# Heart of Darkness

Marlow, a merchant sailor, travels through colonial Africa. He makes a perilous journey by steamboat to rescue Kurtz, an agent, who is seriously ill. He arrives at Kurtz's station to find that the agent has taken control of the whole area. In his complete isolation from civilised society Kurtz has instituted a brutal system of human sacrifice and magic to enthral the natives.

- Wide range of activities practising the four skills
- FCE-style activities
- Trinity-style activities (Grade 8)
- Dossiers: Conrad and the Colonial Experience and Narrative Technique in 'Heart of Darkness'
- Internet project
- Text recorded in full
- Exit test with answer key





HEART OF DARANES

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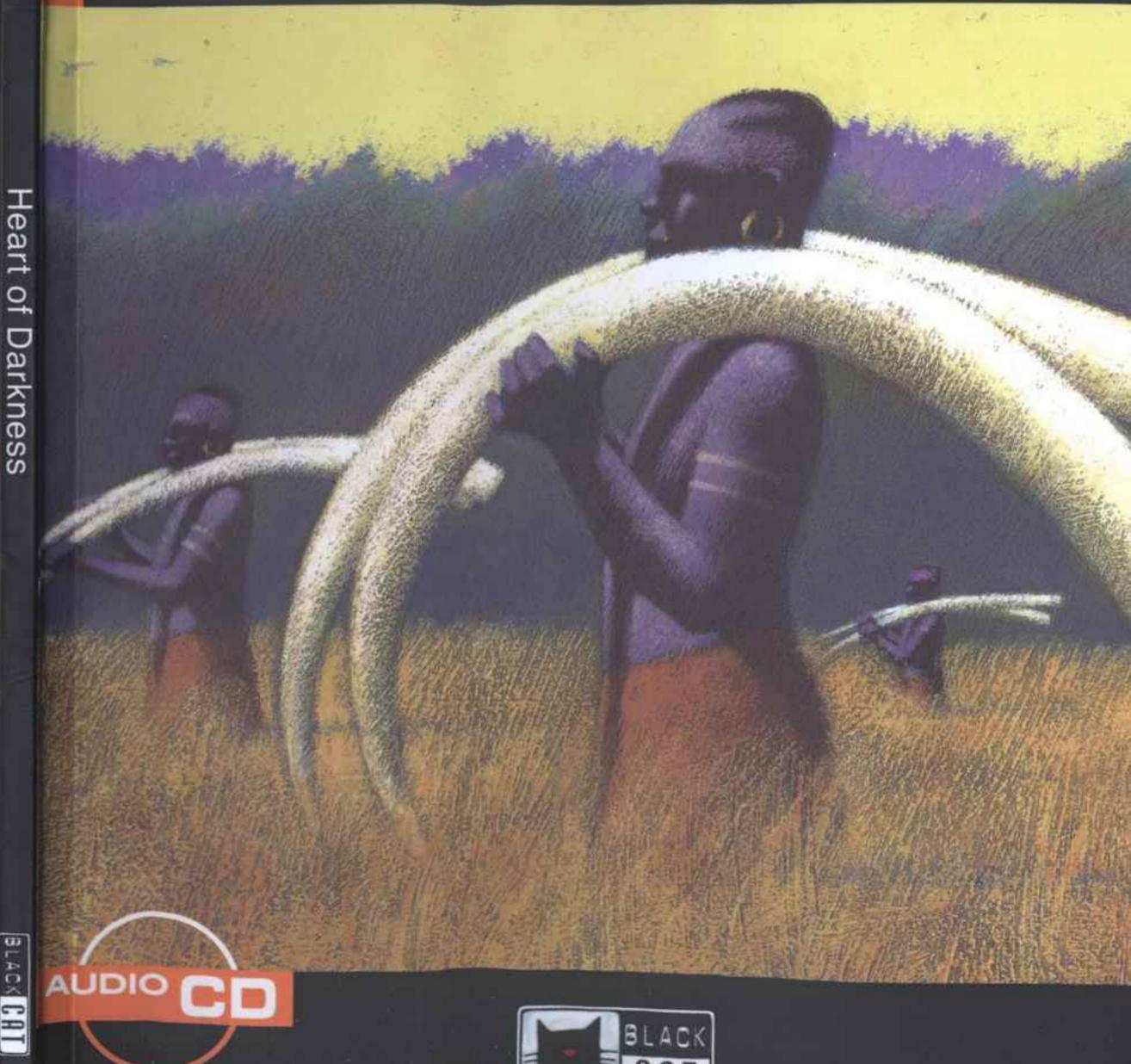


Joseph Conrad

READING & TRAINING

Joseph Conrad

# Heart of Darkness





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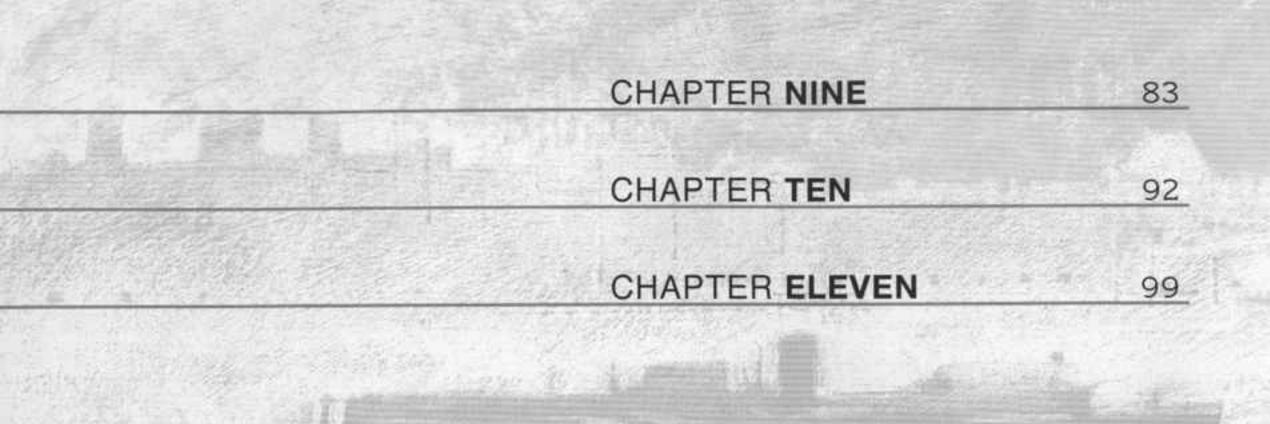
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**Dossiers** Conrad and the Colonial Experience
Narrative Technique in *Heart of Darkness* 79

INTERNET PROJECT

107

ACTIVITIES

7, 14, 24, 32, 39, 45, 52, 61, 69,

76, 81, 88, 96, 103

EXIT TEST

108

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111



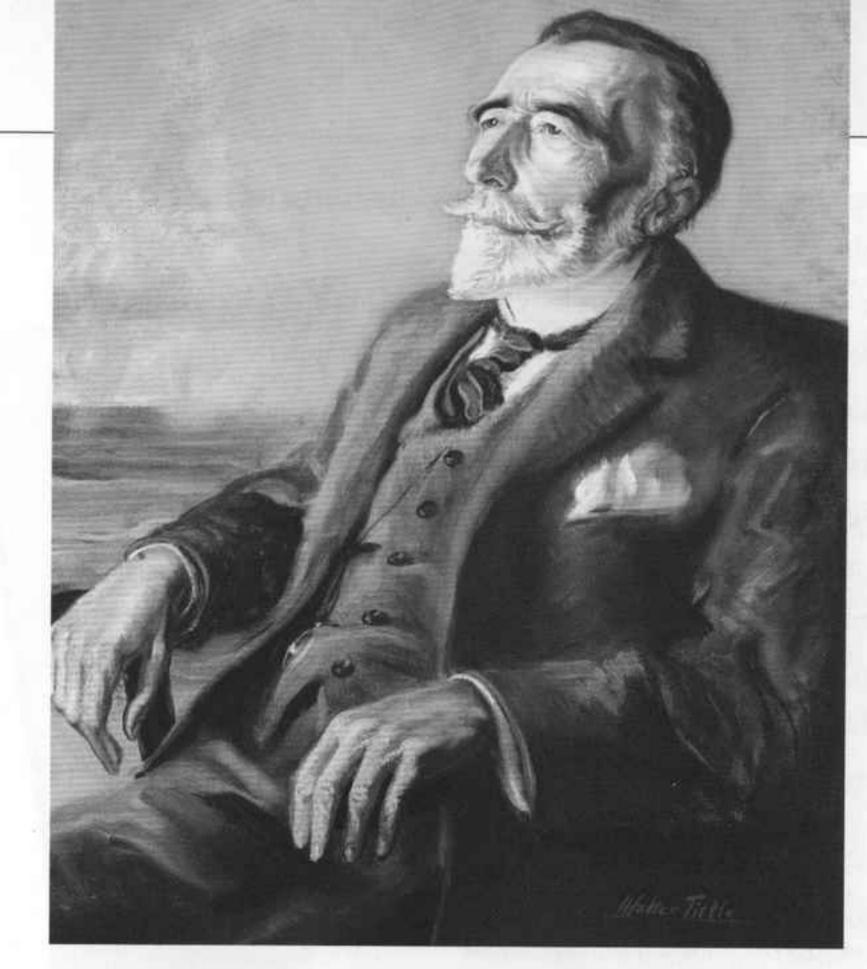
First Certificate in English Examination-style exercises

T: GRADE 8 Trinity-style exercises (Grade 8)

This story is recorded in full.

END

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



Joseph Conrad by Walter Tittle.

## Joseph Conrad

Joseph Conrad was born in the Russian-controlled part of Poland in 1857. His father and mother were both involved in the Polish struggle for independence. His father was a poet and translator and was arrested in 1861 for political conspiracy. As a result of this, the family was eventually exiled to Vologda in Russia. His parents died when Joseph Conrad was a boy, and he was brought up by an uncle. Conrad left Poland in 1874 and settled in France, where he became a trainee seaman for the French merchant service. He joined the British merchant navy in 1878, and followed the career of a professional



seaman for the next 20 years. He became a British citizen in 1886, and married in 1896.

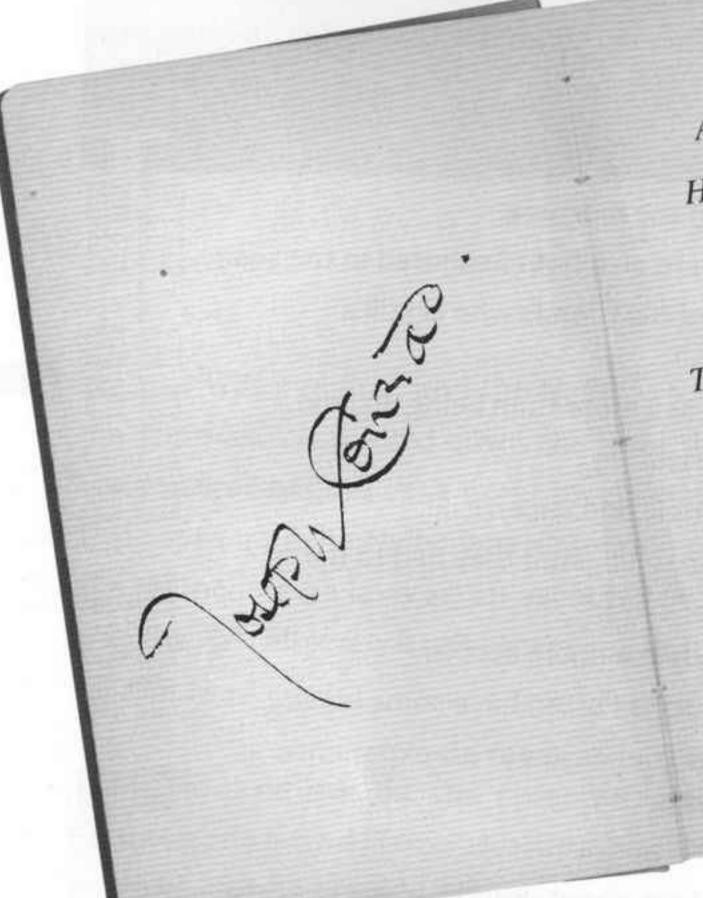
Conrad wrote in English although it was not his first language. He had only started learning it when he was a young man.

The subject matter of Conrad's fiction deals with the sea, colonialism and politics. He made use of complex narrative techniques – a prose style that reflects the complex reality he saw. He worked together with Ford Madox Ford on what they called the 'impressionistic' technique of novel writing. He is regarded by critics as a forerunner of Modernism, both because of the technical experimentation of his work, and also because of his detached and ironical attitude to history and progress.



Conrad in 1923 on the Tuscania, with Captain Bone and his brother.

#### Conrad's best-known works include:



Almayer's Folly, 1895

Heart of Darkness, 1899

Lord Jim, 1900

Nostromo, 1904

The Mirror of the Sea, 1906

The Secret Agent, 1907

The Secret Agent, 1907

Under Western Eyes, 1911

Chance, 1914

The Shadow-Line, 1917

#### 1 Comprehension check Answer the following questions.

- 1 Where was Joseph Conrad born?
- 2 What did his father do?
- 3 Why was his father arrested?
- 4 What do Conrad's books talk about?
- 5 What famous writer did Conrad work with?
- 6 Why is Conrad considered a forerunner of Modernism?

#### ACTIVITIES

#### Before you read

(2)	0	Listen	ing
-----	---	--------	-----

Listen to the first part of Chapter One and say whether the following statements are true (T) or false (F).

1	The story begins early in the morning.	
2	Marlow and his friends are on a boat anchored in the sea.	
3	Marlow is the only one of his friends who is still a professional sailor.	
4	Marlow enjoys being at sea more than being on land.	
5	Marlow likes telling stories.	
6	Marlow's stories are simple and superficial.	
7	When the Romans came to England they had to fight against savages.	
8	Marlow considers conquest a noble action.	
9	Marlow says that conquerors often have some ideal.	
10	Marlow wants to tell his friends about his experience sailing along a great river.	
No	ow read the beginning of the chapter and correct the false o	nes.
••••		



t was evening, and the *Nellie*, a yawl, <sup>1</sup> was anchored in the Thames. We looked down the river that flowed to the sea. London was behind us, a great black shape.

The captain of the *Nellie* was a company director. The other guests included a lawyer, an accountant, myself — and of course Marlow. We all knew each other well, and we all shared a passion for the sea.

We looked out on the river and remembered its history. Famous men and famous ships had sailed out from here to perform famous deeds. <sup>2</sup> They had sailed out to fight in battles, to conquer other countries, and make fortunes. The Thames had carried men to the places of their dreams, and it had carried men who were inspired by greed.

'This has been a dark place 3 as well,' Marlow said suddenly.

Marlow was the only one of us who was still a professional sailor. He was like a lot of sailors in some ways. He liked telling stories, and he was more comfortable at sea than on land. He

- 1. yawl [jo:l]: sailing ship with two masts.
- 2. deeds: actions.
- dark place: Marlow is comparing London to Africa, which was regarded as the 'dark continent' in Victorian England.

was also unlike most sailors in some ways. Marlow's stories were not simple tales. He did not just describe exciting events. He tried to understand the people in his stories, and the places where the stories had taken place.

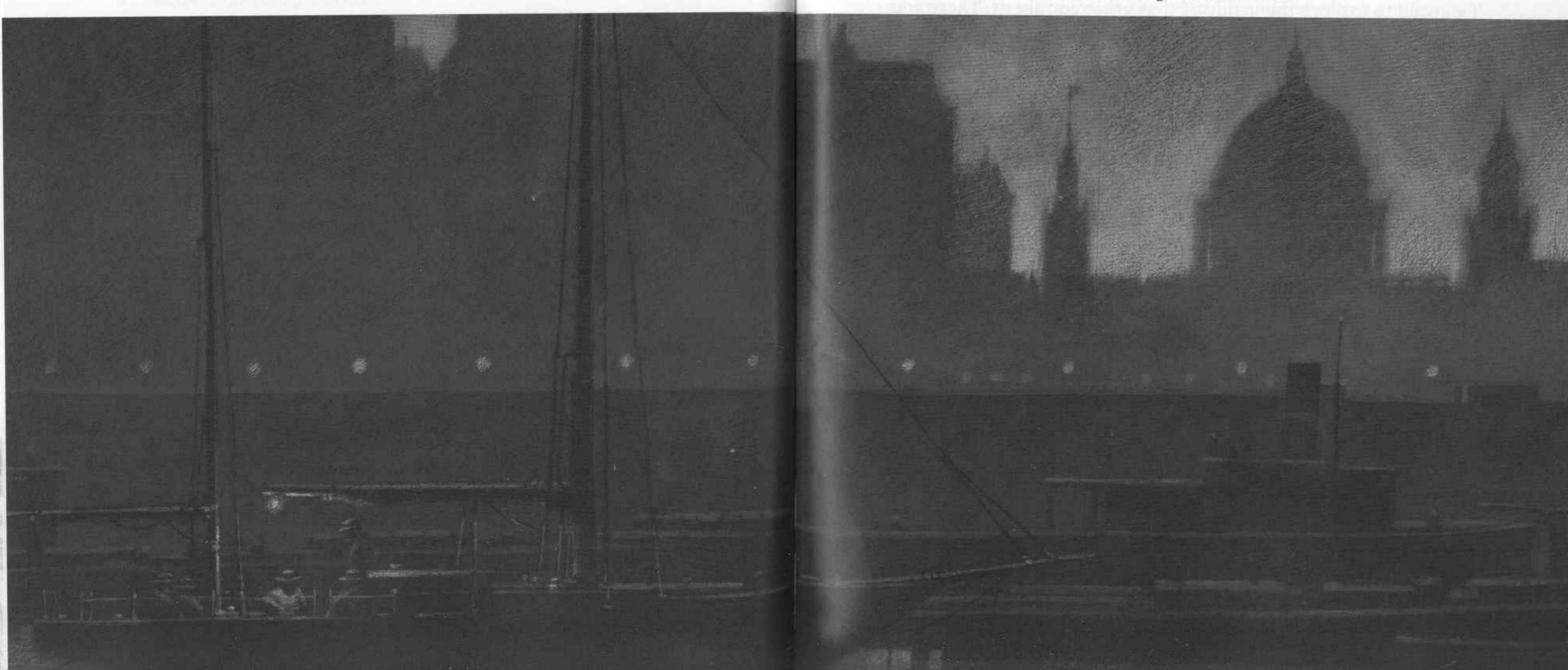
No one was surprised at Marlow's remark. We did not say anything. We waited for him to continue. There was a silence on the Nellie for a few moments, and then Marlow went on.

'I was thinking of the Romans,' he said softly, 'when they first sailed up this river. It was a dark place then, you can be sure of that — a dark, frightening place full of forests and dangerous savages. And they conquered it, the Romans did. Conquest is an ugly thing when you really consider it. It means strong men killing and robbing weak men. Of course, conquerors don't see it like that. They usually have some idea, some ideal as well...'

He paused for a moment.

'I once sailed along a great river,' he reminded us. 'It was an

1. savages: Marlow is referring to the Celts here.



important experience for me,' he said. 'I'd better tell you how it all happened.'

Then we knew that Marlow had a story for us. We lay back in our chairs and prepared to listen to him.



'It was after I got back from the East,' he said. 'I was here in England, and I had nothing to do. I used to come and see you fellows,' he said affectionately, 'and I expect I was a nuisance. 'I You were all busy, and I had nothing to do — nothing at all.

'I had the idea that I wanted to go to Africa,' Marlow went on.
'I wanted to explore the inside of that great continent. There was one huge river there that I wanted to see. I knew that there was a continental company that had trading posts 2 along that river. I decided to find a job with that company.

'In the end I was successful. I got the job. I have relatives who live on the continent, you see, and I asked them to use their influence with the company. It was my aunt who got me the job. One of the company's men had been killed out there, you see. They needed another man to replace him.

'I had to go to Brussels to sign the contract for the job. Everything went smoothly <sup>3</sup> out there in the company's offices, although they were grim <sup>4</sup> and depressing. Then I went to see the company doctor for a medical examination. It was a mere formality, you understand. They had to be sure that I was strong and fit.

'The company doctor was an old man. He felt my pulse. He wanted to know if there was any history of madness in my

- 1. a nuisance [nju:səns] : annoying.
- trading posts: trading stations.
- 3. smoothly: without any difficulty.
- 4. grim: ugly.

family. I thought the question was an odd one. Then he asked if he could measure my head. <sup>1</sup> I was surprised by the question, but I gave him my permission. He measured it carefully, and wrote the measurements down in his notebook.

"I always ask the men who are going out there to let me measure their heads," he explained.

"Do you measure them when they come back?" I asked him.

'For a moment he looked surprised.

"I never see them," he told me. "And then, the important changes take place inside the head," he added with a smile.

'Then he asked me some more questions. He told me he was interested in what happened to people's minds when they went "out there". I remember he gave me some rather odd advice.

"Don't let yourself become angry when you're out there," he warned me. "Anger is more dangerous than the sun out there. Try to remember that, young man."

'And that was it. I had the job. I left the company offices.

'Then I went to thank my aunt for the trouble she had taken to help me with the company. She was very kind to me. She had the idea that I was going to Africa to help civilisation, and all that sort of thing. She was enthusiastic about that. A lot of people were, in those days. I reminded her that the company was a trading business — it was interested in profit. My aunt was still enthusiastic about what I was doing. She imagined that I was some kind of apostle 2 for civilisation.

'Civilisation and profit!'

- measure my head: reference to phrenology, according to which the shape of the head indicates an individual's mental state and tendency to commit crime.
- apostle: ironic, satirising the almost religious enthusiasm for trade that was a feature of imperialism.

#### Go back to the text

#### 1 Comprehension check Answer the following questions.

- 1 Where is the Nellie anchored?
- 2 What was the job of the captain of the Nellie?
- 3 Why is the Thames important in history?
- 4 How was Marlow different from the other men on the Nellie?
- 5 How was Marlow like other sailors?
- 6 What does 'conquest' mean in Marlow's opinion?
- 7 What was Britain like when the Romans first came there?
- 8 How do conquerors see conquest?

#### FCE 2

#### E 2 Historical background

You are going to read an extract of a text. For questions 1-5, choose the correct answer, A, B, C or D.

#### What the Celts thought of the Romans

In AD 84 the Roman general Agricola fought the Celts of Caledonia (Scotland) at Mons Graupius. Agricola's son-in-law, the famous historian Tacitus, wrote an account of this battle. Interestingly, Tacitus also reports the speech (which he himself probably invented) that the Celtic leader Galgacus made to his army before the battle. Galgacus's speech is one of the most famous indictments <sup>1</sup> of imperialism in history, and Conrad most certainly had it in mind while writing the section which you have just read.

We who live in the north of Britain in Caledonia have felt protected until now because we live so far north. But now the Romans have arrived here and to the north is the sea and rocks and more terrible Romans with their ships.

The Romans are the robbers of the world who have taken everything from the land and sea. If their enemies are rich, then they steal; if they are poor, then they desire to dominate them. Neither the east nor the west of the world has been able to satisfy them. Alone among the men of the world they desire to conquer both poor peoples and rich peoples. They give this robbery and killing the lying name of empire; they destroy everything creating desolation and they call this desolation peace.

indictments [indaitments]: accusations.

For every man his children and family are the dearest things in his life. And yet they are taken away from us to be slaves elsewhere. Our goods and fortunes are collected as taxes and we grow grain for them. We are insulted and beaten, and they make us cut down forests for them.

Remember that in this battle they will kill us all if they win because here in Caledonia we have no farms, harbours or mines to work and so they have no need of us as slaves. Also our courageous nature and valour are offensive to the Romans. So, since you cannot hope to live if we lose this battle, I implore you to fight as best as you can, whether it is for the safety of your family or for fame.

Do you think the Romans will be as brave in war as they are ferocious in peace? Until now, the Romans have been able to conquer other Celts in Britain because we fight among ourselves. They have even had the help of the Gauls <sup>1</sup> and some Britons. <sup>2</sup> But the Britons have been Rome's enemies longer than they have been Rome's allies. They do not stay with Rome because of love or fidelity. They stay with Rome out of fear and terror. But fear and terror are not strong forms of attachment; take them away, and those who have stopped fearing will begin to hate. Then Rome's present British allies will become our allies.

But we have more reasons to want victory than they do. The Romans have no wives to excite their courage and no parents who will make fun of them if they run away from the battle in fright. There are few of them, and they are afraid and confused because here the sky, sea and forests that surround them are all dark, unfamiliar and frightening. Their country and families are far away. Do not be afraid of all their wealth, their shining gold and silver, which will neither protect them nor hurt you.

In this battle you can eliminate the slavery that the Romans have brought here. Think, therefore, as you advance to battle, of your ancestors and of your descendants.

- Gauls: natives of an ancient region of Europe, including France, Belgium, etc. (probably of Celtic origin).
- 2. Britons: people of southern Britain before and during Roman times.

Why had the Celts of Scotland felt safe from Roman invasion?				
Α	Because they knew that they were braver than the Romans.			
В	Because they lived far away from England.			
С	Because the Romans only conquered lands with rich mines and good harbours.			
D	Because the Romans could not use the Celts of Caledonia			

as slaves.

2	W	ny does Galgacus say that there is no one else like the Romans?
	Α	Because they destroy everything in a land and then call this war.
	В	Because they kill and rob people and then call this fun.
	С	Because they are the only conquerors who have arrived in Caledonia.
	D	Because they desire to conquer both poor and rich peoples.
3	W	nat is the most valuable thing for men?
	Α	Gold.
	В	Mines.
	С	Their families and children.
	D	A safe place to live.
4	W	ny will the Romans kill all the Celts if they win the battle?
	Α	Because they are afraid that the Celts of Caledonia will become allies of the Britons.
	В	Because the Romans do not want enemies in Caledonia.
	С	Because Caledonia has no farms or mines which need slaves.
	D	Because they already have enough slaves in England.
5	Wł	ny are the Britons bad allies of the Romans?
	A	Because they are Celts.
	В	Because they help the Romans only because they are afraid of them.
	С	Because they are better soldiers than the Romans.
	D	Because they help the Romans only because they want their gold and silver.
6	Но	w will their wives help the Caledonians in battle?
	Α	They will inspire them to be courageous.
	В	They will throw rocks at the Romans.
	С	They will make fun of the Romans.
	D	They will make fun of the Caledonian soldiers who try to run away from the battle.

#### 3 Discuss

Answer the following questions.

- 1 What parts of Galgacus's speech are similar to what Marlow says about empire?
- 2 Why do you think Conrad chose to compare Europe's conquest of Africa with Rome's conquest of Celtic Britain?

#### 'I'd better tell you how it all happened'

Look at this sentence: I had better tell you how it all happened. It means: It is advisable to tell you. If I don't, there will be a problem or a danger.

The negative is: I had better **not** tell you how it all happened. In spoken English we generally use the contracted form: **I'd** better tell you how it all happened. **I'd** better **not** tell you how it all happened. Look at these examples:

I have to meet Ann in ten minutes. I'd better go now or I'll be late. We'd better stop driving soon. I'm so tired that I am falling asleep.

#### 4 Had better

Respond to the statements below using 'had better' or 'had better not' and the verb given.

Example: I've had a bad sore throat and fever for three days. (call)
You'd better call a doctor.

- 1 There are already two litres of milk for breakfast tomorrow. (buy)
- 2 I have an English test in five days but I don't feel prepared. (study)
- 3 Look at all those dirty dishes; my mother is going to be really angry when she sees them. (wash)
- 4 My car keeps making a strange noise. (take)
- 5 Coffee makes me nervous and keeps me awake at night. (drink)
- 6 It is very cold today. (wear)
- 7 You plan to go to a restaurant this evening. It is a very popular restaurant. (reserve)
- 8 Sally doesn't look very well not well enough to go to school. (go)
- 9 That plant looks like it is dying. (water)

#### Before you read

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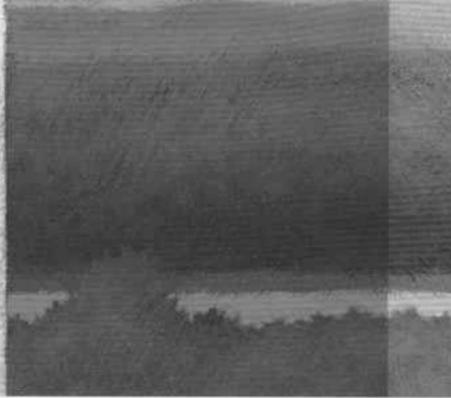
#### 1 Listening



You will hear the first part of Chapter Two. For questions 1-6, choose the best answer, A, B or C.

1	What	was the nationality of the boat that took Marlow to Africa?
	A	British
	В	French
	С	German
2	What	was the French warship doing?
	A	waiting at a trading post
	В	entering a great river
	С	shooting into the jungle
3	Why v	were the black company workers lying on the ground?
	A	They were ill and near to death.
	В	They were ill and waiting for the doctor.
	С	They were resting before they started work again.
4	Who	was the first white man that Marlow saw?
	A	a customs officer
	В	the manager
	С	the company accountant
5	How v	was this white man dressed?
	A	He wore dirty white trousers and a white shirt.
	В	He wore dirty black trousers and a clean white shirt.
	С	He wore perfectly white trousers and shirt.
6	What	did Marlow do the next day?
i	Α [	He travelled away from the trading post.
	В	He walked two hundred and twenty miles in one day.
	C	He travelled two hundred miles on the steamer.





#### CHAPTER TWO

'We stopped at every port on the way to land soldiers and customs officers. I watched the coast as we sailed along. I could see the beginnings of the huge jungle. Sometimes I saw a trading post — a small collection of huts flying a flag. It went on like that for days.

'We stopped. The soldiers and customs officers got off, and then we sailed away.

'Once we passed a French warship anchored near the coast. She was firing all her guns into the jungle. Imagine firing a gun into that mass of jungle. Someone said they were firing at their enemies, hidden out of sight somewhere. Nothing happened at all. There was something mad about it, something strange and useless.

'At last we came to the mouth of the great river. <sup>2</sup> My boat was waiting for me two hundred miles up the river.

'The first company trading post that I saw was a depressing place. There were pieces of ruined machines lying on the ground. There was a group of African prisoners working there. They were tied together with chains, and they looked weak and ill. I walked

<sup>1.</sup> steamer: boat powered by steam.

<sup>2.</sup> mouth of the river: where the river joins the sea.

around until I came to a large hole in the ground. There was more broken machinery lying here. I looked at it, and listened to the river that was nearby. Then I heard an explosion. The company was excavating near the river. Every few minutes there was another explosion.

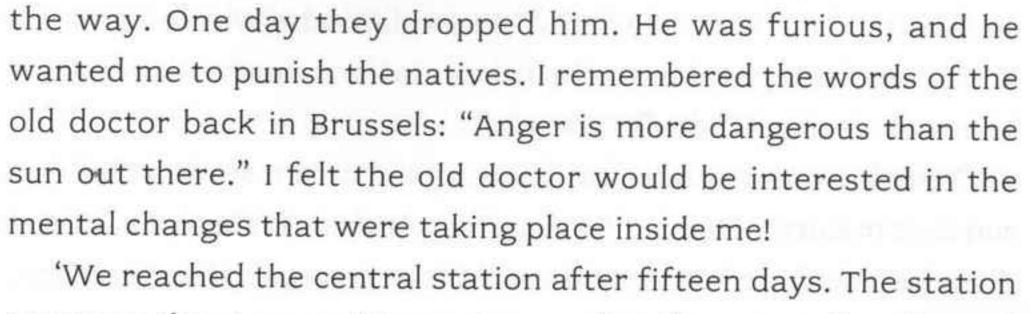
'I walked on. There were black bodies lying on the ground all around me. They were company workers — the ones who had fallen ill and were going to die. They lay on the ground waiting for the end to come. No one helped them. It was horrible.

'I walked back to the company trading post as quickly as I could. The first white man I saw was very smartly dressed. He wore white trousers, and his white shirt was ironed and starched. He looked as if he worked in a big city somewhere, not in this terrible place. He was the company accountant, he told me. I admired him for the effort he made. His work was good, too. His accounts were in proper order, just like his appearance.

'It was the accountant who first mentioned Kurtz.

"You'll meet him when you go into the interior," he told me. "Mr Kurtz is a remarkable person," he added. "He'll go far with the company. The Council in Europe 2 know all about him. They want him to succeed."

'I left the trading post the next day. We travelled on foot for the next two hundred miles. It was a hard journey. We walked along the jungle paths without seeing anyone else. Sometimes we came to a native village, but it was always empty. The villages were abandoned. Some of the carriers 3 with us died on the



journey. There was a white man travelling with me. He was a

heavy man, and he fell ill. The natives had to carry him most of

'We reached the central station after fifteen days. The station was near the river, and I saw at once that there was disorder and confusion here as well. There was a big gap in the fence around the station. A man approached me and asked who I was. Then he told me the steamer I had to command was at the bottom of the river. I was astonished and asked what had happened. The man tried to reassure me.

"Everything's all right," he told me. "Everyone behaved splendidly. You must go and speak to the manager — he's waiting to see you."

'I assumed the steamer had sunk as the result of some accident. I did not think there might be other, more sinister reasons for what had happened. I'm not even sure now, so many years later, what the truth of it was.

'The manager did not make a good impression on me. He was quite a stupid man, and obviously no good at running the station which I could see from the condition of the place. He was successful in his job because he never fell ill. Other men could not survive the heat and the poor diet — but that had no effect on him at all. When they left Africa, or when they died, the manager simply took over their jobs.

<sup>1.</sup> starched: made very stiff with chemicals.

<sup>2.</sup> Council in Europe: the company's board of directors.

<sup>3.</sup> carriers: (here) natives who carry equipment.

'He told me that he was in a hurry to make the journey upriver.

"Things are bad up there," he explained. "We don't really know what's happening to the other stations up there. We don't know who's alive and who's dead."

'Then he went on to tell me about an important station that was run by Mr Kurtz. He said he was "very uneasy" about Mr Kurtz. Then he asked me how long it would take to repair the steamer.

'I was tired after the fifteen-day journey into this place, and I was annoyed with the manager and his talk.

"How can I tell how long the work on the steamer will take?" I demanded irritably. "I haven't even seen her 1 yet!" Then I made a quick calculation. "It's bound 2 to be a couple of months at least," I told him.

'The manager was silent for a moment.

"A couple of months," he said. "Let's say three months before we can go up-river, to be sure."

 her: refers to the steamer — ships and boats are always referred to as 'she'.



#### Go back to the text

- 1 Comprehension check Answer the following questions.
  - 1 What did Marlow think about what the French warship was doing?
  - 2 Why did Marlow admire the accountant?
  - 3 Why did the accountant say the following about Kurtz: 'He'll go far with the company'?
  - 4 Why did the heavy man become furious with the carriers?
  - 5 What had the doctor in Brussels said was more dangerous than the sun?
  - 6 What was the central station like?
  - 7 Why was the manager so successful?
  - 8 Why was the manager in a hurry to send Marlow up the river?
- 2 Strange and useless

The French warship firing its guns into the jungle at some unknown enemy is one of the most famous images in *Heart of Darkness*. What is Conrad trying to tell us about the European presence in Africa with this image? Discuss the following possible explanations.

- That the Europeans did not understand the real dangers they faced in Africa, and that their usual ways of acting could not help them there.
- That the Europeans had effective weapons which allowed them to conquer Africa and to exploit it as they wanted.
- That Marlow did not understand that the Europeans really wanted to conquer Africa and not to bring civilisation there.
- That Marlow finally understood the danger of being in Africa and that the Africans were not really his friends.
- 3 What is strange or a bit surreal about the accountant?
- 4 Why do you think the doctor says that anger is more dangerous than the sun?

#### 'The manager simply took over their jobs'

Look at the following phrasal verbs with 'over' and their definitions:

- A to take over = to begin to do something or operate something in place of somebody else
- B to get over = i. to recover from an illness or bad experience ii. to overcome a difficulty
- C to look over = to examine or inspect something
- D to run over = i. to examine something again, especially the principal points
  - ii. to hit something or somebody with a vehicle (a car, lorry, etc.) while driving it

#### 5 Phrasal verbs with 'over'

Now fill in the gaps in the following sentences with 'take', 'get', 'look' or 'run' conjugated in the correct tense.

Example: Jane was very sad because somebody .....ran over her cat with a car and killed it.

- I know that we talked about it yesterday, but let's ................ over our travel plans so that everything is perfectly clear.
- 2 Have you ..... over the flu or are you still ill?
- 3 I ..... over the boat and discovered that it had several holes in it.
- 4 Mr Harris ...... over the presidency of the company when Mr Billingsworth died.
- 5 The bus ..... over the man, but fortunately it only broke his foot.
- 6 Hillary sits in her room all day. She hasn't ...... over her failed love affair yet.
- 7 He ...... over my report on Mr Kurtz and then made several comments.
- 8 If Mr Sweeney is not well you can ...... over the command of the ship.
- 9 Jack ..... over the disappointment of failing his exam.

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

#### Before you read

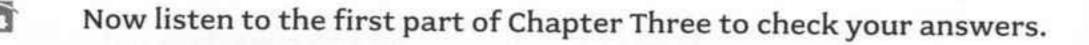
1 Discuss

Ivory, calico, cotton prints and beads are all mentioned at the beginning of Chapter Three. Why do you think these products were important a) to Marlow and his men b) the natives?

FÇE (	2	Fill	in	the	gaps
-			-7310	Sinteren	0-1-

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).

'I began work (0) the steamer as soon as I could.  First we had to raise her from the bottom of the river, and she came  (1) full of mud and filth. Then I had to inspect the damage  (2) was considerable.	
'Life at the station went (3)	
'(9) evening there was a fire at the station. A hut full of calico, cotton prints and beads suddenly burst (10)	n
'I spoke to them. The manager greeted me politely, and (13)	





began work on the steamer as soon as I could. First we had to raise 1 her from the bottom of the river, and she came up full of mud and filth. 2 Then I had to inspect the damage, which was considerable.

'Life at the station went on as usual while I was working. There were always a lot of people wandering about, <sup>3</sup> but no one seemed to do much. Sometimes I heard the word "ivory", and that word did cause excitement. Men became excited at the word "ivory". It was almost a religion for some of them.

'One evening there was a fire at the station. A hut full of calico, cotton prints and beads suddenly burst into flames. I walked towards the hut in the darkness. There were two men in front of me talking. One of them was the manager. I heard one of them say "Kurtz", and then the manager said, "take advantage of this accident".

'I spoke to them. The manager greeted me politely, and then he walked away. The other man was an agent. He was young, and clearly a gentleman. We spoke for a while and then he asked me to come to his room for a drink. I accepted the invitation.

- 1. raise: lift.
- 2. filth : dirt.
- 3. wandering about : walking with no real purpose.

'The young agent talked quite a lot that evening. He told me that he was waiting here at the station. He really wanted a station of his own. He told me station managers could make a lot of money out of ivory. That was what he wanted.

'He kept talking about the Council in Europe. As he was talking, I looked around the room. There was a fine painting on the wall. It was a picture of Liberty — the woman was blindfolded <sup>1</sup> and carrying a torch. I asked him who the artist was.

"Mr Kurtz," he told me.

'I had heard the name "Kurtz" several times now, and I was curious to learn about him.

"Who is this Mr Kurtz?" I asked him.

"He's the chief of the inner station," the young agent told me.

"He's a brilliant man. He represents compassion, and science,
and progress. He was sent to us from Europe," he went on.

"Apparently he can teach us all what we should be doing."

'He spoke sneeringly 2 now.

"In two years' time Mr Kurtz will be a great man here. You know all about that, of course, with your contacts in the Council. You're part of the new team — the team of virtue!"

'It was then that I understood. The young man thought I knew everything about the company. He thought I was important. I decided to tease 3 him a little.

"You know a lot about the company's intentions," I said sternly. 4 "I suppose you read all the company's correspondence?"

- 1. blindfolded: wearing a length of cloth around the head to cover the eyes.
- sneeringly: in a contemptuous way.
- 3. tease: make fun of.
- sternly: very seriously.

'He did not reply. He did not need to reply. The answer was obvious.

"When Mr Kurtz is in charge, you won't read any more private correspondence," I told him.

'We went outside for a walk. The young agent was silent for a few minutes. He was clearly thinking what he should say to me.

"I'don't want you to misunderstand me," he said after a silence. "You'll be seeing Mr Kurtz soon, and I don't want you to give him a false idea about me."

'Now I understood everything! The young agent had been hoping to work with the manager here. They got along together, <sup>1</sup> and life would have been comfortable for both of them if Mr Kurtz had not arrived. But his presence had upset everything <sup>2</sup> for both of them. They felt threatened by him.

'While the agent was talking to me I was looking at the jungle around us. The moon was shining on the great river, and the country seemed huge. What were we all doing here? Could we hope to control that vastness? I thought of Mr Kurtz — he was deep inside the country somewhere.

'Then I made a decision. I did not know Mr Kurtz; he was just a name to me. But I decided to let the agent think I was an important man with contacts back in Brussels. I thought it would help Mr Kurtz, you see.

'Now the agent was telling me that Mr Kurtz was a genius.

"But even a genius needs ordinary men around him," he argued. "You can see that, can't you?"

"I can see it," I agreed.

- 1. got along together : understood each other.
- 2. upset everything: disorganised their plans.

'Then I told him that what I really wanted were rivets. <sup>1</sup> They were essential for repairing the steamer. I knew there were lots of rivets at the station on the coast. I had seen boxes of them lying around. But here, in the middle of this jungle, there were no rivets.

'The agent listened to me coldly. He said that he knew nothing about rivets.

"I just obey my orders," he told me.

'I thought that meant he would order rivets for me, because he imagined I was an important man in the company. I thought I had won a victory — but I had misunderstood the man. He meant that he only obeyed the manager's orders — and the manager

1. rivets: short metal pins for repairing sheets of metal.

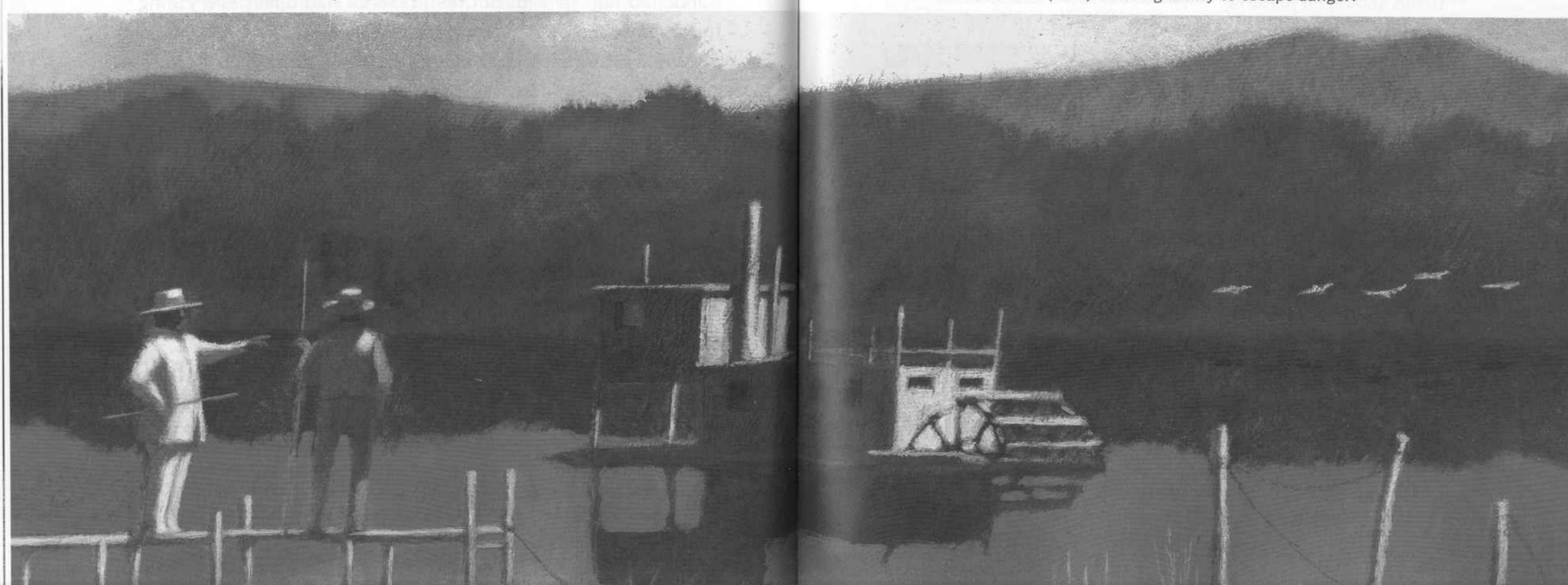
did not want the steamer to be repaired quickly.

'Then he began to talk about a hippopotamus that lived near the river. He asked me if I was frightened of the animal when I slept out on the steamer. He said the men had tried to shoot it several times, but had never succeeded.

"That animal has a charmed life," 1 he told me. Then he gave me a significant look. "Only animals have a charmed life here in Africa. Human beings do not. Do you understand me?"

'The agent looked at me silently for a few seconds more, and then he went away.'

charmed life: (here) amazing ability to escape danger.



#### Go back to the text

Comprehension check

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

		T	F
1	The steamer was in very bad condition.		
2	People worked a lot at the station.		
3	Ivory was very important for the men at the station.		
4	Mr Kurtz was the chief of the inner station.		
5	The agent did not read the company letters.		
6	The agent wanted to become a manager so that he could work with Kurtz.		
7	The agent was worried that Marlow wanted to say bad things about him to Kurtz.		
8	The manager wanted the steamer to be repaired as soon as possible.		
9	Marlow wished to help Kurtz.		

#### 2 Writing

Marlow never tells us clearly about Mr Kurtz and his relationship with the company. Still, he gives us many elements from which we can draw our own conclusions. Pretend you are Marlow and write a short report to the European Council of the company in which you explain what the manager and the agent are really doing.

Comment on the following:

- The condition of the steamer you are supposed to take up the river
- Nobody helps you to get the rivets
- What the manager said after the hut burst into flames
- Mr Kurtz's ability to obtain ivory
- The agent's ambition
- The agent's attitude towards Kurtz

#### You can begin like this:

Dear Sirs of the Council
As you know I was hired to sail a steamer up the river to the inner station, but I have had great difficulty carrying out my mission.
Indeed I believe that there is something wrong here
I beg you to take all the necessary action to discover the truth.
Your humble servant
C. Marlow

'Life would have been comfortable if Mr Kurtz had not arrived'

Look at this example of the third conditional: If + had + past participle, would have + past participle If Mr Kurtz had not arrived, life would have been comfortable. The third conditional tells us about a situation in the past that is not real or that did not happen. In this case, the real situation is that: Mr Kurtz arrived and life is not comfortable.

#### 3 The third conditional

Match phrases from columns A and B to make third conditional sentences which make sense within the context. The 'if' clauses are all in column A. Use the negative where appropriate.

Example: If Marlow had had something to do, he would not have decided to go to Africa.

			В	
	2	Marlow/have/something	1	he/become
		to do	2	he/not dec
Š.		Marlow/be/unhealthy	3	he/not pas
4		heavy man/be/healthy		examination
)		natives/drop/him	4	natives/no
		manager/fall ill	5	he/not be/s
		managers/be able/to	6	agent/not
		make a lot of money		manager

- e/furious
- <del>cide/to go to Africa</del>
- ss/medical on
- ot carry/him
- successful in his job
- want/become a

#### Before you read

- 7/4	MIN 1	
-54	_	
	100	
	-0.	

1 Listening

FCE

Listen to Chapter Four until you reach the conversation between the manager of the station and his uncle. For questions 1-6, choose the best answer, A, B or C.

1	Why is the manager complaining?	
	A Because Kurtz does not send enough ivory.	
	B Because Marlow hasn't repaired the steamer.	
	C Because he is not used to receiving orders.	
2	Who is Mr Kurtz with?	
	A no one	
	B some pilgrims	
	C his agents	
3	How successful is Kurtz at obtaining ivory?	
	A He sends less than anybody else.	
	B He sends the most.	
	C He sends more or less the same as everybody	el
4	What does Kurtz do that nobody else has ever done?	
	A He runs the inner station well.	
	B He does not deliver the ivory himself.	
	C He delivers the ivory himself.	
5	Who are they talking about?	
	A Kurtz and the agent	
	B Marlow and Kurtz	
	C Kurtz	
6	What is Kurtz's condition?	
	A He is not very well.	
	B He is very depressed.	
	C He is quite healthy.	



CHAPTER FOUR

went back on board the steamer and talked to the boiler-maker. 1 We got along well together, and he was a good worker. "We'll get the rivets!" I told him.

"No!" he cried in great delight. "Rivets at last!"

**(5**)

'We were both so happy at the thought of having some real work to do that we began to dance around the deck like madmen. We made a lot of noise.

"In three weeks," I told him. "They'll arrive in about three weeks."

'But they did not arrive. Something else arrived instead. It was the Eldorado Expedition. This consisted of little groups of men who arrived at the station. There was always a white man in charge. He sat on a donkey and gave orders to the native carriers who accompanied him. Five little groups like that arrived. They were ivory hunters, and they were greedy for money. They knew nothing about Africa, and they cared nothing for African people. They just wanted ivory, and the money they could earn from it. They were like men on a pilgrimage -2 a pilgrimage for ivory.

- boiler-maker: somebody who works with or repairs heavy metal equipment.
- pilgrimage [pilgrimid3]: ironic; a pilgrim travels to the Holy Land or a religious shrine as a form of repentance for sins.

'One of the pilgrims was the station manager's uncle. He was a fat man. He looked dishonest and cunning. 1 He talked to no one except the manager.

'There were no rivets for our steamer. I watched the ivory hunters with disgust. I sometimes thought about Mr Kurtz. He, at least, had come to Africa with some moral idea to give him strength. I wondered if his moral ideas were as strong now as they had been at first.

'One evening I was lying on the deck of the steamer. Suddenly

1. cunning: clever in a dishonest way.

I heard two men talking — the manager and his uncle. I heard the manager complaining about something.

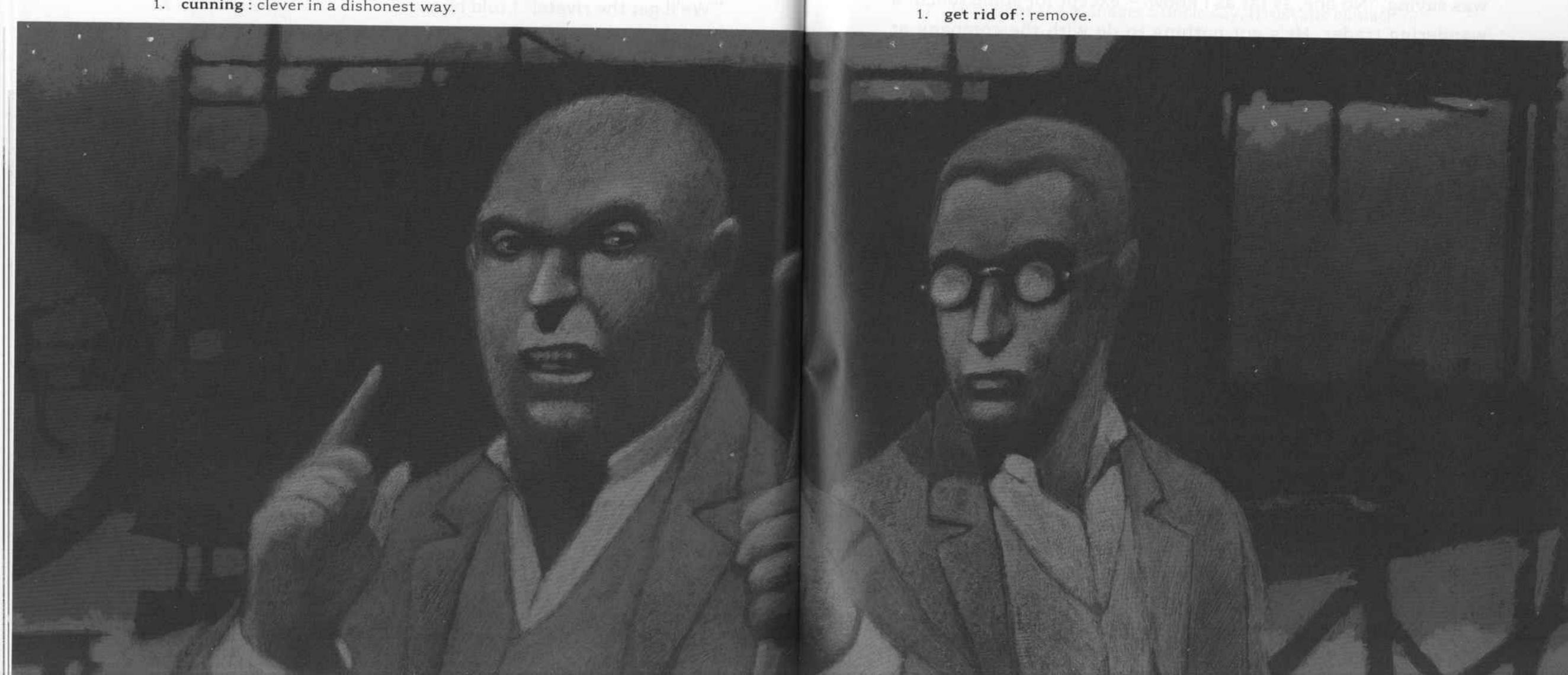
"I'm not a dangerous man, but I'm not used to being given orders. I'm the manager here, after all."

"Quite right," the uncle agreed. "It is unpleasant. But perhaps the climate will get rid of 1 him for you. He's alone out there, isn't he?"

'There was a pause, and then the uncle spoke again.

"What else?"

"He sends more ivory than anyone else," the manager replied.



#### **HEART OF DARKNESS**

"He doesn't come himself. He sends a clerk to deliver the ivory. Nobody's ever done that before!"

'I realised they were talking about Mr Kurtz. I began to listen very carefully to their conversation now.

"The clerk says that he's been very ill," the manager now said.

"You'll outlast 1 him," the fat man said. "You never get ill."

'They wandered away from the steamer, and I could not hear what they were saying. Then they wandered back again, and they seemed to be talking about something else. The manager was saying, "No one, as far as I know - except for some fool of a wandering trader. He's got nothing to do with the company at all. There won't be fair competition until we hang those fellows."

"Certainly," the uncle agreed. "Get him hanged. Why not, we can do anything in this country."

'Now they wandered away from the steamer again, and their voices became indistinct. When they came back I heard the manager talking:

"All these delays are not my fault."

"It's very sad," the uncle said with a deep sigh. "But a man alone out there - what chance has he got?" Then his voice became suddenly cheerful. "Trust the climate, my boy. That's what I say - trust the climate!"

'A few days later the Eldorado Expedition disappeared into the jungle. We heard, much later, that all of their donkeys died in the jungle. I didn't know what happened to the men and their ivory. I didn't ask. The rivets had arrived by then, and I was excited at the prospect of meeting Kurtz very soon.'

1. outlast: live longer than.

#### Go back to the text

- 1 Comprehension check Answer the following questions.
  - 1 Why did Marlow and the boiler-maker begin dancing around the deck?
  - 2 What was the Eldorado Expedition?
  - 3 · Who were the pilgrims? Why did Marlow call them that?
  - 4 Why will the manager outlast Kurtz?
  - 5 What difference does Marlow see between the pilgrims and Kurtz?
  - 6 Why does the uncle say that they can get Kurtz hanged?
  - 7 Why does the manager's uncle say, 'Trust the climate'?

#### 'Get him hanged'

Look at this: object past participle The manager got hanged. him This means that the manager did not hang him, but that the manager made the plans for someone else to hang him. Instead of 'get' (which is often used in spoken English) we often use 'have'. have + object + past participle The manager had him hanged.

#### 2 Get/have something done

Rewrite the following sentences using the structures 'get something done' and 'have something done'. Be careful of the tense changes.

Example:	The barber cut my hair last week.
	got my hair cut last week.
	I had my hair cut last week.

1	The executioner hanged Kurtz for the manager.						

'I'm not used to being given orders'

Look at this:

receive orders.

But:

I am used to being given orders = It is usual for me to receive orders (or, I am accustomed to receiving orders).

N.B.: The 'to' in this expression is actually a preposition and not part of an infinitive, and is followed by the ing-form of the verb.

Also: If you are not used to doing something you can become used to doing something.

In other words:

You get used to doing something.

I have got used to driving in Rome = I have become used to driving in Rome. Finally:

Do not confuse He is used to studying a lot with He used to study a lot! He used to study a lot = He studied a lot in the past but he doesn't anymore.

3 Be/get used to something

Complete the following sentences using the expressions 'be used to doing' or 'get used to doing' and the verb given. Write a negative or affirmative sentence according to the context.

Example: I know you don't like Julian, but you must get used to working with him. (work)

- My British friend ..... on the right because she has been living in the United States for five years. (drive)
- Bill ..... small children. He had five brothers who were all much younger than him. (look after)
- Marlow ...... He always worked very hard. (do nothing)
- 4 In Africa Marlow had to .... because the stations were so badly run. (do nothing)
- I have lived in London my whole life so I ..... ..... with a lot of noise. (sleep)
- Even though Susan has been a doctor for many years, she can't ...... (see her patients suffer)
- Sylvia comes from a small country town, but now she ..... in a big city like New York. (live)

# Conrad and the Colonial Experience

The British Empire expanded considerably during the Victorian Age. A quarter of the human race was subject to British control. Britain's wealth and international prestige had never been higher.

'Imperialism' was something that the Victorians accepted and were proud of. Contemporaries saw 'imperialism' as the source of wealth and power, but they also justified it because they thought Britain could contribute its values and civilisation to the countries it ruled. The idea that empire involved responsibilities as well as benefits was expressed by the writer Rudyard Kipling in his memorable phrase, 'the white man's burden'. <sup>1</sup>

Conrad's attitude to imperialism is more complex. He knew from bitter family experience what it felt like to be ruled by foreigners. His father had worked and suffered for the cause of Polish independence. Conrad's fiction examines what happens to men who establish themselves as rulers or traders in a foreign country.

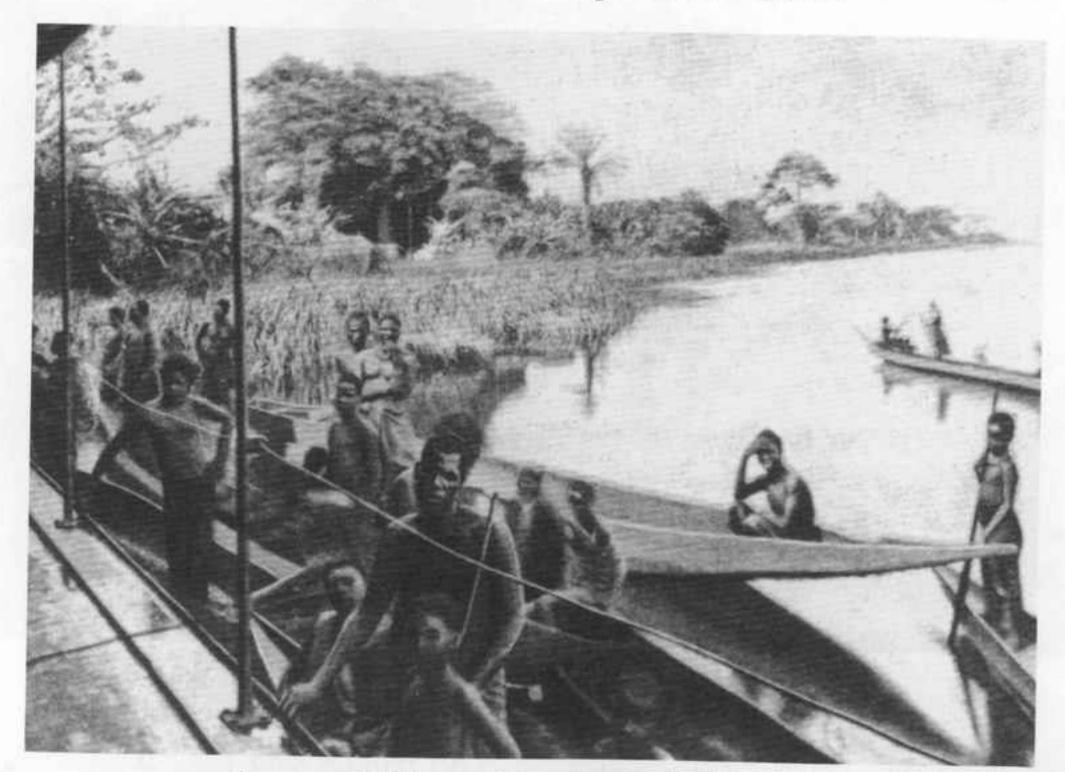
In 'An Outpost of Progress', for example, two men set up a trading station. They are ordinary men with no particular abilities or intelligence. They do not understand the people around them, and they make few efforts to understand them. They are convinced that they are superior to the 'natives' – and the 'natives' take full advantage of their ignorance and arrogance. The two men find themselves compromising their deepest moral values in order to keep the trading station open. They are disgusted with the life

burden: (here) responsibility.

around them, and with their own failure to control the strange environment. Finally they argue, and their argument results in their deaths.

'An Outpost of Progress' contains a very important argument that is repeated in *Heart of Darkness*. The two white men in the story believe that they have certain moral values that guide their behaviour, and that those moral values are part of their personal identities. Conrad disagrees. He thinks that the origins of beliefs and moral values are social rather than individual. Remove the individual from his society, and the individual's beliefs and moral values are also removed.

The characters in 'An Outpost of Progress' suffer this kind of removal from their own society. They discover that they have no strong beliefs or moral values, and their collapse is due to this.



A group of Africans visit a steamer in the Congo.

Heart of Darkness deals with the same problem, but Kurtz is unlike the two insignificant characters in 'An Outpost of Progress'. Kurtz is a man of huge intelligence and talent. He comes to Africa with definite ideas about the moral and intellectual contribution that Europeans should make to the country. He has thought deeply about the meaning of 'civilisation' and 'progress'.

Once again, though, isolation in the jungle changes him. There is no support for his grand ideas here. Instead there are temptations – power, wealth and desire. Kurtz gradually surrenders to the possibilities that are offered him. He learns, in what Conrad frequently calls 'the wilderness', what he really wants. He loses his ideals, and he becomes a savage ruler with wild passions. Despite his intellect and his many talents, he is a 'hollow' 1 man.



A group of Africans accompanying an expedition.

hollow: empty, with no value.

### 1 Comprehension check Answer the following questions.

- 1 How did people in Victorian England see British imperialism?
- 2 Why was Conrad particularly sensitive to the negative side of imperialism?
- 3 Why, according to Conrad, were Europeans likely to commit immoral actions when they were in Africa?
- 4 What are the two characters in the short story 'An Outpost of Progress' like?

		How does Kurtz differ from the two characters in 'An Outpost of Progress'?
<b>6</b>	Lis	tening
ĈE		are going to listen to an imaginary interview, based on reals and characters. For questions 1-6 choose, the best answer, Ar C.
		Why does the journalist call Sir Arthur Conan Doyle a modern cnight in shining armour?
	1	Because he defended Roger Casement.
	1	Because he always fought for those who suffered or needed help.
	(	Because he tried to help the Africans of the Congo.
	2 \	What does Sir Conan Doyle think of his Sherlock Holmes books?
		He thinks they are immortal pieces of literature.
	F	He wishes he had never written them.
	(	He thinks Sherlock Holmes is a kind of modern knight in shining armour.

..... .. ..

When does the interview take place?

on 3 August 1916

on 13 August 1916

on 3 August 1917

3	
4	<ul> <li>What happened one year ago?</li> <li>A Roger Casement published his report on the Congo.</li> <li>B Roger Casement carried out his investigations of European crimes in the Congo.</li> <li>C Roger Casement was executed.</li> </ul>
5	What does the journalist think of King Leopold II?  A
6	How many Africans were killed by the Belgians?  A
Li	ore you read  stening sten to the first part of Chapter Five and complete the sentences.
1	r and a second control of the second control
2	The journey up the river was like
	The journey up the river was like
3	When the steamer touched the bottom of the river the cannibals  The cannibals working on the steamer worked hard and did not
	When the steamer touched the bottom of the river the cannibals
	When the steamer touched the bottom of the river the cannibals
4	When the steamer touched the bottom of the river the cannibals
4 5 6	When the steamer touched the bottom of the river the cannibals  The cannibals working on the steamer worked hard and did not  The other Europeans on board the steamer were  The silence of the forest was broken



f course it was not "very soon" before I met Kurtz. The journey up the river took two months. It was like travelling back in time to the beginning of the world, to a time when there was just forest and trees.

'The river was wide but shallow, 1 so it was always difficult to find the deep channel for the steamer. There were little islands of sand in the middle of the river, and there was the constant danger of running aground 2 on them. Sometimes the steamer did touch the bottom of the river. Then the cannibals we had taken on 3 as crew had to get out and push her through it. They were fine fellows, 4 those cannibals. They worked hard, and they didn't eat each other while they were on board the steamer.

'The manager and three or four pilgrims were also on board with us. We drifted <sup>5</sup> together through that huge silence, surrounded by millions of great trees. It was a strange experience.

Sometimes we saw a little trading station on the riverbank. They were miserable places, just a broken-down building and a few

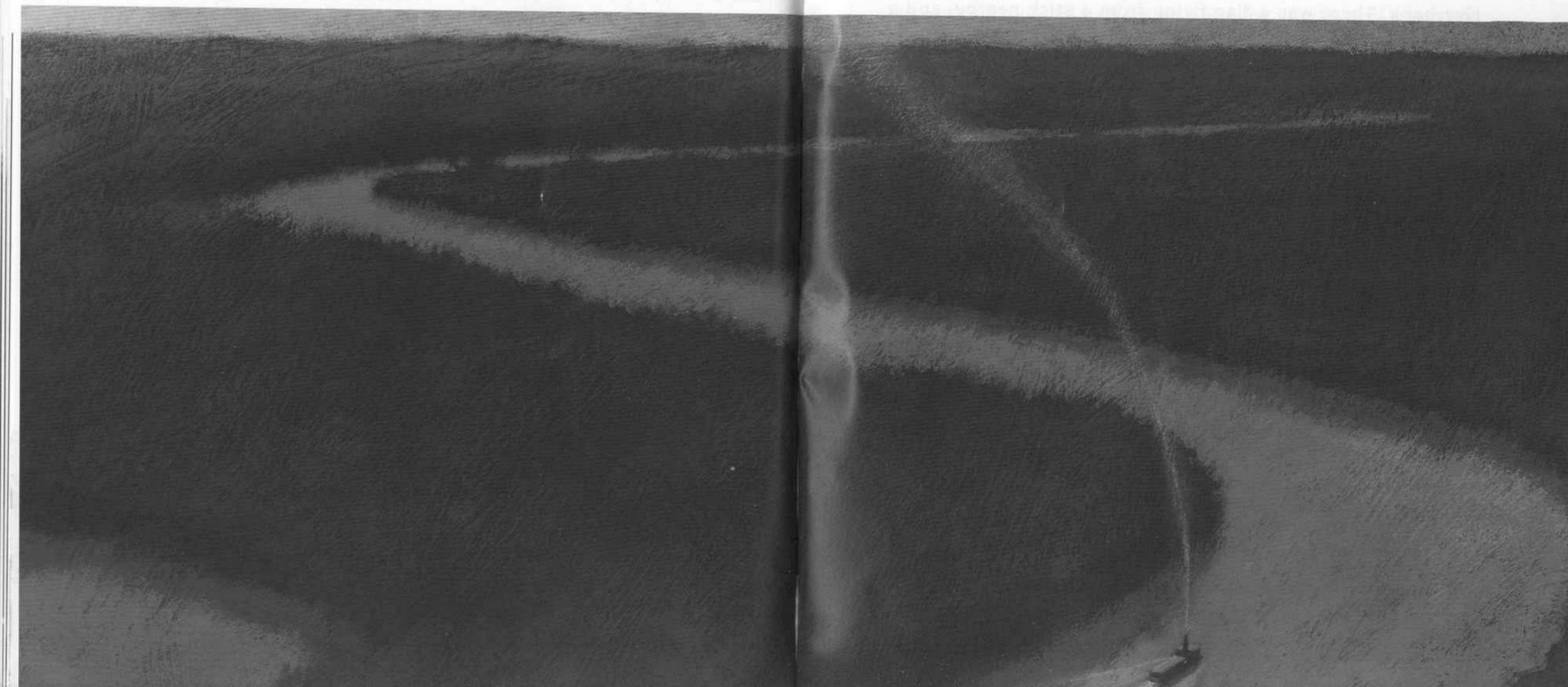
- shallow: not deep.
- 2. running aground: becoming stuck in the sand.
- taken on : employed.
- 4. fellows : men.
- 5. drifted: floated, were carried by the water.

white men occupying it. The men would run out excitedly when they saw the steamer. They called out to us, and the men on board would shout out the word "ivory" a few times.

- 'Sometimes the silence of the forest was broken by the sound of drums in the interior. We never knew what the drums meant war, peace or prayer. Sometimes we rounded a bend in the river and saw a native village on the riverbank. Then we would see black people dancing and shouting. We didn't know if they
  - 1. rounded a bend: followed the curve of the river.

were welcoming us or cursing us. We would watch for a few minutes until the steamer rounded the next bend and the village disappeared from sight.

'We were in the middle of this huge primitive world and we didn't understand anything about it. We had no way of understanding the people or the way they lived. Everything seemed ugly and frightening to us, but at the same time the people were like us. It was that common humanity that excited me.



from a cannibal tribe, and he had ceremonial scars on his cheeks. <sup>2</sup> But he had learned something from us. He watched the steam gauge <sup>3</sup> and the water gauge all day, and he knew what to do when the pressure changed. He was good at his job, but I don't think he understood anything about it really. I think he saw the boiler as an angry devil that would surely explode if he didn't watch the gauges properly.

END

'About fifty miles from Kurtz's station we saw a hut on the riverbank. There was a flag flying from a stick nearby, and a neatly stacked 4 pile of wood. We came in closer to have a look, and there was a message on the firewood. The message was for us. It read: "Wood for you. Hurry up. Approach cautiously." There was a signature, but we could not read it. It was not Kurtz — the name was a much longer one.

'We tried to work out what the message meant. "Hurry up." That seemed to indicate there was trouble further up the river. Something was obviously wrong, but we didn't know what it was, or how serious it was. And then "Approach cautiously". What could that mean?

- 'I found an old book in the broken-down hut. It was an English book about seamanship, <sup>5</sup> full of calculations and tables. The book was about sixty years old. It was an extraordinary thing to find there in the middle of all that jungle! Someone had written
  - fireman: (here) man who looks after the boiler.
  - 2. ceremonial scars on his cheeks: marks that indicate his tribe.
  - gauge [geid3]: device that measures the amount or quantity of something.
  - stacked: arranged.
  - 5. seamanship: the skill of managing a boat.

notes in the margin of the book in a kind of code. It was a mystery to me, and I took the book away with me.

'Late the next afternoon we were about eight miles from Kurtz's station. I wanted to go on, but the manager said it was too dangerous. He said the river was difficult there, and he reminded me of the message to "approach cautiously". He said he would rather arrive in daylight.

'I put the steamer in the middle of the river for the night, and we anchored there to be safe. When the sun rose in the morning we were surrounded by a dense white fog. It was very warm and we couldn't see anything.

- 'The fog suddenly lifted and we saw the trees on the riverbanks. I gave the order to raise the anchor. As the men were pulling up the chain, the fog came down again. The riverbanks and trees disappeared from sight. I ordered the men to lower the anchor chain again.
- 'Suddenly we heard a cry from the riverbank. Then there was noise all around us. Hundreds of voices were shrieking 1 in a terrible way. The noise went on for a while, and then it stopped as suddenly as it had started.

'It was appalling to hear that dreadful noise, followed by complete silence. Some of the pilgrims on board the steamer ran into the little cabin to fetch their Winchesters.' 2

- 1. shrieking: calling out in a high-pitched voice.
- 2. Winchesters: rifles.

#### Go back to the text

Comprehension checi	1	Comprehension	check
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Chapter Five has been divided into ten sections. Choose the most suitable heading from the list (A-K) for each part (1-9) of the chapter. There is one extra heading which you do not need to use. There is an example at the beginning (0).

A	0	A journey to the age of dinosaurs.
В		Keeping a wild spirit calm.
С		How strange to find that here.
D		Hard decisions.
E		Get your guns.
F		Interrupting the quiet of the jungle.
G		Now you see and now you don't.
Н		Our fellow human beings in an incomprehensible world.
I		Better safe than sorry.
J		Help and a warning.
K		Dangerous men who work hard.

#### 2 Common humanity

Discuss the following questions.

Ho th	ow w e gre	ould an African of the Congo region describe the jungle and eat river?
Α		As primitive and terrifying places which bring to mind the age of the dinosaurs when the world was covered with forests.
В		The river as a great road and the jungle as the source of life, where he finds food and shelter.
С		As the places where he can make money and find ivory.
D		As the places where people lose contact with true civilisation

2	How would an African who lived in the great forest of the Congo							
		e seen Victorian London?						
	Α [	As a place where truly civilised men lived and worked.						
	В							

C As a place where he could finally live in peace without always being afraid of wild animals.

in the jungle.

D As a terrifying and confusing place where the worst part of mankind comes out.

#### 3 Summary

You are going to read a summary of Chapters One to Five. Three paragraphs have been removed from the summary. Choose the most suitable paragraph from the list A-D and put it in the right place in the summary. There is one extra paragraph which you do not need to use.

- A Marlow continued to wait for the rivets. One day an expedition of Europeans in search of ivory arrived at the station. Marlow called them 'pilgrims'. One of the pilgrims was the station manager's uncle. Marlow overheard the two men talking. They seemed to be plotting against Kurtz, and they were hoping for his death. Finally, though, the rivets arrived and Marlow could get the steamer ready for its journey up the river to the inner station and to Kurtz.
- B He made this comparison because he wanted to tell his companions about the time he was the captain of a steamer in the heart of darkest Africa. His adventure began in Brussels. His aunt had influence with the trading company for which he wanted to work. She thought it was working to bring civilisation to Africa, but Marlow reminded her that it was there to make a profit.
- C The journey was difficult because there was a great deal of fog. Also Marlow and the pilgrims kept hearing drums and shrieking in the jungle. They did not know if the drums meant war or peace. One morning when the fog lifted they saw a hippopotamus. The pilgrims ran to get their Winchesters. They shot at the beast but it escaped.
- D He was the first one who mentioned Mr Kurtz. Marlow then began a 200-mile journey to the central station. When he arrived he discovered that the steamer was at the bottom of the river.

Nobody told Marlow how this happened, but the manager of the station was quite 'uneasy' about Kurtz, who ran an important station in the interior. Marlow had to sail the steamer into the forest to Kurtz's station, but he needed at least three months to repair it first.

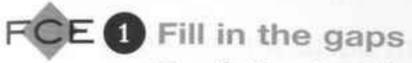
A group of old friends were on a yawl anchored in the Thames. One of them, Marlow, was a professional sailor. Marlow was also a very capable and intelligent storyteller. This particular evening Marlow began his story by comparing the European colonisers of Africa with the Romans who had come to conquer England. Each, he said, had to face and conquer the darkness.

Once the formalities were over, Marlow sailed to Africa aboard a French steamer. When they arrived in Africa Marlow sailed up a great river until they arrived at the first trading post. This was a horrible place where Marlow saw many African workers who were ill and waiting to die. He also met an odd, well-dressed man, the company accountant.

3 The first thing Marlow did was to have the steamer raised from the river bottom. Then he discovered that he needed rivets to repair it, but there were no rivets at the station and nobody at the station seemed interested in helping him. They were only interested in ivory and the mysterious Mr Kurtz. In some way Kurtz was different from the other Europeans in Africa. He seemed to have ideals.

4 Once the steamer was ready, Marlow began his two-month journey to the inner station. When the boat was about fifty miles away from its destination, they saw a hut. There they found a strange message. Marlow also found an old book on seamanship in the hut which had notes in code written in it. They continued their journey until they were only eight miles from the inner station. At that point they heard hundreds of voices shrieking.

#### Before you read

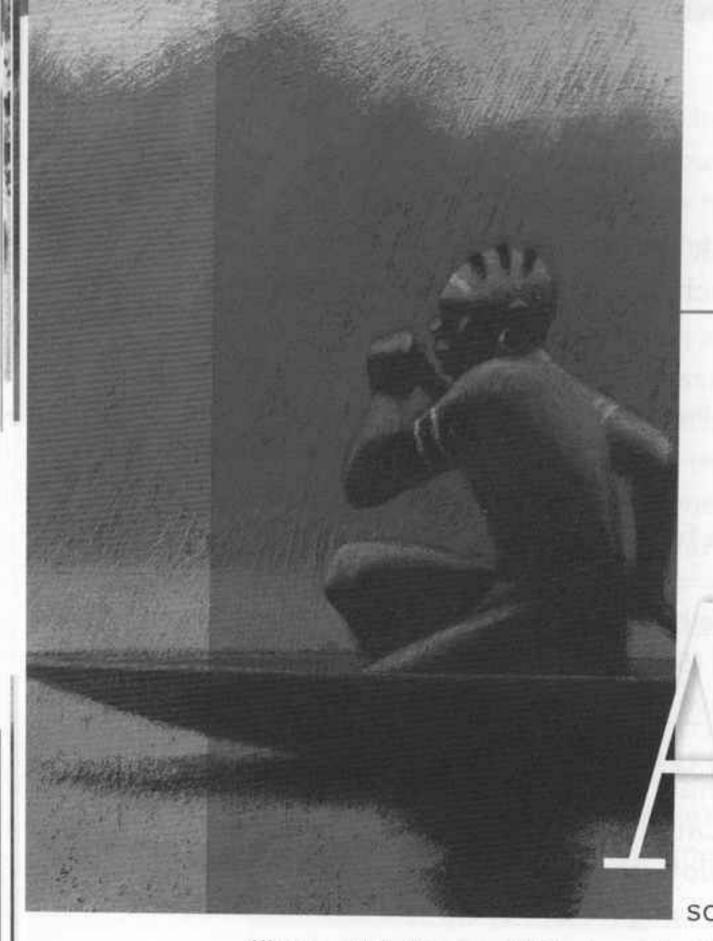


Read the text below and think of the word which best fits each space. Use only one word in each space. There is an example at the beginning (0).

"Are they (0)going to attack?" someone asked in a
whisper. "They'll kill us all (1) they do," someone
replied. "We can't see (2) in this fog."
'We all peered anxiously into the fog, (3) it was
impossible to see anything. (4) was interesting to
see the different reactions of the black and white men on board. The
white men were clearly shocked (5) the awful noise
and the sudden silence. The natives were calmer. They did not seem
frightened. '(6) of the cannibals was standing near
me, and I looked at him in a friendly (7)
at me. "Catch them," he said. "Catch them and give them to us."
"(8) will you do with them?" "Eat them," he replied
quickly. 'I was not as shocked as I might have been. The cannibals had
been eating dried meat all the time they were with us, and they
(9) have been hungry. Besides, they were part of
this primitive world we were travelling through. Eating people was
their custom. I don't know why they had (10) us
alone. (11) were thirty of them on the steamer, and
only a handful of us. I looked (12) them with interest
now. What human secret had stopped them (13)
attacking us and eating us? "It's very serious," the manager said to
me quietly. "It (14) be terrible if anything happened
to Mr Kurtz before we could help him." 'He said we should move on to
Kurtz's station as soon as we (15) 'I did not reply to
him. He knew that we could not move in the fog.'

(B)

Now listen to the first part of Chapter Six to check your answers.



CHAPTER SIX

re they going to attack?" someone asked in a whisper.

"They'll kill us all if they do," someone replied. "We can't see anything in this fog."

'We all peered 1 anxiously into the fog, but it was impossible to see anything. It was interesting to see the different reactions of the black and white men on board. The white men were clearly shocked by the awful noise and the sudden silence. The natives were calmer. They did not seem frightened.

'One of the cannibals was standing near me, and I looked at him in a friendly way. He grinned 2 at me.

"Catch them," he said. "Catch them and give them to us."

"What will you do with them?"

"Eat them," he replied quickly.

'I was not as shocked as I might have been. The cannibals had

1. peered: looked.

2. grinned: smiled.

been eating dried meat all the time they were with us, and they must have been hungry. Besides, they were part of this primitive world we were travelling through. Eating people was their custom. I don't know why they had left us alone. There were thirty of them on the steamer, and only a handful of us. I looked at them with interest now. What human secret had stopped them from attacking us and eating us?

"It's very serious," the manager said to me quietly. "It would be terrible if anything happened to Mr Kurtz before we could help him."

'He said we should move on to Kurtz's station as soon as we could. 'I did not reply to him. He knew that we could not move in the fog.

"I'm giving you permission to take all the risks that are

necessary," he said quietly.

"I'm not taking any risks," I said firmly.

"Well, I must accept what you decide. You're the captain," he said quietly.

'Now I spoke to everyone on the steamer. I told them what I thought. The natives could not attack us from their canoes. They could not see in the fog, any more than we could. They did not seem aggressive, I told them. It was more as if the sight of the steamer had made them sad. That terrible noise they had made seemed more like an outburst of grief 1 than aggression.

'We waited there and the fog lifted. Still nothing happened. Then we set off again up the river. About two hours later, we were just over a mile from Kurtz's station. There was a narrow island in the middle of the river, and I could not decide whether

1. outburst of grief: sudden expression of sadness.

#### HEART OF DARKNESS

to go to the left of it or to the right. The water seemed the same depth on both sides. I took the left channel because I knew the trading station was on that side of the river.

'We went very close to the riverbank. The native helmsman <sup>1</sup> was steering <sup>2</sup> the steamer. There was another native with a long wooden pole on the deck whose job was to push the pole into the water, to find out how deep the river was. Suddenly the poleman lay down on the deck, leaving the wooden pole in the water. He held on to the end of the pole, and it floated after us in the water. At the same moment I saw the fireman sit down quickly in front of the fire. I was amazed.

'I looked away at the river, and I could see lots of little sticks flying towards us. The air was thick with them, and they made a noise as they flew towards us. Then I realised what they were — arrows! We were being attacked from the riverbank.

'I stepped quickly up to the helmsman. He was holding the wheel, but he was making strange gestures with his legs and mouth. Then I saw a dark face hidden in the trees. The face looked fiercely at me. I looked again, and I could see a lot of dark shapes among the trees.

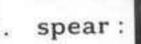
"Steer properly," I told the helmsman. "You've gone too close to the riverbank."

'The helmsman ignored me. He kept on holding the wheel and making those peculiar movements of his legs. The pilgrims began to shoot into the jungle. There was noise and smoke from their . Winchesters.

- 1. helmsman: sailor who controls what direction a boat goes in.
- 2. steering: controlling the direction of.

'The helmsman dropped the wheel and picked up a rifle. He, too, began firing out of the cabin. Then something large flew into the cabin. The helmsman dropped his rifle, and stepped back quickly. He looked at me for a long moment, and then fell at my feet. There was a spear 1 in his side. His blood ran over my shoes.

'I grabbed 2 the wheel and steered towards the middle of the





grabbed: took hold of.



#### HEART OF DARKNESS

river. Then I reached for the line <sup>1</sup> of the steam whistle <sup>2</sup> and pulled it hard. The whistle screeched out noisily. <sup>3</sup> The arrows stopped instantly. There was a sudden and complete silence in the forest. The natives stopped shouting. They began to cry out sadly, as if the noise of the whistle was a great grief to them.

'One of the pilgrims came into the cabin. He looked in shock at the helmsman lying at my feet. The black man stared at us both for a moment or two, and then he died without a word.

"He's dead," the hunter said quietly.

"Yes," I replied. "And I expect Mr Kurtz is dead by now, as well."

'I was disappointed at the thought of Kurtz's death. I realised that I had wanted to talk to him. I had heard he was the best ivory agent in the region, but I had also been told that he was a man with ideas. I was saddened to think I would never hear those ideas of his now.'

Here Marlow broke off <sup>4</sup> his story to look at us as we lay on the deck of the *Nellie* listening to him.

- 1. line: rope.
- 2. whistle: siren.
- 3. screeched out noisily: made a high-pitched, unpleasant noise.
- 4. broke off: interrupted.

#### Go back to the text

FCE 1 Comprehension check
For questions 1-5, choose the correct answer, A, B, C or D.

steamer?

1 What was it that particularly shocked the white men on board the

Α	The	fact	that	the	crew	was	made	up	of	cannibal	s.
								700			

В	The fact that they could not understand the meaning of	
	the drums.	

С	The fact that the voices were followed by total
	silence.

	57 (CO) (CO)	-144.00	1111 <b>-</b> 11-21-25-2					4
D	The	fact	that	the	natives	were	SO	calm
-							7.7	

2 How did Marlow react when the cannibal said that he wanted to eat the people in the jungle?

A	He was not particularly surprised because it was their way
	of life and also they had only eaten dried meat during the
	journey.

в [	He was surprised because the cannibals had received
	plenty to eat on the steamer.

С	He was surprised because as a European he couldn't
	understand how it was possible to eat another human being

D	He was surprised because he did not think that the people
37	in the jungle were the cannibals' enemies.

3 Why did Marlow think that the natives in the forest did not want to attack?

A	Because the Europeans on the boat were more numerous
	than they were.

В	Because nobody could see in the fog and because he though
1111	the noise they made showed that they were sad.

С	Because the fog made the natives feel sad and so they did
	not want to attack.

D	Because the natives did not want to run the risk of
	attacking them.

1	Why di	id the helmsman drop the rifle?
	A	He was tired.
	В	He wanted to start steering again.
	С	He had been hit by a spear.
	D	He had been hit by an arrow.
5	How d	id Marlow stop the attack?
	Α 📗	He sounded the boat's whistle.
	В	He directed the boat towards the river bank.
	C	He fired his Winchester into the air.
	D 🗌	He cried out sadly

#### 2 Showing reality as it is

Conrad was interested in showing us reality as it is. So, he often described actions in great detail, but without simply telling us what is happening. A good example of this method is the description of the attack. Discuss the following questions.

- How does Conrad show us Marlow's actual impressions during the attack?
- 2 How is Conrad's way of describing the attack similar to the way a film director would show us the attack?

#### 3 Writing

Pretend that you are a newspaper reporter on the steamer and write a short article of between 120-180 words describing what happened. Use the information given in the story and include the following details:

#### Paragraph 1

#### Where you were

- Who was with you

The point of the journey

#### Paragraph 3

- The attack itself
- How the Europeans reacted
- The victims

#### Paragraph 2

- The situation before the attack: the fog and the silence
- How you felt about it

#### You can begin like this:

A steamer of a European trading company was attacked last Thursday
It was travelling

Now try and find a suitable headline for your article.

#### 4 Sentence transformation

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).

- O We can't see anything in this fog.
  - can We .... can see nothing in this fog.
- They were part of this primitive world.

They ...... this primitive world.

- 2 Kurtz was the best ivory agent.
- 'Are they going to attack?' someone asked.

#### were

Someone ..... to attack.

The natives were calmer than the pilgrims.

#### not

The pilgrims ..... the natives.

Eating people was their custom.

#### used

They ..... people.

6 I expect Mr Kurtz is dead by now, as well.

Mr Kurtz ..... by now, as well.

We should move on to Kurtz's station.

#### had

We ..... move on to Kurtz's station.

#### Before you read

100	9	$\overline{}$
100		100
100		-
7.65		_

1 Listening



You will hear the first part of Chapter Seven. For questions 1-6 choose the best answer, A, B or C.

1	Marlo	w thinks that Kurtz had become				
	A	African				
	В	the river				
	С	the jungle				
2	What	did they do with Kurtz's ivory?				
	Α	They put it into a smaller boat.				
	В	They left it in the jungle for another expedition to collect.				
	С	They piled it onto the deck of their boat.				
3	What	did Kurtz call the ivory?				
	A	my ivory				
	В	white gold				
	С	the devil's payment				
4	What did Kurtz call the girl?					
	Α	my wife-to-be				
	В	my fiancée				
	С	my intended				
5	While	Marlow listened to Kurtz talk, Marlow expected				
	A	Kurtz to laugh.				
	В	the jungle to laugh at Kurtz.				
	С	the jungle to cry.				
6		ling to Marlow, to understand Kurtz his friends must				
	under	stand				
	Α	what the value of ivory in Africa is.				
	В	how terrifying the jungle can be.				
	C	what complete solitude is.				



#### CHAPTER SEVEN

was wrong, of course,' he told us. 'In the end I did hear Kurtz speak. I heard more than enough. He was just a voice by then. And then there was the girl. I lied about him in the end. She had nothing to do with it all — nothing at all.

'Kurtz and his gifts! The jungle had taken him and loved him. It had gone into him and consumed him. He had become the jungle.

'Of course he had more ivory than anyone else. We took it and piled it on deck where he could look at it and enjoy the sight of it. He used to call it "my ivory". The girl was "my intended". ¹ The station was "my station". Everything was his, you see. It all belonged to him. I listened to him, expecting to hear the wilderness ² laugh at him.

'What belonged to him didn't matter, you see. It didn't matter at all. I wanted to understand what he belonged to. I wanted to know what darkness had taken hold of him.'

Marlow looked at us again.

'You can't understand,' he told us. 'You've got your lives here. You've got the solid pavement under your feet, and neighbours and friends. You can't imagine what complete solitude is like, complete silence. That was what Africa was for Kurtz, you see. He was a man

- 1. intended : fiancée, the person he had promised to marry.
- 2. wilderness: wild place.

#### HEART OF DARKNESS

on his own. He had no support from other people. He had to rely on his own character and strength, and on his ideas. And that's where Kurtz failed. He didn't have that kind of strength.

END

'I'm not making excuses for Kurtz. I want to understand him. He talked to me. He spoke English — his mother was half-English and his father half-French. Europe produced him.

'I learned that the International Society for the Suppression of Savage Customs had asked him to write a report about Africa. He had written it, too, before he failed. I read it, and it was a brilliant document. He wrote that white men must seem like gods to the natives. That we could use that power to do good for Africa. It was a passionate argument, a highly moral view of the European role. And right at the end of the beautifully written document

there was a single sentence: "Kill all the brutes!" 1

'Kurtz failed, you see. He took part in certain midnight dances, and certain terrible ceremonies. The darkness claimed him.

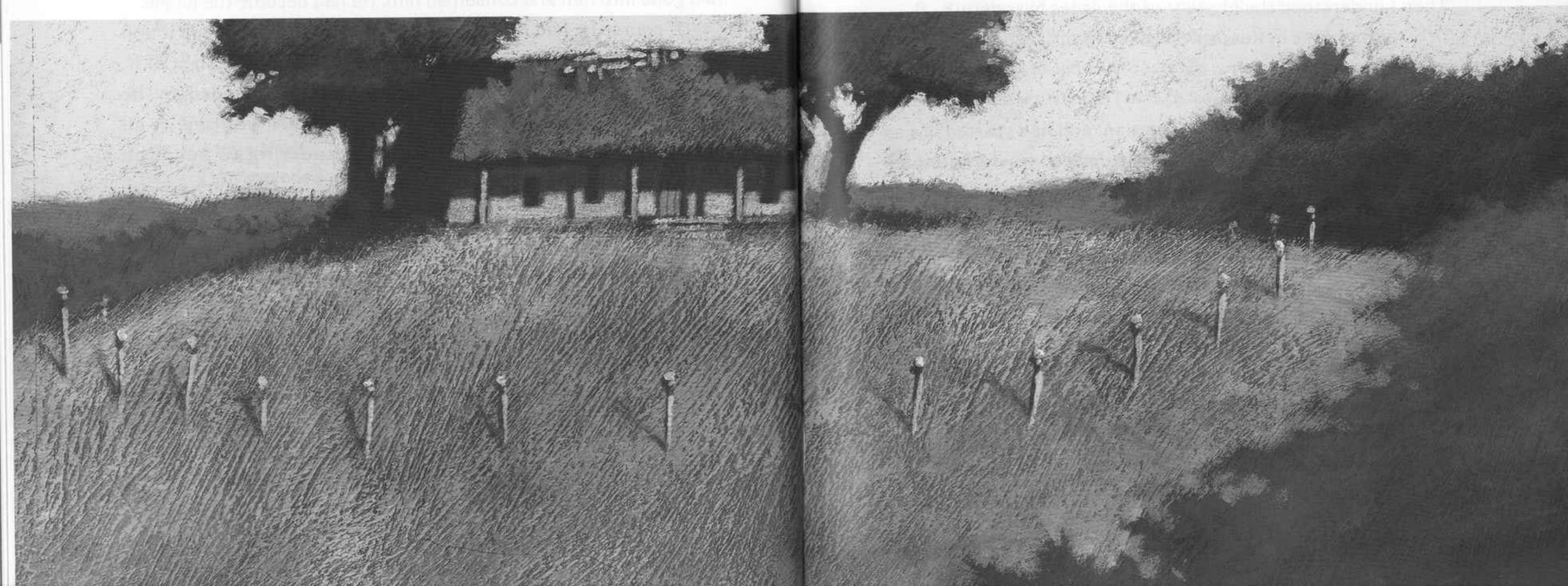
'I took the steamer slowly towards the station, and at last we saw it. There was a gap in the forest, and a long building stood at the top of a hill. There was no fence around it, but there had been a fence once. I could see some wooden posts standing around the building. They were decorated with round balls.

'A white man stood on the riverbank waving to us. We tied up the steamer.

"We've been attacked," the manager told the white man.

"I know, I know," the white man replied. "It's all right now."

brutes: (here) savage people.



'I looked at the man. His clothes were highly coloured. Where the cloth had worn through, it had been replaced with patches 1 of blue, red and yellow. He looked like a harlequin. I noticed that

he had a Russian accent.

'The strange man came on board.

"I don't like this," I told him. "The natives are everywhere."

"Oh, it's all right," he said cheerfully. "They don't mean any harm. They're simple people. You can frighten them away with the steamer whistle."

"I left some wood for you," he told me. "That was my old house."

"Then this must be your book," I replied. I handed him the old book about seamanship. He took it gratefully.

"The only book I've got left!" he cried excitedly.

'Then I understood the mystery of the notes in code.

"You write notes in Russian?" I asked him. "I thought it was a code."

'He laughed.

'We talked together. He was a Russian, and had started life as a sailor. Then he had come to Africa. He decided he wanted to be a trader. He went into the interior by himself and began to trade in ivory.

"And then I met Mr Kurtz," he said very solemnly. "They don't want him to go," he explained. "That's why they attacked the steamer."

'He looked wildly at me for a moment.

"Mr Kurtz enlarged my mind," he announced."

1. patches: small pieces.

#### Go back to the text

th	ay whether the following statements are true (T) or false nen correct the false ones.	(F),	and
		T	F
1	Marlow never heard Kurtz speak.		
2	The girl was deeply involved in Kurtz's African affairs.		
3	Kurtz felt that he owned everything.		
4	The ivory was not at all important to Kurtz.		
5	Marlow wanted to know how life in the wilderness had changed Kurtz.		
6	Marlow did not think that his friends can truly understand what happened to Kurtz.	D IR	
7	Kurtz remained a true friend of the Africans until the very end of his life.		
8	Kurtz participated in the rituals of the Africans.		
9	Marlow thought that Kurtz failed.		
10	The notes in code were actually written in Russian.		$\bar{\Box}$
11	The natives wanted Kurtz to leave.		
	aughter, morality and savage customs iscuss the following questions.		
1	What does Marlow mean when he says that he expected the	9	

- wilderness to laugh at him?
- 2 What is Kurtz's 'highly moral view' as expressed in his report?
- What do you think a modern African would say about Kurtz's view of the Africans?
- 4 Whose savage customs does the International Society wish to suppress?
- What do you think Roger Casement or Conan Doyle (see the imaginary interview on page 45) would have thought of the name of the Society?

#### 3 Vocabulary

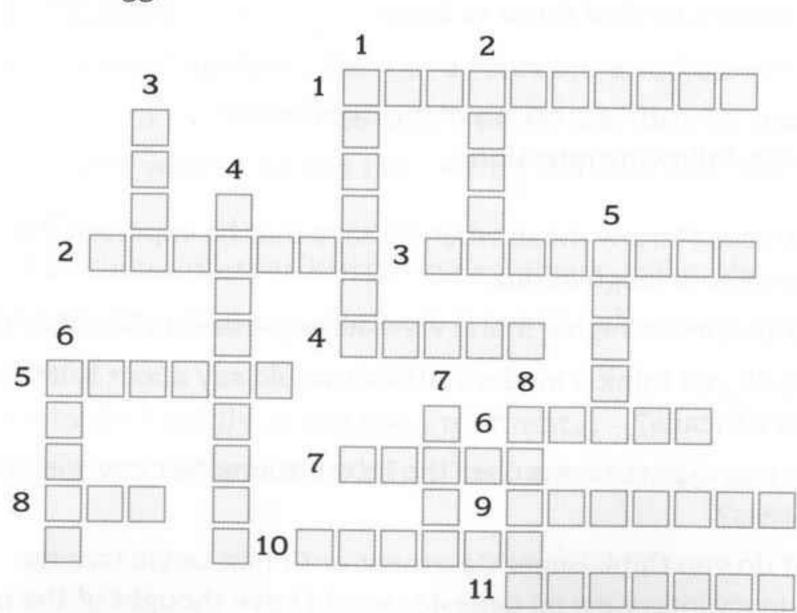
Do the following crossword puzzle.

#### Across

- 1 Journey to a sacred place.
- 2 Boat powered by steam.
- 3 Person who directs a ship.
- 4 Part of your body/a river.
- 5 Move around without any particular destination.
- 6 Pulsation or regular beat.
- 7 Lift up.
- 8 Get ... of him.
- 9 Somebody who believes strongly in an idea or cause, and tries to convince others to believe in it.
- 10 Metal nails used to hold pieces of metal together.
- 11 Make bigger.

#### Down

- Person who travels to a sacred place.
- 2 Instrument for measuring a quantity or amount.
- 3 What you eat in general.
- 4 Comic character dressed in multicoloured clothing.
- 5 Weapon with a pointed head.
- 6 Strange.
- 7 Of good quality.
- 8 Make fun of or provoke.



#### Before you read



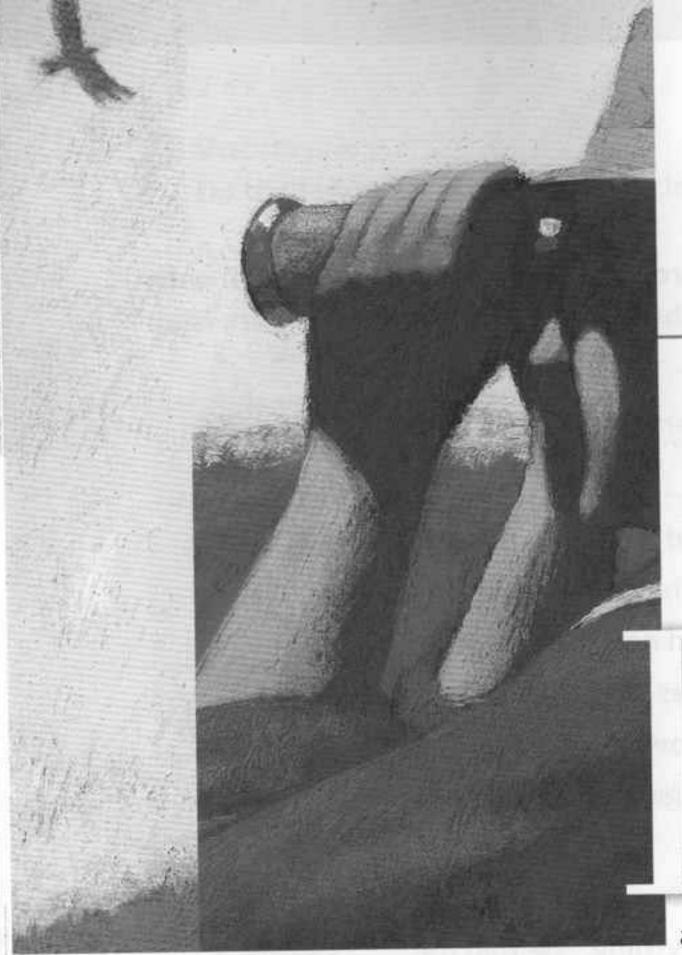
#### FCE 1 Word formation

Read the text below. 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. There is an example at the beginning (0).

'I looked at the man in (0) astonishment.	ASTONISH
He seemed such an (1) sort of man,	POSSIBLE
in his (2) clothes, and with his enthusiasm for	COLOUR
Kurtz. "Take Kurtz away quick," he (3) me.	ADVICE
'It was clear to me that he wanted nothing for himself.	
He wanted to remain where he was, and to continue alone	
in the jungle (4) his own purposes.	PURSUE
I admired his youth and his courage. But I did not admire	
his (5) to Kurtz.	DEVOTE
'They had met in the jungle, and Kurtz had talked to him	
one night. "We talked about everything," he told me.	
"We talked all night. He made me see things — things."	
'He told me that Kurtz did not often talk to him. He was	
busy. He (6) into the jungle by himself.	APPEAR
"How did he manage to trade?" I asked. "He had nothing	
to trade with," I pointed out.	
"He had his guns," the man told me.	
"You mean he was a (7)?" I asked.	RAID
"But not alone, (8)? Who went with him?"	SURE
"The tribe loved him," the man explained. "What can you	
expect? He came here with thunder and lightning.	
They'd never seen (9) like it before."	THING
'He hesitated.	Library C



Now listen to the first part of Chapter Eight to check your answers.



#### CHAPTER EIGHT

astonishment. He seemed such an

impossible sort of man, in his coloured clothes, and with his enthusiasm for Kurtz.

"Take Kurtz away quick," he advised me.

'It was clear to me that he wanted nothing for himself. He wanted to remain where he was, and to continue alone in the jungle pursuing his own purposes. I admired his youth and his courage. But I did not admire his devotion to Kurtz.

'They had met in the jungle, and Kurtz had talked to him one night.

"We talked about everything," he told me. "We talked all night. He made me see things — things."

'He told me that Kurtz did not often talk to him. He was busy.'
He disappeared into the jungle by himself.

"How did he manage to trade?" I asked. "He had nothing to trade with," I pointed out.

"He had his guns," the man told me.

"You mean he was a raider?" I asked. "But not alone, surely?
Who went with him?"

END

"The tribe loved him," the man explained. "What can you expect? He came here with thunder and lightning. They'd never seen anything like it before."

'He hesitated.

"And then Kurtz can be terrible," he added. "You can't judge him like an ordinary man. He even wanted to shoot me once. But I don't judge him for that."

"Shoot you! What for?"

"I had some ivory, you see," the man said. "Kurtz wanted it. He said he would shoot me if I didn't give it to him, and that I had to leave the country. He said he had the power to make me go, and he would use it. I gave him the ivory, of course — I didn't care about that. But I wouldn't leave him. He needed me. He'd already been ill once, and then he was ill again. He hated the place, and I begged 2 him to leave. He always said he would leave, but he never did. He would disappear for weeks into the jungle."

"He's mad," I commented.

'The man disagreed strongly. Kurtz could not be mad, he argued. He talked so well; he was so brilliant. He said that Kurtz had got worse recently.

"I heard that he was very ill, so I came here to look after him," he said.

'I studied the station house through my binoculars while the man was talking. I could see the half-ruined house and the wooden posts. Suddenly I found myself looking at one of the balls on top of

- 1. raider: person who steals something during a sudden attack.
- 2. begged: asked strongly.

the posts. They were not ornaments — they were human skulls! The faces of the skulls were turned towards the house.

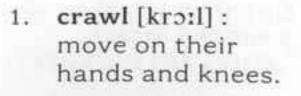
'Those heads told me something about Kurtz. He was a man who had begun to satisfy his real desires. They showed what kind of man he really was, under all that fine talk of his about morality and vision. The wilderness had discovered the secret about him. It whispered horrible things to him, and he was alone. He looked at his own desires, and then he satisfied them. Take away all the eloquence and the talents, and Kurtz was a hollow man.

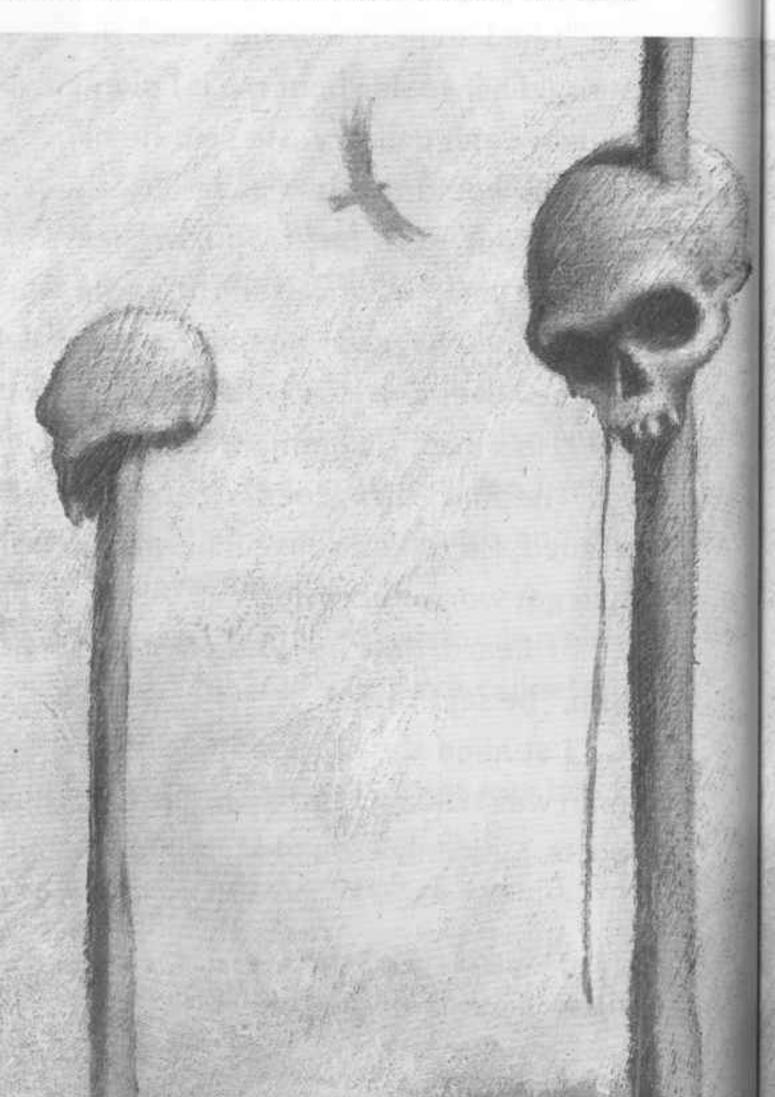
'The man was embarrassed that I had seen those heads. He told

me he had not had the courage to take them down. He said he was not afraid of the natives. The chiefs came every day to see Mr Kurtz. They would crawl ... <sup>1</sup>

"I don't want to hear about his horrible ceremonies!" I shouted.

'The young man seemed surprised by my attitude towards Kurtz.





"But they were rebels," he told me about the heads on the posts.

'I looked at him in astonishment.

"You don't understand how tired he is!" the man said.

"What about you?"

"Me! I'm just a simple man. I don't have any great thoughts. How can you compare me to ...?"

'He was silent for a minute.

"I've tried to keep him alive. I don't know anything about all this. Kurtz was abandoned here without medicine and without proper food. He's a wonderful man with great ideas."



# Go back to the text

# 1 Comprehension check Answer the following questions.

- 1 What did Marlow admire about the strange young man?
- 2 What didn't Marlow admire about the strange young man?
- 3 How did Kurtz obtain ivory?
- 4 Why did Kurtz want to shoot the young man?
- 5 Why didn't the young man leave Kurtz?
- 6 How did Marlow judge Kurtz?
- 7 Why didn't the young man agree with Marlow?
- 8 What were the balls on the top of the posts?
- 9 Why did Marlow consider Kurtz a 'hollow man'?
- 10 How did the native chiefs act towards Kurtz?
- 11 What did Kurtz do to the rebels?
- 12 How did the young man see himself?

## 'He made me see things'

Look at these sentences with 'let' and 'make':

- He **made me see** things = He caused me to see things.
- He made me give him the ivory = He forced me to give him the ivory.
- He **let me see** the ivory = He allowed me to see the ivory (or, He gave me permission to see the ivory).

Notice that both 'let' and 'make' are followed by the direct object and an infinitive without 'to'.

# FCE 2

#### E 2 Sentence transformation

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 gave us permission to go home.
	let
	He let us go home.
1	That food caused her to feel sick.  made
	That food sick.
2	John's mother will not allow him to go to the concert tonight.
	John's mother to the concert tonight.
3	The policeman forced him to reveal the names of his friends. made
	The policeman of his friends.

# 3 Make and let

let

Use the elements given to write a complete sentence using either 'let' or 'make' according to the context and in the tense indicated.

Example: The sun/feel dizzy (Past Simple)
The sun made me feel dizzy.

4 Please allow me to explain all of this!

Please ..... all of this.

- 1 My father/me/drive/his car (Present Simple)
- 2 This music/me/want to dance (Present Simple)
- 3 It was such a sad film. It/me/cry (Past Simple)
- 4 She/never/you/take/her to the dance (Future with 'will')
- 5 I didn't want to go out, Mum. I swear! Jimmy/me/go out (Past Simple)
- 6 Philip/no one/help him He wants to do everything all by himself (Present Simple)
- 7 Tell me the truth or I/not/you/play football with your friends (Future with 'will')
- 8 Wine/me/fall asleep (Present Simple)

# 'They had met in the jungle'

Look at how we use the Past Simple and the Past Perfect Simple: Marlow arrived at the inner station where he met a strange young man. He talked with him about Kurtz. The young man and Kurtz had met in the jungle.

The Past Perfect Simple indicates that the young man and Kurtz had already met before Marlow arrived at the inner station.

Look at these two sentences:

When Marlow **arrived** he discovered that Kurtz **had fallen** ill. When Marlow **arrived** Kurtz **fell** ill.

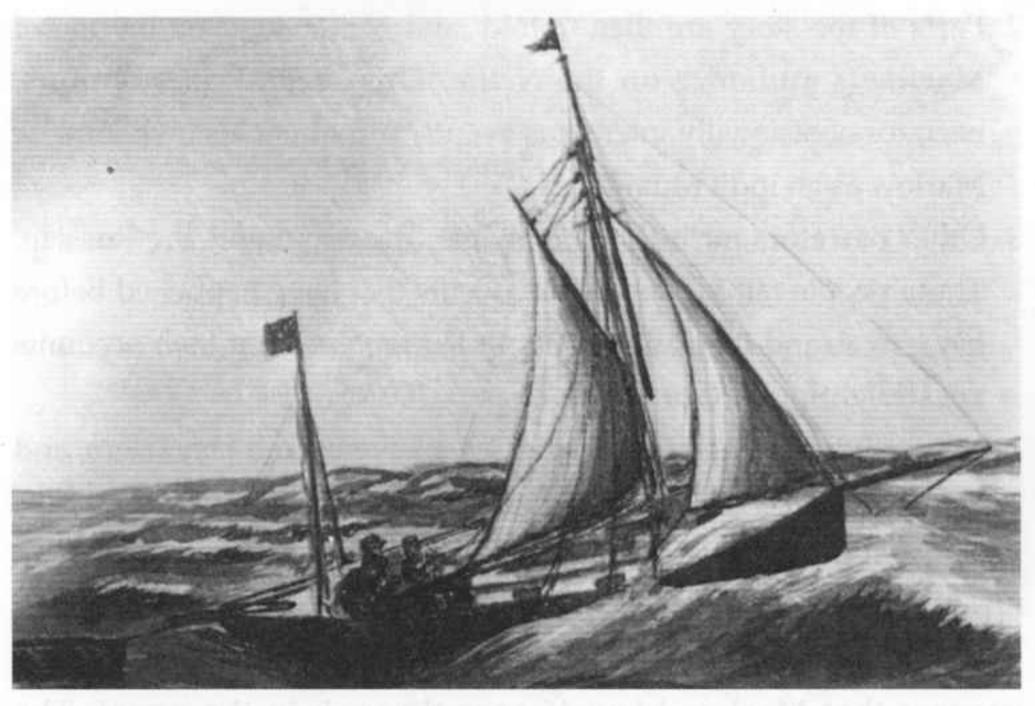
The first sentence tells us that Kurtz had already fallen ill when Marlow arrived. The second sentence tells us that Marlow arrived and then Kurtz fell ill.

# 4 The Past Perfect Simple

Put the verbs in brackets in the Past Perfect Simple or the Past Simple according to the context.

- 2 There was nobody in the village at all. The natives (run away) ...... into the jungle.
- 3 When you (get) ...... to my house I (go) ...... bed. That's why I didn't answer the door.
- 4 They (raise) ...... the steamer which (sink) ..... to the bottom of the river.
- 5 I (try) ...... to let you know I was late but your phone (be) ...... busy.
- 6 My brother (not/want) ...... to see the film because he (see) ...... it the day before.

# Narrative Technique in Heart of Darkness



The yawl Nellie, owned by G. F. W. Hope.

Mellie. This is important because it provides a 'frame' for the narrative, and it turns the reader's attention to the local significance of the events that are narrated. The 'darkness' in the story does not just refer to Africa or the darkness within Kurtz, but also to London. Marlow stresses this point before he begins his narrative: 'And this also,' said Marlow suddenly, 'has been one of the dark places of the earth.' The point is made after the story has been told, as well. The final sentence is about the Thames, which 'seemed to lead into the heart of an immense darkness'.

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The narrative techn many narrators, each 1 The most importation friends while they 2 Parts of the story

The narrative technique of the story is complex because there are many narrators, each of whom has a point of view.

- 1 The most important narrator is Marlow, who tells the story to his friends while they are relaxing on the *Nellie* in London.
- 2 Parts of the story are then 'retold' and commented on by one of Marlow's audience on the *Nellie*. This second, anonymous, narrator occasionally interrupts events, and offers his own view of Marlow as an individual.
- 3 Other narrators include the manager, the agent and the Russian. These people tell Marlow about events that have happened before his arrival, and they tell him about Kurtz. Not all of their accounts are straightforward or honest ones.

Each narrator has his own perspective on events and characters, and some of them are deliberately deceptive in what they narrate. This means that the reader has to interpret each version of the story, in an effort to arrive at the truth. This process of selecting different accounts of the same events and life stories is exactly the same process that Marlow himself goes through in the novel. The conclusion he reaches is that the truth cannot be reached.

Another narrative technique that Conrad uses in *Heart of Darkness* is that of 'impressionism'. This term was used by Ford Madox Ford, a novelist who collaborated with Conrad early in his career. The impressionistic technique consists of representing 'reality' as it is experienced, rather than trying to describe it 'objectively'. Thus, in an impressionist novel, the characters are continuously acquiring new perspectives on the people and events around them. This leads them to look back repeatedly to past experiences, in order to reinterpret them in the light of new information and insights.

One example of this kind of re-interpretation of reality and people

concerns the manager's plot against Kurtz. The manager is jealous of Kurtz and wants to delay Marlow's journey up the river. Marlow does not understand this at the time, as he makes clear when he narrates the story: 'I did not see the real significance of that wreck at once.'

100	comprehension check
*A	nswer the following questions.

1	Who are the narrators of Heart of Darkness?
2	Do these narrators simply give us more information about the story? Why or why not?
3	How are Marlow's efforts to arrive at the truth of the situation similar to those of the reader?
4	What is Marlow's final opinion about the possibility of communicating the truth?
5	What is 'impressionism'?
6	How does 'impressionism' affect the way a story is told?

- Discuss
  Do you prefer the narrative technique of Heart of Darkness or that of books with an all-knowing third-person narrator who only tells you what actually happens?
- 3 Do you agree with Conrad (Marlow) when he says that the truth cannot be reached?

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# Before you read

# 1 Listening

Listen to the first part of Chapter Nine and choose the right answers.

1	W	hat were the naked black figures carrying?
	Α	a stretcher
	В	spears, bows and shields
	С	Winchesters
	D	ivory
2	W	hat did the man on the stretcher do when the natives came to him?
	Α	He sat up and gave orders.
	В	He gave a great cry.
	С	He moved forward.
	D	He looked towards the riverbank.
3	W	hat did the pilgrims and the manager put next to Kurtz?
	Α	some spears
	В	some ivory
	C	his papers
	D	the stretcher
4	What	nat was the extraordinary sight that Marlow saw when he looked the riverbank?
	А	A wild and beautiful woman and two natives.
	В	Kurtz being carried on a stretcher.
	С	A crowd of natives disappearing into the forest.
	D	A crowd of natives emerging from the forest.
5	Wh	at did the manager say about Kurtz's methods?
	Α	That they were good ones.
	В	That they were morally wrong.
	С	That they damaged Kurtz's name.
	D	That they had harmed the company.



CHAPTER NINE

group of men suddenly appeared near the house. They were carrying a stretcher. ¹ Suddenly the jungle broke into a great cry. A vast number of naked black figures came out of the darkness. They ran towards the figure on the stretcher. They were carrying spears, bows and shields with them.

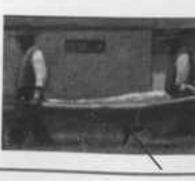
"If he says the wrong thing now, they'll kill us all," the Russian said.

'The group of men carrying the stretcher stopped when they saw the natives coming towards them. The figure on the stretcher sat up and raised his arm. I could not hear what he was saying, but there was no doubt that he was giving orders. He spoke briefly, and then he fell back on the stretcher exhausted. The men carrying him moved forward again. The crowd of natives disappeared into the forest again.

The pilgrims and the manager carried Kurtz into the steamer. They put him gently down in one of the cabins. They put some of his papers next to him. I saw his hands touch the papers.

'I looked out at the riverbank, and saw an extraordinary sight. There were two natives with spears standing near the bank, and a beautiful, wild woman was walking up and down.

1. stretcher:



'She walked with enormous pride, and her clothes were rich and decorative. She was savage, superb and magnificent. She came close to the steamer and stood still. For a moment there was complete silence while she looked at us. Then she turned

and walked proudly away from the steamer.

'The manager came out from the cabin, where he had been talking to Kurtz.

"He's very ill," he said. "We've done everything we could have



done, haven't we? Still," he went on, "his methods were bad ones. His actions have harmed the company."

END

'The manager's greed and ambition disgusted me.

"Kurtz is a remarkable man," I told him coldly.

'The Russian stepped forward now and began speaking hurriedly.

"You're a fellow sailor," he told me, "and I can trust you. I want to protect Mr Kurtz's reputation. These men" — he indicated the pilgrims and the manager — "they want to damage his name."

'I smiled. I had suddenly remembered a conversation back at the manager's station.

"And they want to hang you," I told him.

"They might succeed," the Russian said.

"Perhaps you should go, if you have friends in the forest," I told him.

"Oh, yes, I have friends," he said calmly. "They're simple people. And I don't want anything from them. But about Mr Kurtz—"

'He told me that Kurtz had organised the attack on the steamer.

"He wanted to frighten you away," the Russian explained. "I couldn't stop him."

"I won't tell anyone," I promised.

'Then I gave the Russian some guns and tobacco, and he went back into the forest alone. He was not afraid of the wilderness at all.

'I woke up at about midnight. There was a light in Mr Kurtz's cabin, but he was not there. He had left the steamer. I went ashore without telling anyone what had happened. It was my destiny not to betray him — never to betray him.

'I saw marks on the grass where Kurtz had crawled along. I followed the marks, and then I made a quick circle to come out ahead of him. I waited for him to reach me. Kurtz came crawling along, weak and ill. It was a dangerous moment. I knew that if Kurtz shouted, the natives would come and kill me.

'When he saw me he stood up.

"Go away," he ordered. "Hide yourself."

We stood facing each other in the darkness. Then I spoke to him.

"You will be lost," I said. "You will be utterly 1 lost."

'I don't know why I said that. It was a sudden inspiration, and it worked. Kurtz paused and studied my face.

"I had such plans -" he said.

"If you shout, I'll kill you," I told him.

"I was going to do great things —" he told me. "And now this idiot —" He meant the manager.

'I did not want to kill him, you understand. I wanted to shock him. He was in the power of the wilderness. The jungle had woken his real desires, and he could not resist them. He had gone too far. Now he was alone. His soul had gone mad, that was the truth. I don't mean his intelligence. That was clear enough. He was still a rational creature. But his soul had been alone in the wilderness. It had looked at itself, and it had gone mad.

'He had struggled against that madness of his soul, I'm sure of it. But his soul knew no fear, recognised no limits — and it had no faith in anything.

'I carried him back to the steamer.'

1. utterly: completely.

# Go back to the text

0	Comprehension	check
	ACCOUNT OF WHICH SAME DAY AND THE SAME OF THE SAME SAME SAME.	

Say whether the following statements are true (T) or false (F), and then correct the false ones. If you do not know enough to say whether a statement is true or false, tick N (not enough information).

		1	r	14
1	The man on the stretcher was Kurtz.			
2	Kurtz ordered the natives not to attack the Europeans, who were taking him away.			
3	The proud woman was Kurtz's native wife.			
4	The Russian did not trust the manager and the pilgrims.			
5	The Russian was afraid of the people of the forest.			
6	Kurtz had told the natives to attack the steamer.			
7	Kurtz tried to return to the people of the forest.			
8	Marlow wished to kill Kurtz.			
9	Marlow thought that Kurtz was basically mad.			

# 2 Discuss

For those statements above which you cannot say are true or false, say whether you think the statement is possible or not, and explain your reasons.

'The manager came out from the cabin, where he had been talking to Kurtz'

The Past Perfect Continuous is the past of the Present Perfect Continuous.

had + been + ing-form of verb

He had been talking to Kurtz.

The Present Perfect Continuous is used for two basic situations:

1 To describe an action which lasted for a fairly long period of time but which has recently stopped.
I am really tired. I have been painting the house. 2 To tell the duration of an action which is still going on.
I have been reading for an hour.

Now look at these sentences in the Past Perfect Continuous:

- 1 I was really tired when I came in for dinner. I had been painting the house.
- 2 It was nine o'clock in the evening and I had been reading for an hour.

3	The	Pas	st Perf	ect	Continu	ou	s					
	Put	the	words	in	brackets	in	the	Past	Simple	or	Past	Perfect
					ng to the c							

Example: Jack was covered with grease because he (repair) had been repairing his bike.

1	At three o'clock we (drive) for five hours so	we
	(decide) to stop for lunch.	
2	When I (wake wa)	

- 2 When I (wake up) ...... out of the window. The ground was all white.

  It (snow) ......
- 3 I (work) ...... for that company for more than ten years when I (leave) .....
- 4 I (call) ...... Sylvia but she (not/answer) ..... the phone.
- 6 I (wonder) ...... whether Joseph was coming when somebody (knock) ...... on the door.
- 7 The fire (burn) ...... for several minutes before I (notice) ...... it.



# FCE 4 Chinua Achebe on Heart of Darkness

Read the article below about an African novelist's opinion of Heart of Darkness. 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. There is an example at the beginning (0).

presented his (0)fictional description of the Congo Heart of Darkness. Since then, practically all (1)	FICTION EUROPE
peoples of Africa and Asia have written many detailed  (2)	DESCRIBE
One of the best African writers of novels in English is Chinua Achebe.	
He was born in Ogidi, Nigeria, in 1930 and his most  (4)	FAME s ARRIVE
Achebe has given his opinion of Heart of Darkness. He made an (6) to Conrad calling Africa a 'prehistoric earth', and an (7) '	OBJECT
'No they were not inhuman that was the worst of it — this (8) of their not being inhuman.' Achebe thought that Conrad was even worse than other European (9) because 'he managed to	SUSPECT
ransform elements from centuries of (10) rude and fanciful writing about Africans into a piece of serious" literature'.	WRITE GENERAL
Certainly the (11) of African reality was nuch greater than even Joseph Conrad was able to imagine	COMPLEX

# Before you read

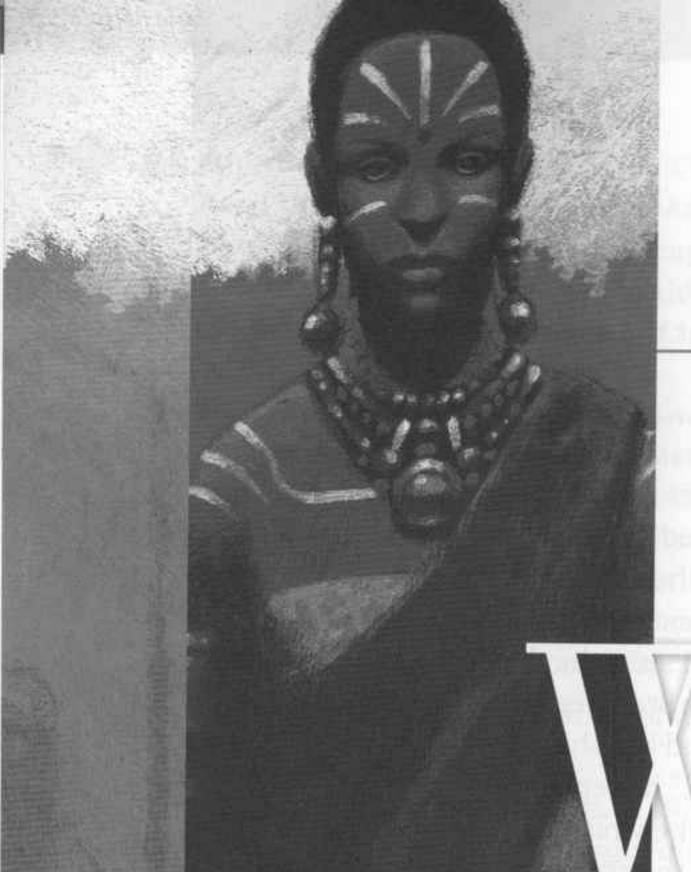
FCE 1 Fill in the gaps

For questions 1-12 decide which answer, A, B, C or D, best fits each space. There is an example (0) at the beginning.

We left on the steamer the (0)next day at noon. A huge crowd	1
of natives came out to (1) us go. I swung the steamer into	1
the middle of the river to turn hon nor all a	
the middle of the river to turn her round. As we steamed past I could	
(2) three men covered in red earth. They stamped their	
reet on the ground, and moved their bodies rhythmically. The three	
men shouted something, and the crowd behind them (3)	
a noise. The woman whom I had seen the day (4)	
appeared now. She looked at the steamer and shouted something	
Again the crowd of people echoed her shouts. "Do you understand	
this? Tasked Kurtz. "Of course," he replied with a smile	
'I (5) for the line to the whistle and pulled it hard. The	
steamer whistle screeched, and the crowd of natives began to run	
away in terror. The only named (6)	
away in terror. The only person (6) did not move was that	
magnificent woman. She stayed motionless, looking at us with her	
arms (7) high up in the air. And then the pilgrims on board	
took out their rifles and began to shoot. I did not see anything	
(8) because of the smoke.	

U	A next	B after	C then	D later
1	A stare	B regard	C look	D watch
2	A see	B stare	C look	D watch
3	A did	B produced	C made	D caused
4	A earlier	B previous	C first	D before
5	A reached	B went	C connected	D contacted
6	A who	B whose	C whom	D which
7	A held	B dropped	C loosed	D lowered
8	A other	B besides	C else	D also





#### CHAPTER TEN

day at noon. A huge crowd of

natives came out to watch us go. I swung the steamer into the middle of the river to turn her round. As we steamed past I could see three men covered in red earth. They stamped their feet on the ground, and moved their bodies rhythmically. The three men shouted something, and the crowd behind them made a noise.

'The woman whom I had seen the day before also appeared now. She looked at the steamer and shouted something. Again the crowd of people echoed her shouts.

"Do you understand this?" I asked Kurtz.

"Of course," he replied with a smile.

'I reached for the line to the whistle and pulled it hard. The steamer whistle screeched, and the crowd of natives began to run away in terror. The only person who did not move was that magnificent woman. She stayed motionless, looking at us with her arms held high up in the air. And then the pilgrims on board

took out their rifles and began to shoot. I did not see anything else because of the smoke.

'The river took us away from the heart of darkness. It carried us swiftly <sup>1</sup> towards the sea. Kurtz's life was moving swiftly towards its end, too. The manager was relaxed now. He could see that his problems would end with the end of Kurtz's life.

'Now Kurtz began to talk. How he talked! He hid the darkness in his heart with that voice of his! He talked about "my intended", "my station", "my career", and "my ideas". There was a struggle going on inside him between his love of what he had discovered and his hatred for what he had discovered. I saw that struggle and it was terrible.

'The steamer broke down during the journey, and we had to stop for repairs. Kurtz was impatient because of the delay. He gave me his papers to look after, and a photograph of a European girl.

"This fool," he told me, "may want to look at them." He meant the manager.

'The repairs took several days, and Kurtz grew weaker every day. I worked to repair the steamer, and I watched Kurtz dying. It was fascinating to see that man die. I saw his pride, his power, and I saw his absolute despair. Did he live through his whole life again in those few days? Did he experience once more the desires and the surrender to them that had destroyed him? Did he see that he was just a hollow man?

'Once he cried out at some thought or vision he was seeing. His voice was very weak —

"The horror! The horror!"

'I left him alone in his cabin.

'A few minutes later the manager's servant came in to tell us

1. swiftly: quickly.

that Kurtz was dead.

'The pilgrims buried him the next day.

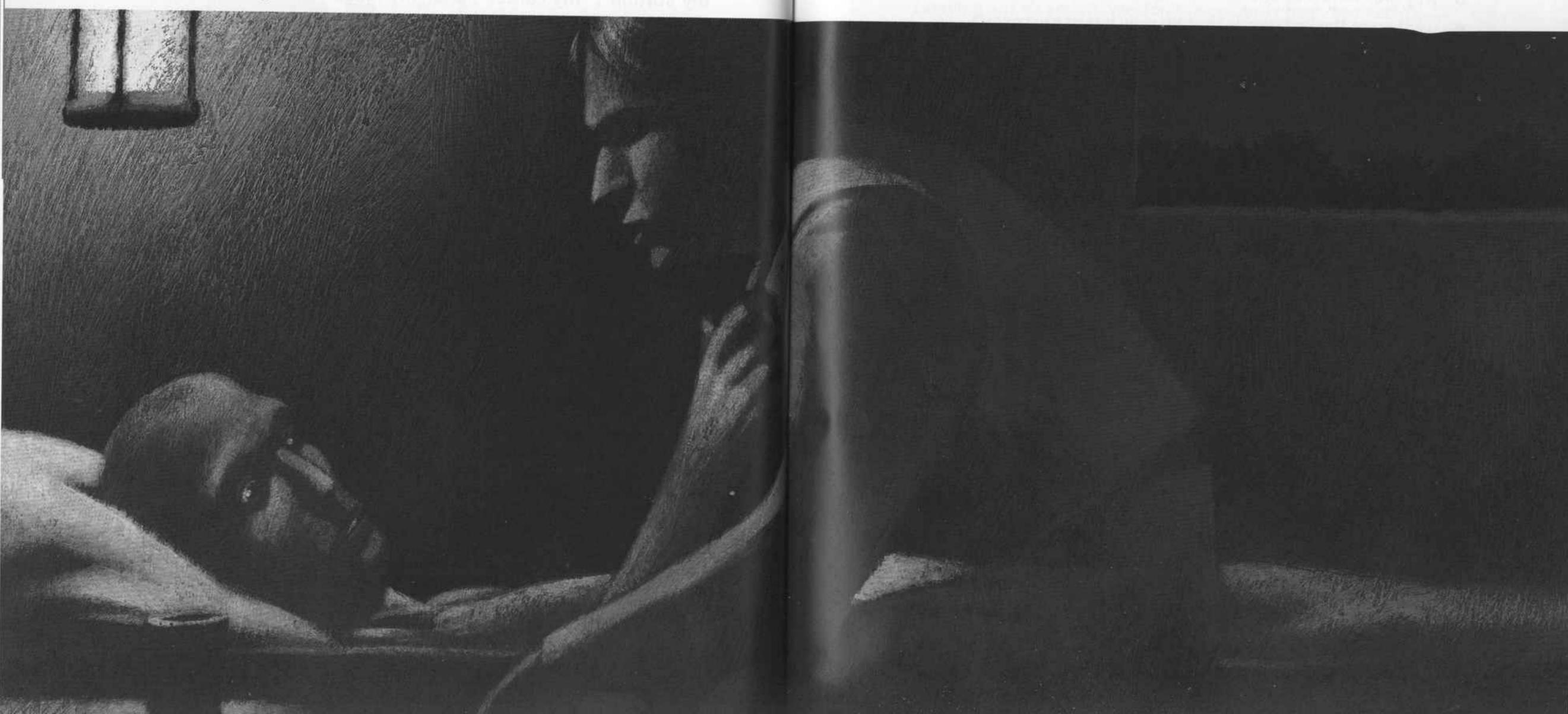
'And then they nearly buried me. But I survived my illness. I survived to be loyal to Kurtz once again. It was my destiny to protect that man's reputation.

'I have been close to death, and I know how dull 1 it is to struggle against it. I know that when I was very close to dying, I

1. dull: boring, difficult.

had nothing to say. That's why I think Kurtz was a remarkable man, despite everything. He did have something to say, and he said it. He looked out into the abyss that confronts us all in the end, and he gave his opinion: "The horror! The horror!"

'His cry was a kind of victory. It was a moral victory. He had been defeated by his desires, he had done abominable things, and at the end he had the courage to look at what had happened to himself. That's why I've remained loyal to him.'



# Go back to the text

- 1 Comprehension check Answer the following questions.
  - 1 Who was the only native who did not run away when Marlow sounded the whistle?
  - 2 What did Kurtz talk about?
  - 3 What was the struggle going on inside of Kurtz?
  - 4 What did Kurtz give to Marlow?
  - 5 Why did Marlow find it fascinating to watch Kurtz die?
  - 6 What were the last words that Marlow heard Kurtz say?
  - 7 Why did Marlow survive his illness?
  - 8 Why did Marlow see Kurtz's final words as a kind of victory?
- 2 A remarkable man

What does Marlow mean when he says that 'despite everything' Kurtz was a remarkable man?

FCE 3 Writing

Pretend that you were one of Marlow's companions on the *Nellie* and that you heard his story about Kurtz. Write a letter of between 120-180 words to a friend telling him your opinion of Kurtz. Say:

- How you heard the story of Kurtz
- How Marlow met Kurtz

- What Kurtz did in Africa

- Kurtz's talents
- Marlow's opinion of Kurtz
- Your opinion of Kurtz

## You can begin like this:

Dear Harry,
I heard the most incredible tale the other evening. I was aboard a yawl in the Thames with
Yours truly,
Stanley L.

# 'A huge crowd of natives came out to watch us go'

Verbs of perception — hear, see, feel (when referring to the sense of touch), listen to and watch — are followed by the direct object and either the *infinitive* or the *ing-form* of the verb.

Look at the examples to see the difference in meaning between the ingform and the infinitive:

- a I heard him singing = he was singing, and I heard him.
- b They watched us go away = we went away, and they watched us.

In other words, in this construction:

- the ing-form corresponds to the Past Continuous. We use this form when we hear/see/feel/listen to/watch someone in the middle of carrying out an action. We don't necessarily hear/see/feel/listen to/watch the whole action
- the infinitive corresponds to the Past Simple. We use this form for a complete action or for a short, immediate action

# Patterns after verbs of perception According to the context, complete the following sentences with the verbs in the ing-form or the infinitive.

blow throw scream run crawl drift splash fire walk

Example:	I think	I can l	near somebody	(scream)	screaming
----------	---------	---------	---------------	----------	-----------

- 1 I saw a native ...... a stone at a bird, but he missed and the bird escaped.
- I was hit by an arrow in the thigh and I could feel the blood ................................ down my leg.
- When I was standing by the river, I heard something ...... in the water. It was an elephant taking a bath.
- 4 We were in the forest when we heard the whistle of the steamer
- 5 I saw the French war-ship ...... its guns into the jungle, but nothing happened.

- 6 I woke up in the middle of the night because I felt something ..... on my head. It was a scorpion!
- 7 We sat on the bank of the river and watched the boat ..... silently towards the sea.
- 8 I watched the native woman ...... proudly along the river bank.

# Before you read

1 Listening

Listen to the first part of Chapter Eleven and say whether the following

	atements are true (T) or false (F). Then read the text to	check you	r
an	swers.	T F	
1	Marlow was happy to return to the civilised world.		
2	A man from the company came to Marlow to get Kurtz's papers.		]
3	Marlow's papers were worth a lot of money.		
4	Marlow did not give the man the papers.		-
5	Kurtz's cousin was a great musician.		
6	Kurtz had been a journalist.		
7	Marlow went to see Kurtz's fiancée to give her Kurtz's papers and a picture.		
8	Kurtz's fiancée was still honouring his death.		1
9	Marlow said that he admired Kurtz.		
10	Kurtz's fiancée did not think Kurtz was talented.		



o, they did not bury me, but I lived through a strange period when there seemed no hope and no desire in the world. I returned to the city and was disgusted by the people there. They took money from each other, they ate and drank, and they had silly dreams.

'One day a man from the company came to see me. He wanted me to give him Kurtz's documents and papers. I refused to give them to him. He told me the company had the right to all the information that Kurtz had gathered 1 while he worked for it. I told him Kurtz's papers had no commercial value. I let him see Kurtz's paper for the International Society for the Suppression of Savage Customs. I tore off the postscript with those terrible words: "Kill all the brutes!" The man read it eagerly 2 and then threw it down with contempt.

"This is not the kind of thing we expected," he told me angrily. "Not what we expected, at all."

'A few days later another man came to see me. He said he was Kurtz's cousin. He told me that Kurtz had been, essentially, a great musician.

'Then a journalist called who wanted to talk about the death

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<sup>1.</sup> gathered: brought together.

<sup>2.</sup> eagerly: with interest.

of his "dear colleague".

"He should have been a politician," the journalist told me. "He wasn't a particularly good journalist — but that man could talk!"

'I could not decide what Kurtz's real talents were. He could paint, he could write, he could play music, and he could talk like no one else. He was a sort of universal genius.

'Kurtz's mother had recently died, and I heard that his "intended" had looked after her. I thought she should have his papers, and the picture of her that was with them.

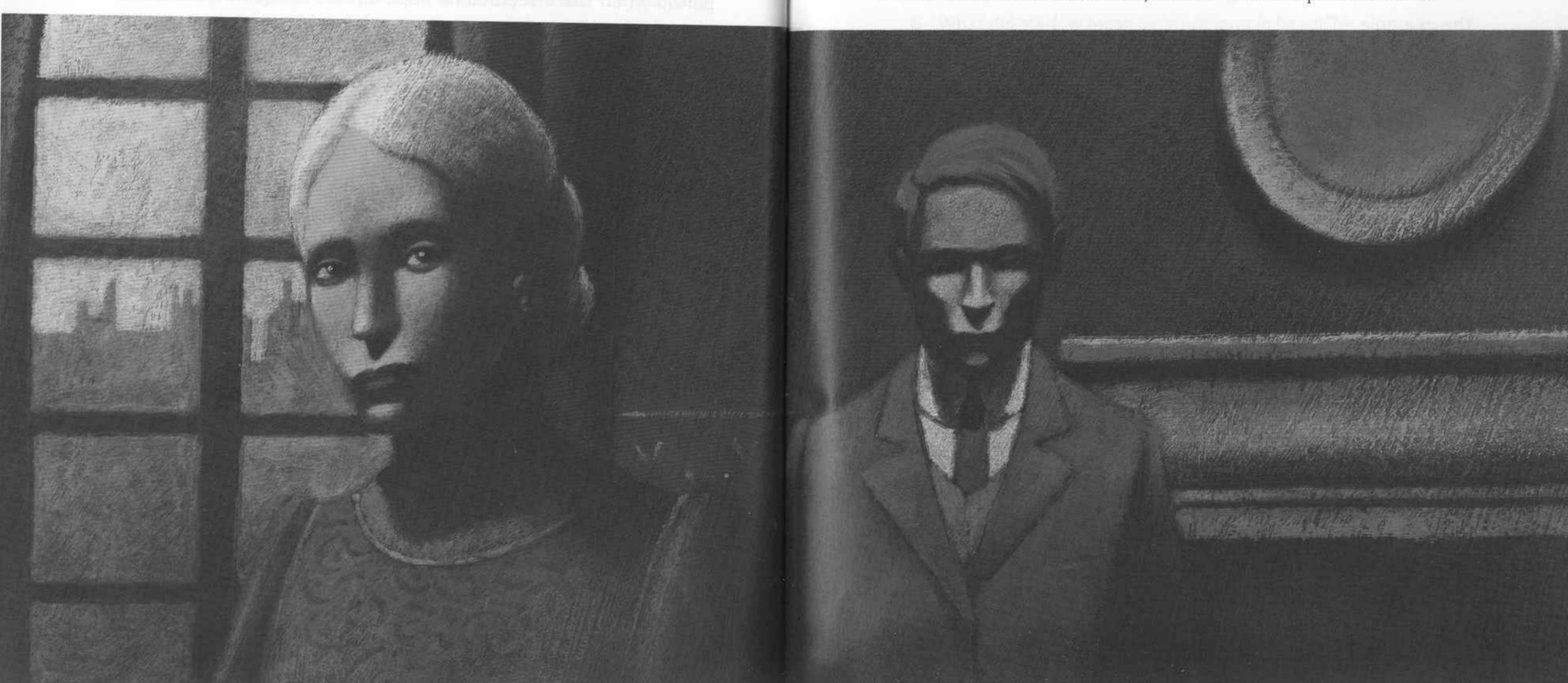
'It was evening when I went to her house. She came forward to greet me, dressed in black. He had died more than a year ago, but she was still wearing black for him. I put the packet of papers and the picture on the table. She covered it with her hand.

"You knew him well?" she asked me.

"I knew him very well," I replied.

"You admired him, of course," she told me. "It was impossible to know him and not to admire him."

"He was a remarkable man," I said. "It was impossible not to -"



'And so the girl talked to me about her love for Kurtz. She was proud of him, and she spoke very highly of his many talents.

END

"His death was a terrible loss to me - to us - to the whole world. And now there is nothing of his greatness left. There is only the memory of it. You and I -"

"We will always remember him," I told her.

"We'll remember his goodness," she said. "We'll remember the example -"

"The example he set. Yes. I had forgotten that," I replied.

"Were you with him when he died?" she asked me.

"To the very end. I heard his last words."

"What were they?" she wanted to know. "Tell me what he said!"

'It was dark in the house now. I could almost hear that voice saying, "The horror! The horror!"

"What did he say?" she asked me again. "Tell me. It will give me something to live for. I loved him — I loved him!"

'I made a great effort,' Marlow said. 'I looked at her and spoke slowly:

"The last word he said was your name."

Marlow looked at us as we lay on the deck of the Nellie listening to his story.

'I couldn't tell her the truth. It would have been too dark — • much too dark.'

Marlow stopped talking now, and there was silence on the boat. Nobody moved. I looked up. There were clouds over the river. The quiet river seemed to lead into the heart of an immense darkness.

# Go back to the text

- 1 Comprehension check Answer the following questions.
  - 1 What were Kurtz's talents?
  - Why did the journalist think that Kurtz should have been a politician?
  - 3 What lies did Marlow tell Kurtz's intended?
  - 4 What did he hide from her?
  - 5 What did Kurtz's fiancée probably mean when she said 'the example he set'?
  - 6 What did Marlow mean by 'the example he set'?
  - 7 What is the darkness the anonymous narrator refers to at the very end of the book?

# 2 Characters

Look back at Chapter Eleven and decide for which of the people listed below the following statements are true.

•	1 4	1	أعدد	01	Ŀ
4	101	7	$\mathbf{r}$	$\Omega$	1

- B The man from the company
- C The journalist
- D Kurtz's cousin
- E Kurtz's intended
- 1 She/He did not think that Kurtz was a very good journalist.
- 2 She/He lied about Kurtz's last words.
- 3 She/He felt that Kurtz was a good man.
- 4 She/He felt that Kurtz's main talent was musical.
- 5 She/He thought that life in the city was a ridiculous and ugly spectacle.
- 6 She/He was not satisfied with Kurtz's paper.
- 7 She/He loved Kurtz.
- 8 She/He believed that she/he knew everything about Kurtz.

3 Silly dreams
Why do you think Marlow was disgusted with London life when he returned from Africa?

FCE 4 A film version

Read the article about the 1979 film Apocalypse Now. For questions 1-5, choose the correct answer, A, B, C or D.

# APOCALYPSE NOW

Even though Conrad's Heart of Darkness came out in 1902, its investigation of the nature of reality and of evil in the hearts of all people continues to intrigue us. The book even inspired one of the classics of modern cinema, Apocalypse Now (1979). This film was directed by Francis Ford Coppola, who is also famous for his three films about the American mafia, The Godfather (1972), The Godfather II (1974) and The Godfather III (1990).

Apocalypse Now takes place during the Vietnam War (c. 1959-75). Coppola said that he wanted his film to 'give its audience a sense of the horror, the madness, the sensuousness and the moral dilemma of the Vietnam War'. The film tells the story of Lieutenant Willard of the US army. Lieutenant Willard is given a terrible mission: he must travel up the Nang River to the base of a certain Colonel Kurtz and then 'terminate' him, i.e., kill him. Kurtz was one of the best soldiers in the American Army, but he has become a rebel and set up his own kingdom in the middle of the jungle. He has also organised his own private army which he uses to fight against the Viet Cong (the communist soldiers of South Vietnam who fought against the United States). It also seems that the once brilliant Colonel has gone mad. When referring to the Vietnamese he says, 'We must kill them, we must incinerate them, pig after pig, cow after cow, village after village, army after army, and they call me an assassin.'

Lieutenant Willard, who is already emotionally destroyed by his experiences in the war, feels from the start the absurdity of his mission: killing a man for his unauthorised killing of the enemy.

The journey of Willard and his five men up the Nang River is also a psychological journey into the horrors and absurdities of war. They witness all sorts of atrocities against innocent civilians and gradually they too begin to lose touch with reality.

When they arrive at Kurtz's kingdom in the jungle, Willard meets a crazy photojournalist who is in complete adoration of Kurtz. He tells Willard that 'we are all his children'.

Finally Willard meets Colonel Kurtz and realises that his madness comes from the fact that Kurtz has looked so closely at war and understood its horrors so well that he too has been contaminated. Kurtz tells Willard that the Viet Cong were willing to do more than the US to win the war. 'Then I realised,' Kurtz explains, 'they were stronger than we. They have the strength, the strength to do that.'

In the end Willard 'terminates' Kurtz but he realises that in some strange way he is much like the mad colonel he was sent to kill.

This exciting film won two Academy Awards, but its making nearly ruined the director. The film was to be shot in 17 weeks and to cost \$12 million. In the end, though, the film took 16 months to film and cost \$31 million. The sets in the Philippines were struck by a typhoon and one of the main actors suffered a heart attack. In 1992 a documentary came out on the film called Hearts of Darkness: A Film-maker's Apocalypse, and then in 2001 the film itself came out again with some previously unreleased scenes and an upgraded sound track. So, it seems that the works of both Conrad and Coppola will live on.



# INTERNET PROJECT

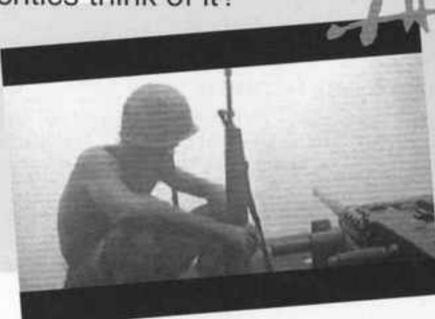


#### Apocalypse Now

Connect to the Internet and go to www.blackcat-cideb.com or www.cideb.it. Insert the title or part of the title of the book into our search engine.

Open the page for Heart of Darkness. 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. Find out more information about the famous 1979 film, Apocalypse Now.

- Who did it star?
- What did the critics think of it?
- How many Oscars did it win?





T: GRADE 8

5 Speaking: National environmental concerns

The ivory trade features on various occasions in Heart of Darkness. Do people still trade in ivory today? What other protected materials or animal species are still traded today? How does this affect the environment? Prepare a short talk for your class on this kind of environmental concern. Use the following questions to help you.

- How has the situation changed compared to Conrad's time?
- What other protected materials or animal species are still traded today?
- What can people do to help improve the situation?
- Which animals are endangered or protected in your own country?

# For questions 1-9, choose the correct answer, A, B, C or D.

1	Н	ow was Marlow different from his friends aboard the Nellie?
	A	
	В	
	С	He had been the captain of a boat.
	D	He knew about English history.
2	A	ccording to Marlow's aunt, what was the main purpose of the impany in Africa?
	A	to make a good profit
	В	to bring civilisation to Africa
	С	to give work to her nephew
	D	to steal from weaker populations
3	War	hat was the 'religion' of the various Europeans who wandered ound the station?
	A	progress
	В	Kurtz
	С	the great Congo River
	D	ivory
4	Wharr	ny didn't Marlow begin his voyage up the river as soon as he rived at the station?
	A	Because he was frightened of a hippopotamus that lived near his steamer.
	В	Because it took a lot of time to obtain the rivets he neede to repair the steamer.
	С	Because he wanted to discover why the manager didn't want him to save Kurtz.
	D	Because he needed to wait for the approval of the Counci in Europe before setting out.

5	Wha duri	at did Marlow find most exciting about the Africans he met ng his journey?
	Α	The fact that they were so dangerous.
	В	The fact that he could not tell if they were welcoming or cursing him when they danced.
	С	The fact that they agreed to work for the Europeans.
	D	The fact that they were human beings like him, despite all the differences.
6	Why	did the Africans attack Marlow's steamer?
	A	Because the cannibals on board were their enemies.
	В	Because Kurtz had told them to.
	C	Because they hated the pilgrims who were on board.
	D	Because they thought that the steamer was some kind of devi
7	Why	was Marlow sad when he thought that Kurtz was dead?
	A	Because he knew that he had a wife in Europe.
	В	Because he knew that he was loved by the natives.
	C	Because he had wanted to work with him.
	D [	Because he had wanted to talk with Kurtz about Kurtz's ideas.
8	Why	did Kurtz fail, according to Marlow?
	A	Because he was not strong enough to face the solitude of the jungle by himself.
	В	Because the manager and his uncle were his enemies.
	C	Because the pilgrims were his enemies.
	D	Because his ideas about progress were not realistic.
9	Why	did Marlow lie about Kurtz once he had returned to Europe?
	A	Because he wanted to protect Kurtz's reputation.
	В	Because he did not want the company to know that he admired Kurtz.
	С	Because he himself was frightened by the truth that he had discovered in the jungles of Africa.
	D	Because he did not think that anybody could truly understand the greatness of Kurtz.

### EXITEST

# 2 The story

- 1 Where is Marlow when he tells his story?
- What relationship is there between where Marlow tells his story and the story itself?

# 3 The company

1 How does Marlow view the company?

# 4 Surrealism

- 1 What was so strange about the French ship which Marlow saw along the African coast?
- 2 What was odd about the accountant?
- 3 What was strange about how the manager of the station progressed in his career?

# 5 Pilgrims' progress

- 1 Who were the pilgrims? Why did Marlow call them 'pilgrims'?
- 2 What did Marlow think of the pilgrims?

# 6 Kurtz

- 1 Who was Kurtz?
- 2 How was he different from the other traders?
- 3 What were some of his talents?
- 4 How had Kurtz changed since he had come to Africa?
- 5 Why did Marlow see Kurtz as better than the pilgrims and other Europeans in Africa?
- 6 Why was Kurtz a 'hollow man'?

- power that white men had to do good.

  6 Because he had given in to his desires; he had let the jungle take him over.
- the country.

  5 Because he had ideas about helping the African people; about using the
- a great thinker.

  4 He had seen the truth about what was happening in Africa, and had had had the courage to acknowledge it. He had been influenced by the 'darkness' of the courage to acknowledge it. He had been influenced by the 'darkness' of
- the African people.

  3 He talked well and convinced people easily; he had a brilliant mind; he was
- 2 He was different in that he still had some scruples. He was respected by
  - 6 1 Kurtz was an ivory trader.
- if they were on a religious 'pilgrimage' to find ivory.

  2 He thought they were greedy and cared nothing for the African people.
- over people's jobs when they died.

  1 The pilgrims were ivory hunters. Marlow called them this because it was as
  - 3 He was successful in his career because he was never ill. He took
    - 2 He was very smartly dressed in clean, white clothes.
    - 4 1 It was firing its guns into the jungle, at its 'enemies'.
  - [Thames] seemed to lead into the heart of an immense darkness'.

    3 1 He says it is a trading business, interested only in profit.
  - 2 Africa and London (the Thames) are places of darkness: 'the quiet river
    - 2 1 He is on a boat on the Thames.
    - I IBSB3D4B2D6C1D8 W 3 W

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 or www.cideb.it.

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

# Step Five B2.2

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

#### Verb tenses

Present Perfect and Past Perfect Simple: negative duration (haven't ... for ages) Present Perfect Continuous: recent activities leading to present situation Past Perfect Continuous

# Verb forms and patterns

Passive forms: Past Perfect Simple;
with modal verbs
Reported speech introduced by more examples
of precise reporting verbs (e.g. threaten,
insist, complain)
Wish and if only + past tense
It's time + past tense

#### Modal verbs

Should(n't) have, ought (not) to have; duty in the past Must have, can't have, may have, might have, could have: deduction and probability in the past

# Types of clause

3rd conditionals with *unless*Mixed conditional sentences
Complex sentences with more than one subordinate clause

# Available at Step Five:

- The Age of Innocence Edith Wharton
- Emma Jane Austen
- Frankenstein Mary Shelley
- **■** Gothic Short Stories
- The Grapes of Wrath John Steinbeck
- Great Expectations Charles Dickens
- The Great Gatsby F. Scott Fitzgerald
- Heart of Darkness Joseph Conrad
- Jane Eyre Charlotte Brontë
- Middlemarch George Eliot
- The Murders in the Rue Morgue and The Purloined Letter Edgar Allan Poe
- Pamela Samuel Richardson
- A Passage to India E. M. Forster
- Persuasion Jane Austen
- The Picture of Dorian Gray
  Oscar Wilde
- The Portrait of a Lady Henry James
- Pride and Prejudice Jane Austen
- The Problem of Cell 13
  Jacques Futrelle
- Robinson Crusoe Daniel Defoe
- A Room with a View E. M. Forster
- The Scarlet Letter Nathaniel Hawthorne
- Sense and Sensibility Jane Austen
- Sons and Lovers D. H. Lawrence
- A Tale of Two Cities Charles Dickens
- The Taming of the Shrew William Shakespeare
- Tess of the D'Urbervilles Thomas Hardy
- Vanity Fair William Thackeray
- Wuthering Heights Emily Brontë