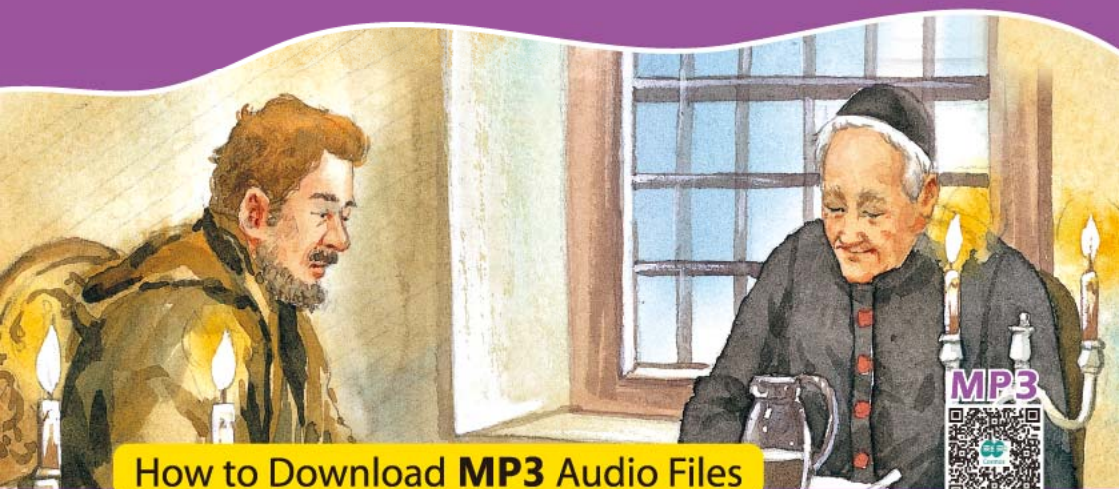


Les Misérables

Original Author Victor Hugo
Adaptor Michael Robert Bradie
Illustrator An Ji-yeon

WORDS

800



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Les Misérables

(Second Edition)

Author: Victor Hugo

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ISBN 978-626-300-277-7

Second printing, August 2024

Second Edition (With iCosmos Audio APP)

Published by Cosmos Culture Ltd.

Copyright ©2004 Darakwon Publishing Company

First Published by Darakwon Publishing Company, Seoul, Korea

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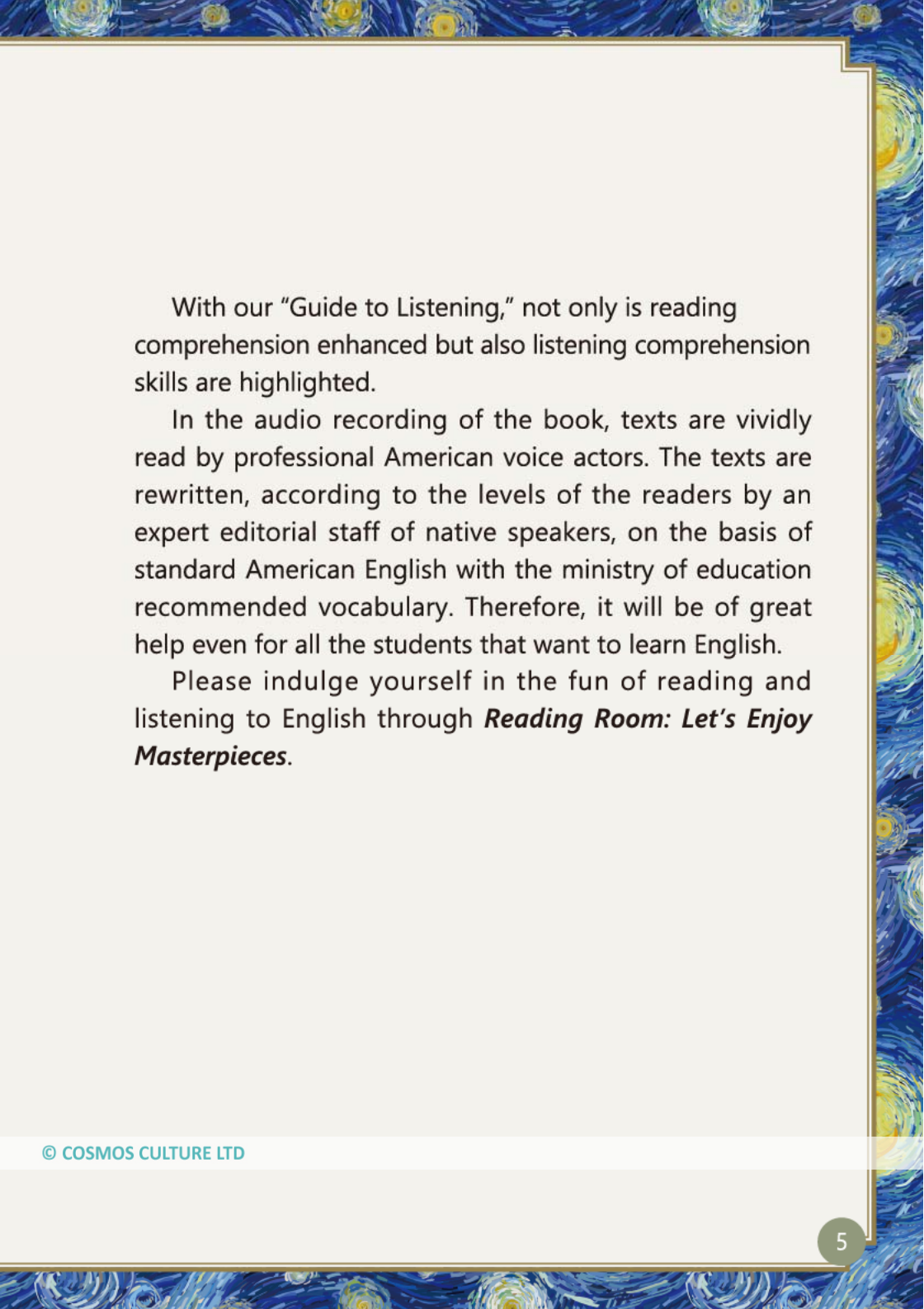


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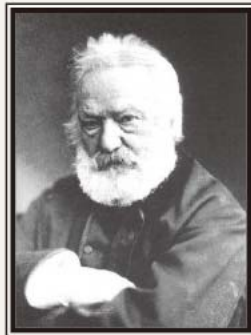
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Please indulge yourself in the fun of reading and listening to English through ***Reading Room: Let’s Enjoy Masterpieces.***

Victor Hugo

(1802–1885)



Victor Hugo was a famous French poet, novelist, and playwright. He was the third son in his family. His father was a high-ranking officer in Napoleon's army, and his mother was an extreme Catholic Royalist. Hugo was interested in literature, but his father wanted him to be a soldier.

Hugo published his first collection of poems, *Odes et Poésies Diverses*, in 1822. After that, he published several collections of poems, novels, and plays over a twenty-year period. After his daughter died in 1843, he focused on politics for the next ten years.

When Louis Napoleon seized power in 1851 and established an anti-parliamentary constitution, Hugo called him a traitor to France. Hugo left France and lived in exile for nineteen years, during which time he became absorbed in writing. His best works came from this period. The novel *Les Misérables* (1862), along with *Notre-Dame de Paris* (1831), is considered his best work.

Hugo died in Paris on May 22, 1885, at the age of 83. He was given a state funeral. Two million people in Paris mourned his death, and he was buried in the Pantheon.



Les Misérables, translated variously from the French title as *The Miserable Ones*, *The Poor Ones*, or *The Wretched Poor*, is considered one of the greatest novels of the 19th century. It consists of 5 volumes and 10 books.

This novel included Hugo's thoughts on social and religious life. Hugo wrote passionately about establishing an ideal society and worked hard for the wretched.

The main plot is about Jean Valjean, an ex-convict. Jean Valjean, a poor man, was once imprisoned for stealing a loaf of bread for his starving family. After being released from prison, he steals the Bishop Myriel's silverware and wants to get revenge on society. He is caught, but the bishop forgives him.

Finally, Valjean repents and begins a new life. Valjean becomes a wealthy factory owner and is appointed mayor of his adopted town.

But one day an innocent man is arrested and accused of being Jean Valjean. The man is going to be tried the next day. To save the innocent man, the real ex-convict decides to go to the trial and reveal his true identity. Valjean is promptly arrested. Imprisoned, Valjean soon escapes.

Later, he meets Fantine, who used to be a worker at his factory, and her daughter Cosette. Valjean saves Cosette from a life of prostitution, and they live happily together. Nevertheless, Inspector Javert keeps chasing Valjean . . .



HOW TO IMPROVE READING ABILITY

1 *Catch key words*

Read the key words in the sentences and practice catching the gist of the meaning of the sentence. You might question how working with a few important words could enhance your reading ability. However, it's quite effective. If you continue to use this method, you will find out that the key words and your knowledge of people and situations enables you to understand the sentence.

2 *Divide long sentences*

Read in chunks of meaning, dividing sentences into meaningful chunks of information. In the book, chunks are arranged in sentences according to meaning. If you consider the sentences backwards or grammatically, your reading speed will be slow and you will find it difficult to listen to English.

You are ready to move to a more sophisticated level of comprehension when you find that narrowly focusing on chunks is irritating. Instead of considering the chunks, you

© COSMOS CULTURE LTD a habit to read the sentence from the beginning to the end to figure out the meaning of the whole.

3 *Make inferences and assumptions*

Making inferences and assumptions is part of your ability. If you don't know, try to guess the meaning of the words. Although you don't know all the words in context, don't go straight to the dictionary. Developing an ability to make inferences in the context is important.

The first way to figure out the meaning of a word is from its context. If you cannot make head or tail out of the meaning of a word, look at what comes before or after it. Ask yourself what can happen in such a situation. Make your best guess as to the word's meaning. Then check the explanations of the word in the book or look up the word in a dictionary.

4 *Read a lot and reread the same book many times*

There is no shortcut to mastering English. Only if you do a lot of reading will you make your way to the summit. Read fun and easy books with an average of less than one new word per page. Try to immerse yourself in English as often as you can.

Spend time "swimming" in English. Language learning research has shown that immersing yourself in English will help you improve your English, even though you may not be aware of what you're learning.



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Before You Read



Jean Valjean

I spent¹ 19 years in prison², but now that I've gotten out³, I want to change my life and become a good man. I try to help the poor⁴ and take care of⁵ my dear Cosette.



Cosette

I grew up⁶ neglected⁷ in the Thenardiers' inn⁸, but Jean Valjean rescued⁹ me. We have a happy life together, but we're always moving¹⁰, like we're running from something.

1. **spend** [spend] (v.)
(spend-spent-spent)
2. **prison** ['prɪzən] (n.)
3. **get out**

6. **grow up**
7. **neglect** [nɪ'gлект] (v.)
8. **inn** [ɪn] (n.)
9. **rescue** ['reskjʊ:] (v.)

5. **take care of**

10. **move** [mu:v] (v.)



Inspector Javert

I'm a policeman, and I've been chasing¹¹ Jean Valjean for years. Somehow¹², he always seems to¹³ escape from¹⁴ me, but I won't give up¹⁵. I'll find him if it's the last thing I do.



Marius

Even though¹⁶ my grandfather and I don't get along¹⁷ anymore, that's all right because I'm in love with¹⁸ Cosette. I want to marry¹⁹ her, but it's hard to find her since she and her father are always moving.



Thenardier

Ever since²⁰ Jean Valjean took Cosette from my inn, my family has been poor. I have to do many things, including²¹ stealing²², to get money for my family.

11. **chase** [tʃeɪs] (v.)

12. **somehow** ['sʌmhaʊ] (adv.)

13. **seem to**

14. **escape from**

16. **even though**

17. **get along**

18. **be in love with**

19. **marry** ['mæri] (v.)

20. **ever since**

21. **include** [ɪn'klu:d] (v.)

22. **steal** [sti:l] (v.)

(steal-stole-stolen)

Chapter One



Two Desperate¹ Souls²

One cold evening in October of 1815, a man with a long beard³ and dirty clothes walked into the French town of Digne. The man was in his forties and very strong. He carried a bag and a walking staff⁴.

The man entered an inn and said to the innkeeper⁵, "I've been traveling for a long time, and I'm very tired. I need a meal and a place to sleep. I have money to pay you."

The innkeeper looked closely at the strange man. "I know who you are. You are Jean Valjean. You've just been released⁶ from prison⁷. I don't serve⁸ people like you! Get out of⁹ here immediately!"

1. **desperate** [ˈdɛspərɪt] (a.)

2. **soul** [səʊl] (n.)

3. **beard** [bɪəd] (n.)

4. **walking staff**

5. **innkeeper** [ˈɪn,ki:pər] (n.)

6. **release** [rɪˈli:s] (v.)

7. **prison** [ˈprɪzən] (n.)

8. **serve** [sɜ:rv] (v.)

9. **get out of**



Jean Valjean left peacefully¹⁰. Outside it was dark, cold, and windy. He was desperate for a place to rest. He lay down¹¹ on a stone bench in front of a church and tried to sleep. But a woman came out and asked, “How can you sleep outside on that stone bench?”

“I’ve been sleeping on a wooden¹² one in prison for nineteen years. What’s the difference¹³?”

© COSMOS CULTURE LTD. peacefully [ˈpiːsfəli] (adv.)

11. **lie down**

12. **wooden** [ˈwʊdn] (a.)

13. **difference** [ˈdɪfərəns] (n.)