.

'Everybody stay very quiet!' Turpin ordered. 'If you do what we tell you, no one will be hurt.'

Mr Saunders and the rest of the people in the house quickly gave the gang their money and valuable possessions.

Their house robberies continued in this way for a considerable time. Then, on 4 February 1735, they decided to rob a certain Mr Lawrence, who lived in Edgware. The gang arrived at the house just as Mr Lawrence was going in. They took hold of him and told him to instruct the servant boy to open the front door of the house. The boy was so frightened that he did nothing. Another servant opened the door, imagining that nothing was wrong, and the gang rushed in with their prisoner, Mr Lawrence. They looked through the house for items of value, but were not satisfied with what they found. They said they would murder Mr Lawrence if he did not tell them where his valuable possessions were hidden. Finally, one of the gang treated a female servant very cruelly, and they left the house, leaving everyone there tied up.

The authorities offered a reward of £50 for information about the gang, but this produced no results. They continued as before, entering houses and threatening and robbing the owners.

One day they robbed another farmer, Mr Francis. They found two of Mr Francis' servants working outside the house. They captured them and tied them up. When they went to the house and discovered that Mr Francis was just about to go in himself, they captured him as well and tied him up together with his two servants. Then they rushed into the house where they found Mrs Francis, her daughter, and a female servant. They attacked the

END





## Famous British Criminals

from **The Newgate Calendar**

three women very violently before leaving the house with all the valuables they could find.

The authorities now increased the reward to £100 for information about the members of the gang. As a result of this, two gang members were arrested and hanged, and the remaining members decided that it was now too dangerous to continue working together.

Dick Turpin realised that it was too dangerous to remain in the area and he escaped to the country. It was time to change his career; he had decided to become a highwayman.



## A C T I V I T I E S

### Go back to the text

#### 1 Comprehension

Match the clauses in column A with the clauses in column B to make correct sentences.

- a. ☐ When Turpin was a young man people thought he would become a criminal
  - b. ☐ Turpin stole animals
  - c. ☐ Turpin ran away from his house in Essex
  - d. ☐ Turpin took the old woman off the fire
  - e. ☐ Mr Saunders gave Turpin his money and valuables
  - f. ☐ Mr Lawrence's servant opened the door to Turpin and his gang
  - g. ☐ The authorities increased the reward to £100
  - h. ☐ Two members of Turpin's gang were captured
  - i. ☐ Turpin and the remaining members of his gang decided that it was too dangerous to work together
- 
- 1. because he did not think anything was wrong.
  - 2. because he did not want Turpin to hurt him.
  - 3. because a large reward had been offered for information about them.
  - 4. because he could sell them in his butcher's shop.
  - 5. because he was so brutal and cruel.
  - 6. because two members of the gang had been caught and hanged.
  - 7. because she told him where her money was hidden.
  - 8. because his crimes had been discovered.
  - 9. because the reward for £50 had not produced any results.





## 'The boy was so frightened that he did nothing'

Look at these sentences:

The boy was **so** frightened. The story was **so** sad.

In these sentences 'so' makes the adjective more intense. Sentences like this are often followed by a clause of result or consequence:

The boy was **so** frightened **that** he did nothing.

The story was **so** sad **that** he cried.

In this type of sentence 'that' can be left out:

The food in prison was **so** terrible he couldn't eat it.

## 2 Grammar

Complete the sentences with the words from columns A and B.

### A

beautiful  
loud  
dark  
high  
terrified  
dishonest  
ferocious  
fast

### B

lit  
stole  
~~decided to steal~~  
ran away  
screamed  
had to get a ladder  
woke up  
could not catch

Example: The bracelet looked so beautiful..... he decided to steal..... it.

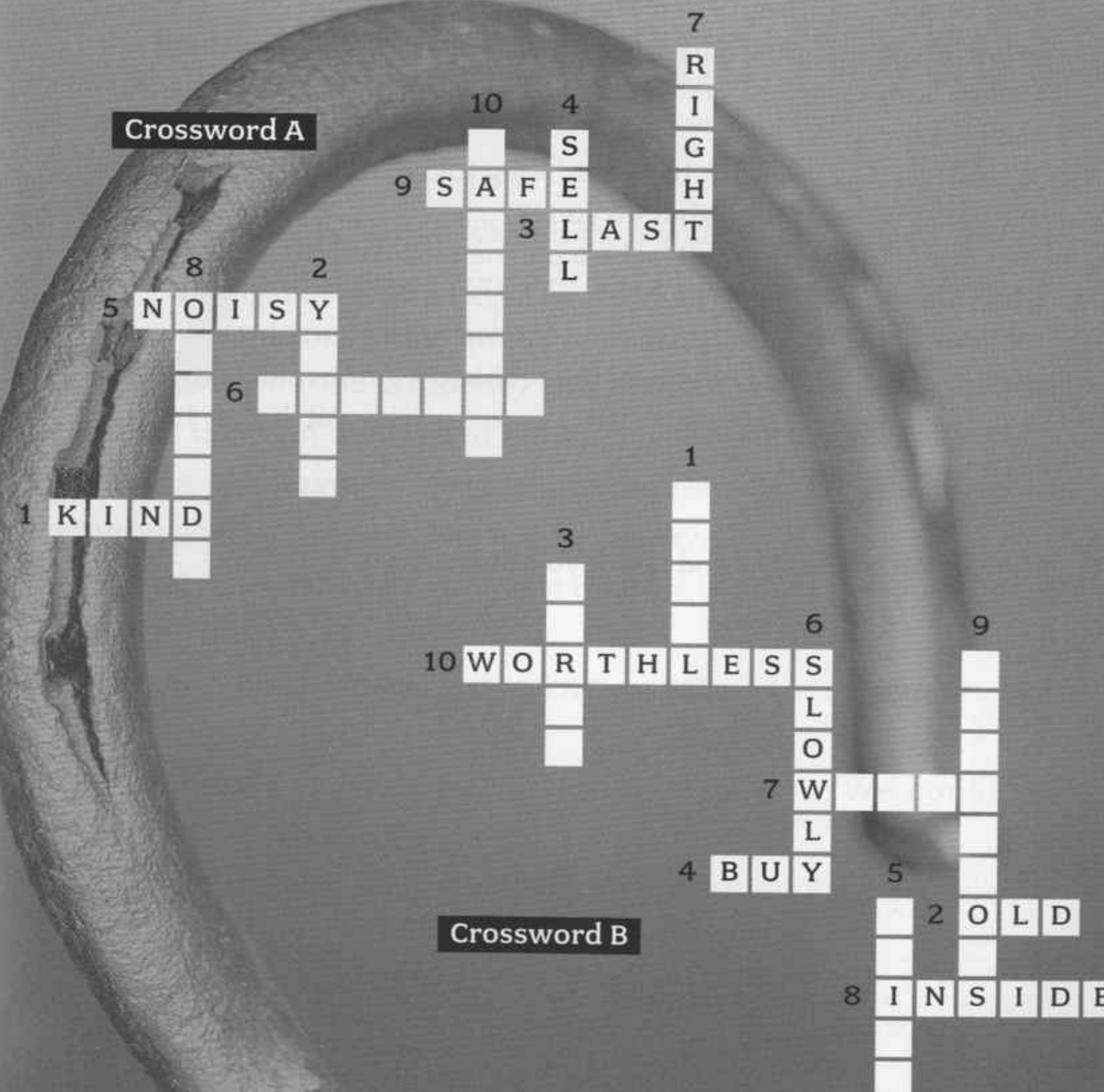
- The dog looked so ..... the robbers .....
- The window was so ..... they ..... to reach it.
- The girl was so ..... when she saw the thief she .....
- The girl's scream was so ..... it ..... all the neighbours.

- He was so ..... he even ..... from his own mother.
- Turpin's horse was so ..... the constable ..... him.
- It was so ..... the thieves ..... a candle.

## 3 Vocabulary – opposite crosswords

Here are two crossword puzzles. The missing words in Crossword A are all opposites of the words in Crossword B, and vice versa. Complete the puzzles by finding the opposites for each set of corresponding numbers. One has been done for you.

### Crossword A



### Crossword B



## Before you read

**FCE 1** For questions 1-10, read the text below and think of the word which best fits each space. Use only one word in each space. There is an example at the beginning (0).

One day Turpin was riding (0) *towards*..... Cambridge on his horse when he saw another traveller ahead of him on the road. He seemed (1) ..... a rich man, and Turpin decided to rob him. He rode up to him and took (2) ..... two pistols, pointed them at him and demanded his money. The (3) ..... traveller was a highway man, King, (4) ..... recognised Turpin immediately.

King laughed at Turpin's demand for money.

'What,' he asked him, 'dog eat dog? I know who you are, Richard Turpin.' Turpin smiled. He wanted to know (5) ..... King was going to say next.

'We (6) ..... work together,' King told him.

'We could be partners. What do you (7) .....?'

'All right,' Turpin agreed. 'Maybe a partnership isn't (8) ..... a bad idea. Let's try it.' The two men began a series of highway robberies, and they (9) ..... known in and outside London for their exploits. On one occasion, they robbed a gentleman on the road and then allowed him to buy (10) ..... the watch they had just taken.



Now listen to the text and check your answers.



## CHAPTER TWO

## King and Horses

**10** One day Turpin was riding towards Cambridge when he saw another traveller ahead of him on the road. He seemed like a rich man, and Turpin decided to rob him. He rode up to him and took out two pistols, pointed them at him and demanded his money. The other traveller was himself a highwayman, King, who recognised Turpin immediately. King laughed at Turpin's demand for money.

'What,' he asked him, 'dog eat dog? <sup>1</sup> I know who you are, Richard Turpin.'

Turpin smiled. He wanted to know what King was going to say next.

'We should work together,' King told him. 'We could be partners. What do you think?'

'All right,' Turpin agreed. 'Maybe a partnership isn't such a bad idea. Let's try it.'

1. **dog eat dog** : a proverb. It means that people in the same business compete against each other instead of working together.



## Famous British Criminals

from **The Newgate Calendar**

The two men began a series of highway robberies, and they became known in and outside London for their exploits. On one occasion, they robbed a gentleman on the road and then allowed him to buy back the watch they had just taken. Turpin was also known to be a gentleman to the ladies he and King robbed, and if they were young and beautiful, he complimented them on their beauty when he took their possessions, saying:

'It's a pity to take things from such beautiful ladies.'

King and Turpin made a hiding-place for themselves in Epping Forest, where they could sleep and keep their horses.

One day disaster struck<sup>1</sup> for Turpin. A certain Mr Thompson, who worked in Epping Forest, had seen the hiding-place, and he guessed who the two mysterious men were. When he heard that the authorities were offering a reward of £100 for information about Turpin and King, he decided to arrest them. Mr Thompson approached their hiding-place with a friend. Turpin saw them coming and went out to meet them. He thought they were poachers.<sup>2</sup>

'There aren't any rabbits near here,' he told them.

'That's true,' Mr Thompson's friend replied, 'but there's a Turpin.' He pointed his gun at Turpin and told him to surrender.

'Very well, gentlemen,' Turpin replied in a friendly way. 'There's no chance for me. I surrender.'

As he was talking, however, Turpin began to walk backwards very slowly. Then he quickly reached down, picked up his own gun and shot Mr Thompson's friend. Mr Thompson ran away into

1. **disaster struck** : something extremely unlucky happened suddenly.

2. **poachers** : people who enter a property illegally to kill animals for food or trade.





## Famous British Criminals

from **The Newgate Calendar**

the forest. He told the authorities about the murder, and they issued a reward of £200 for the arrest of Richard Turpin.

Turpin and King now decided to work separately. Turpin decided that Epping Forest was a dangerous place, and he left the area.

He sent a message to his wife to meet him in a tavern. When he arrived at the tavern he saw a butcher there. This man knew who he was, and he remembered that Dick Turpin owed him five pounds.

## Richard 'Dick' TURPIN

### CHAPTER 2

'Now, Dick,' he said, 'I know you've got a lot of money these days. Give me the five pounds you owe me.'

'My wife is in the next room,' Turpin told the butcher. 'She'll give you the money.'

The butcher now began telling the other people in the tavern who Dick Turpin was. He said that they should arrest him. Turpin escaped through a window and rode away.

Turpin and King joined up again, and they took a third partner into their business, a man called Potter. One day, riding towards





## Famous British Criminals

from **The Newgate Calendar**

London, Turpin's horse was tired and when he saw another traveller on the road, he decided to take his horse. The owner of the horse was called Mr Major, and the theft took place in Epping Forest near a tavern called The Green Man.

Mr Major immediately told the landlord of The Green Man about the theft of his horse. He also advertised for information about the thieves and his horse. The landlord of The Green Man soon received information that a horse very similar to the one that had been stolen could be found at the Red Lion tavern in Whitechapel, London.

The landlord of The Green Man went to the tavern and waited to see if someone arrived to collect the horse. When King's brother arrived at the tavern he was immediately arrested. At first he said that the horse belonged to him, but it was soon proved that he was lying, as the whip<sup>1</sup> he carried in his hand had the name 'Major' written on it. The landlord then told King's brother that he would only be freed if he told them where his employers were. He said that a man was waiting for the horse in Red Lion Street. The landlord of The Green Man and his friends went there and saw the man that had been described to them.

The man, who was Turpin's partner, King, saw the crowd of people coming towards him and took out his pistol. He tried to fire at the crowd but his pistol did not work. He called out desperately to Turpin.

'Fire, Dick, fire or they'll take us!'

Turpin fired his pistol but the bullet hit King.

'You've killed me, Dick,' King cried out to him.

1. **whip** : leather instrument used to hit animals or people.





## Famous British Criminals

from **The Newgate Calendar**

Turpin rode away as fast as he could from the scene.

King lived for a week after being shot by Turpin, and he gave the authorities information about where they might be able to find Turpin himself.

Turpin knew now that the authorities were looking for him everywhere, and he rode from one place to another. First he went to the east, to Lincolnshire, where he stole some horses. He was caught and arrested but managed to escape.

Next he went further north to Yorkshire, where he used another name. He pretended to be a gentleman, and frequently went hunting with the upper classes. He supported himself by stealing horses in Lincolnshire and selling them in Yorkshire.

Turpin then made a very small mistake that cost him his life. When he was out hunting with his friends one day, he shot a cockerel<sup>1</sup> that belonged to his landlord.

One of the huntsmen, Mr Hall, told him that he had made a mistake to shoot the cockerel.

'If you stay here,' Turpin replied coldly, 'I'll shoot you as well.'

Mr Hall was very angry at Turpin's behaviour. He told the landlord what Turpin had done, and the authorities arrested him.

The magistrates began to collect information about this mysterious man who had appeared among them. They learned that he travelled frequently to Lincolnshire and always came back with money and horses. They began to suspect that he was a highwayman.

Turpin insisted that his real name was Palmer, and that he had been a butcher in Lincolnshire. He said that he had lost his

1. **cockerel** : male chicken.

## Richard 'Dick' TURPIN

### CHAPTER 2

business and had decided to come and live in Yorkshire. The magistrates made enquiries and discovered that there had been a butcher in Lincolnshire called Palmer. This man was a sheep thief who had escaped from the authorities there, who were looking for him. When he had been in prison in York Castle for about four months, Turpin wrote a letter to his brother in Essex. He signed the letter 'John Palmer'. He asked his brother to help him, but his brother did not read the letter. He did not want to pay the postage for receiving it. The letter was then sent back to the post office in Essex. By chance, the schoolmaster in Essex who had taught Dick Turpin saw the letter in the post office. He recognised his old pupil's writing immediately. He took the letter to the magistrate and explained that the writer of the letter was not John Palmer but Richard Turpin.

Turpin was now tried and sentenced to death for his crimes. He behaved very cheerfully after receiving his sentence and joked about the execution ahead of him.

He bought some fine clothes shortly before the day of the execution. He also paid five poor men to be his mourners<sup>1</sup> and to follow the cart taking him to the execution.

He behaved with great courage on the day of the execution, 10 April 1739. He waved at the crowd who had come to see him die and he spoke for half an hour with the executioner before throwing himself down from the execution ladder. The career of the famous highwayman had come to an end at last.

1. **mourners** : people who express sadness at the death of a friend or relative.



Go back to the text

## 1 Comprehension

Answer the questions below.

- How did Turpin meet King?
- Why did King say, 'Dog eat dog' to Turpin?
- What did the two men decide to do?
- How did Turpin become known as a gentleman?
- Who betrayed Turpin and King?
- How did Turpin live when he was in Yorkshire?
- How was Turpin finally captured?
- How did Turpin behave at his execution?

## 2 Vocabulary – honour among thieves

Match these English sayings (a-e) to their meanings (1-5). Which one do you think best summarises the life of Dick Turpin?

- ☐ It takes a thief to catch a thief.
- ☐ Like a thief in the night.
- ☐ To be as thick as thieves.
- ☐ Honour among thieves.
- ☐ Dog eat dog.

- Even if thieves do dishonest things, among themselves they have their own standard of behaviour.
- Used to describe two or more people who are extremely good friends.
- Used to describe someone who does something very secretly.
- The best person to catch a criminal is another criminal.
- Unrestrained competition among people.

## INTERNET PROJECT

### The Tyburn Tree

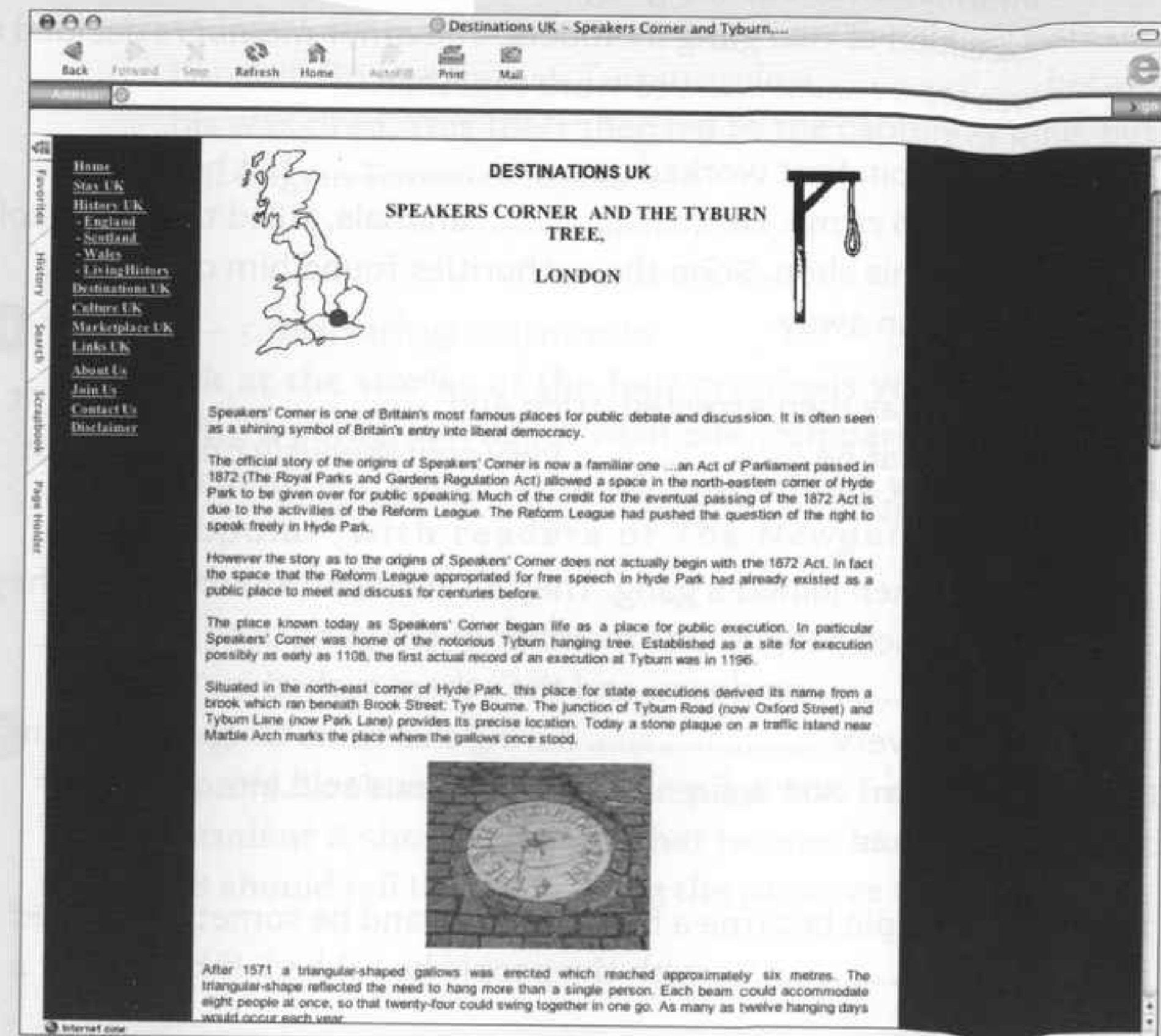
Connect to the Internet and go to [www.blackcat-cideb.com](http://www.blackcat-cideb.com) or [www.cideb.it](http://www.cideb.it). Insert the title or part of the title of the book into our search engine.

Open the page for *Famous British Criminals from the Newgate Calendar*. Click on the Internet project link. Go down the page until you find the title of this book and click on the relevant link for this project.

Dick Turpin was hanged at a famous execution place near Newgate prison called the Tyburn Tree. Find out:

- ▶ Where the Tyburn Tree was
- ▶ When it was first set up
- ▶ What the 'Triple Tree' was
- ▶ When and why it was moved
- ▶ What a typical execution at the Tyburn Tree was like

Finally, look for images of the Tyburn Tree to show your class.





## 3 Summing it up

Fill in the gaps in the text with the words in the box, then number the paragraphs in the correct order to make a summary of Dick Turpin's story. The first one has been done for you.

surrender guessed hiding-place highwayman sentenced  
threatened rich gentleman collect behaved horse  
until dangerous stole knock pretended reward  
partners legend butcher cruel

- a. ☐ Soon the authorities offered a reward for information about Turpin and King's gang. When a certain Mr Thompson saw them at their ..... in Epping Forest, he ..... that they were the notorious highwaymen.
- b. ☐ Finally the authorities offered a £100 ..... for information about the gang. This led to the arrest and execution of two gang members. The other members decided it was too ..... to work together.
- c. ☒ 1 Dick Turpin first worked as a ....., but he soon turned to crime. He ..... animals, killed them and sold them in his shop. Soon the authorities found him out and he had to run away.
- d. ☐ Turpin was then arrested, tried and ..... to death. It is said that he ..... very courageously on the day of his execution.
- e. ☐ Turpin then joined a gang. They all went to London where they robbed rich people. One member of the gang used to ..... on doors, and the others rushed in. Turpin became very ..... during this time. Once he held an old woman over a fire ..... she told him where her money was.
- f. ☐ Next Turpin became a highwayman, and he sometimes acted like a ..... with the people he robbed. If he robbed a

lovely young woman, he complimented her. So a ..... began about him among ordinary people.

- g. ☐ One day Turpin saw another traveller on the road to Cambridge who looked quite ..... Turpin decided to rob him, but he discovered that the traveller was actually King, a famous ..... The two men decided to become .....
- h. ☐ This time Turpin went to Yorkshire where he ..... to be a gentleman. But the end of Turpin's career was near. One day he argued with a man called Mr Hall, and he even ..... to kill him. Mr Hall went to the authorities. The magistrates began to ..... information about Turpin, and soon discovered who he really was.
- i. ☐ Mr Thompson went to get a friend and they went back to Epping Forest. When Mr Thompson saw Turpin, he told him to ..... But Turpin shot Thompson's friend and escaped. He and King formed a new gang and they rode to London. On the journey Turpin stole a ..... because his was tired. This theft then led to the capture of King, but once again Turpin escaped.

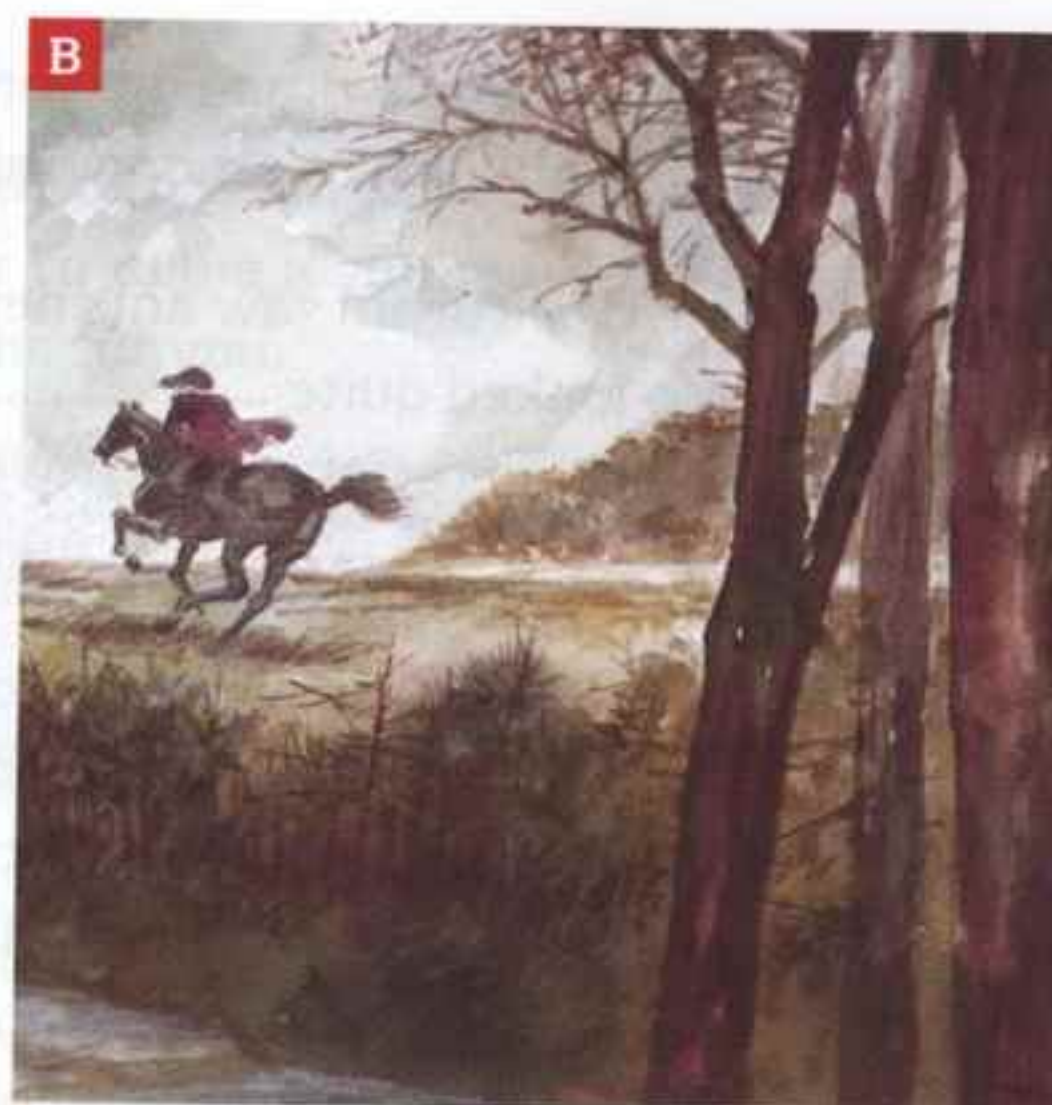
## 4 Writing – comparing criminals

Look back at the stories of the four criminals you have read in this book. Write a paragraph about each one, comparing their crimes and their personalities. Which criminal do you think would have been the most 'popular' with readers of *The Newgate Calendar* in the eighteenth century?

## 5 Speaking

Work in pairs. Look at the scenes on page 108 from the story of Dick Turpin. Student A should pretend that he/she has not read the story. Student B should tell the story using the pictures to help him/her.





### FCE 1 Comprehension

For questions 1-17, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.

- 1 Edgeworth Bess was pleased that Jack Sheppard was a carpenter because
  - A ☐ he could use his skills to break into people's houses.
  - B ☐ he worked for rich people, so he had the chance to steal things.
  - C ☐ he could use his skills to break out of prison.
  - D ☐ he had a legitimate job, so the authorities would not think that he was a criminal.
  
- 2 Jack Sheppard became very famous because
  - A ☐ he made many incredible escapes from prison.
  - B ☐ his brother gave evidence against him.
  - C ☐ he stole large amounts of expensive cloth.
  - D ☐ he worked for Jonathan Wild.
  
- 3 How did Jack Sheppard escape from prison when they put iron chains on his legs and handcuffs on his wrists?
  - A ☐ A friend of his came secretly into the prison and cut off the chains.
  - B ☐ He pulled so hard that his hands came out of the handcuffs.
  - C ☐ He found a key to the locks.
  - D ☐ He used a nail to open the locks.
  
- 4 What did Jack Sheppard ask his friends to do with his body after he was hanged?
  - A ☐ Take it back to his family.
  - B ☐ Bury it.
  - C ☐ Open a vein in his arm so that he would recover from the hanging.
  - D ☐ Burn it.



- 5 John Gow was happy about the mutiny on the *George Galley* because
- A ☐ he thought the food was terrible as well.
  - B ☐ he was tired of sailing and wanted to return home.
  - C ☐ he saw it as his chance to become a pirate.
  - D ☐ he hated the chief mate and the captain.
- 6 What did Gow do to Williams after Williams tried to kill him?
- A ☐ He sent him to the Orkney Islands where he would be hanged.
  - B ☐ He sent him back to London where he would be hanged.
  - C ☐ He put him in chains.
  - D ☐ He shot him.
- 7 Gow decided to sail his ship to the Orkney Islands because
- A ☐ he wanted to see his family
  - B ☐ he wanted to see his girlfriend.
  - C ☐ he knew he could sell the stolen goods there.
  - D ☐ his men forced him to sail there.
- 8 Jonathan Wild became a criminal because
- A ☐ he needed money to open a tavern.
  - B ☐ he met criminals when he was in prison.
  - C ☐ he met many criminals when he had a tavern in Cock Alley.
  - D ☐ he lost his job as a buckle maker.
- 9 Jonathan Wild helped his friends out of prison by
- A ☐ giving them evidence to give against other criminals.
  - B ☐ breaking into the prison himself.
  - C ☐ giving evidence that they were not guilty.
  - D ☐ paying money to the guards.

- 10 The authorities began searching for Jonathan Wild because
- A ☐ they knew he had stolen some lace.
  - B ☐ he helped the captain of his ship escape from the authorities.
  - C ☐ he had many friends who were thieves.
  - D ☐ he asked people for a fee in return for information about their stolen property.
- 11 Wild was not found guilty during his first trial because
- A ☐ he paid the witnesses to say that he did not steal the lace.
  - B ☐ his lawyer showed that he himself did not steal the lace in question.
  - C ☐ his men frightened the witnesses so they said that he did not steal the lace.
  - D ☐ he was not in London when the lace was stolen.
- 12 How was Wild finally sentenced to death?
- A ☐ A witness finally appeared who said that Wild stole the lace.
  - B ☐ He was sentenced for stealing other objects.
  - C ☐ A new law was made that said it was illegal to have secret dealings with criminals.
  - D ☐ A new law was made that said it was illegal to receive a fee for returning stolen goods.
- 13 Wild tried to escape his death sentence by
- A ☐ escaping from prison.
  - B ☐ saying he performed a service for society and by obtaining a royal pardon.
  - C ☐ paying the judge to change his mind.
  - D ☐ asking his important, influential friends to tell the judge that he was not really guilty.



- 14 What were Dick Turpin's first crimes?
- A ☐ smuggling
- B ☐ stealing animals
- C ☐ robbing houses
- D ☐ robbing people travelling the roads: he was a highwayman
- 15 How did Turpin meet the highwayman named King?
- A ☐ They met in a fight in a tavern.
- B ☐ King tried to rob Turpin.
- C ☐ Turpin tried to rob King.
- D ☐ They were in the same cell at Newgate.
- 16 Turpin was known as a gentleman because
- A ☐ he never robbed older people.
- B ☐ he complimented the young women he robbed.
- C ☐ he never robbed young women.
- D ☐ he only robbed from rich people.
- 17 Which of the following things did Turpin NOT do on the day of his execution?
- A ☐ He hid a knife in his pocket to try and escape.
- B ☐ He wore fine new clothes.
- C ☐ He paid five men to be his mourners.
- D ☐ He threw himself down from the execution ladder.

15. C 16. B 17. A

1. B 2. A 3. D 4. C 5. C 6. B 7. C 8. B 9. A 10. B 11. B 12. C 13. B 14. B

Key to Exit Test

This reader uses the **EXPANSIVE READING** approach, where the text becomes a springboard to improve language skills and to explore historical background, cultural connections and other topics suggested by the text.

The new structures introduced in this step of our **READING & TRAINING** series are listed below. Naturally, structures from lower steps are included too. For a complete list of structures used over all the six steps, see *The Black Cat Guide to Graded Readers*, which is also downloadable at no cost from our website, [www.blackcat-cideb.com](http://www.blackcat-cideb.com) or [www.cideb.it](http://www.cideb.it).

The vocabulary used at each step is carefully checked against vocabulary lists used for internationally recognised examinations.

## Step Four B2.1

All the structures used in the previous levels, plus the following:

### Verb tenses

Present Perfect Simple: *the first / second etc. time that ...*

Present Perfect Continuous: unfinished past with *for* or *since* (duration form)

### Verb forms and patterns

Passive forms: Present Perfect Simple

Reported speech introduced by precise reporting verbs (e.g. *suggest, promise, apologise*)

### Modal verbs

*Be / get used to + -ing*: habit formation

*Had better*: duty and warning

### Types of clause

3rd Conditional: *if + Past Perfect, would(n't) have*

Conditionals with *may / might*

Non-defining relative clauses with: *which, whose*

Clauses of concession: *even though; in spite of; despite*

## Available at Step Four:

- **American Horror** Edgar Allan Poe
- **Beowulf**
- **The Big Mistake and Other Stories** Nella Burnett-Stuart and Bruna Deriu
- **The Canterbury Tales** Geoffrey Chaucer
- **A Christmas Carol** Charles Dickens
- **Daisy Miller** Henry James
- **Dracula** Bram Stoker
- **Famous British Criminals from The Newgate Calendar**
- **Jack the Ripper** Peter Foreman
- **The Last of the Mohicans** James Fenimore Cooper
- **Macbeth** William Shakespeare
- **The Merchant of Venice** William Shakespeare
- **A Midsummer Night's Dream** William Shakespeare
- **Moby Dick** Herman Melville
- **The Moonstone** Wilkie Collins
- **Le Morte d'Arthur** Sir Thomas Malory
- **Much Ado About Nothing** William Shakespeare
- **Othello** William Shakespeare
- **The Secret Agent** Joseph Conrad
- **The Sign of Four** Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
- **A Study in Scarlet** Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
- **Tom Jones** Henry Fielding
- **The Tragedy of Dr Faustus** Christopher Marlowe
- **The Turn of the Screw** Henry James
- **The Valley of Fear** Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
- **Washington Square** Henry James
- **Wicked and Humorous Tales** Saki
- **The Woman in White** Wilkie Collins