

Before Reading

TALKING ABOUT THE COVER

- Why do you think the man is dressed in this way? (*Is he dead, a ghost, ill, ugly, not human?*)
- Is this going to be a ghost story, a horror story, a sad story, a happy story?
- What do you think an 'Elephant Man' is? (*Someone who looks after elephants, knows a lot about elephants, looks like an elephant*)

BEFORE READING ACTIVITIES (PAGE 44)

ACTIVITY 1 BEFORE READING

1 Yes 2 No 3 No 4 Yes 5 No 6 Yes 7 Yes

ACTIVITY 2 BEFORE READING

Open answers. Encourage students to speculate and to make guesses, but do not tell them the answers. They will find out as they read that the 'yes' answers are numbers 1, 4, and 6.

While Reading

CHAPTERS 1 AND 2 WHILE READING

- 1 A picture of the Elephant Man.
- 2 To the shopkeeper, Silcock.
- 3 He felt sad.
- 4 Because his legs were very big and fat, and he had a bad back.
- 5 They went in a cab.
- 6 His card.

Dr Treves wrote:

- 1 His head is very *big*, and it looks like an enormous *bag* with a lot of books in it.
- 2 There is not much *hair* on his head, and the *skin* on his face cannot move.
- 3 An enormous red *tooth* comes out of his mouth, under his *nose*.
- 4 The right arm is *enormous* and the right hand is like a *man's* foot, but the *fingers* of the left hand are long and beautiful.

CHAPTERS 3 AND 4 WHILE READING

- 1 *Why . . . ?* Because Merrick had Dr Treves's card.
- 2 *Why . . . ?* Because he wanted to ask the readers of *The Times* to help the Elephant Man.
- 3 *What . . . ?* They gave the London Hospital £50,000.
- 4 *Who . . . ?* His mother.

5 *What . . . ?* She screamed, dropped his food on the floor, and ran out of the room.

6 *Why . . . ?* Because people couldn't look at him in a lighthouse.

Possible answers:

POLICE: Now, Mr Merrick. Where do you live, sir?

MERRICK: *I don't know. I don't have a home. (I don't live anywhere.)*

POLICE: Do you have any money, sir?

MERRICK: *No, I don't.*

POLICE: Why not? What happened to your money?

MERRICK: *I had £50 in Belgium, but a man called Silcock took it away from me.*

POLICE: You can't stay in prison. Where do you want to go now?

MERRICK: *To the London Hospital.*

POLICE: Why? Do you know somebody there?

MERRICK: *Yes. His name is Dr Treves. Look – here is his card.*

POLICE: Ah, I see. All right, sir. Let's go and see him now.

BEFORE READING CHAPTERS 5, 6, 7

Encourage students to guess and to make deductions from what they have read so far. The best answers are:

- He reads a lot.
- The Queen visits him.
- He makes new friends.
- He goes to a theatre.
- He is very happy.

CHAPTER 5 WHILE READING

- 1 Merrick, to Dr Treves.
- 2 Dr Treves, to Merrick.
- 3 The Queen, to Merrick.
- 4 Merrick, to the Queen.
- 5 The Queen, to Merrick.
- 6 Merrick, to the Queen.

CHAPTERS 6 AND 7 WHILE READING

- 1 Merrick *never* went out of the hospital by himself.
- 2 Merrick thought and played like a *child*.
- 3 Merrick was very *angry* with the bad man in the play.
- 4 Merrick *liked* staying in the country.
- 5 Merrick *didn't* usually *sleep* on his back.
- 6 *Everybody* was sorry when the Elephant Man died.

After Reading

ACTIVITY 1 AFTER READING

Words across: *fish, doctor, finger, birds, queen*

Words down: *nurses, country, hospital, ugly, dog, friends*

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

Joseph Merrick, the Elephant Man, lived in the London *Hospital*. He was a very *ugly* man but most of the *nurses* liked him. *Queen* Alexandra was one of his *friends*. One summer he stayed in a house in the *country*. He saw *fish* in a stream, and talked to *birds* and a *dog*. 'He was very happy there,' *Doctor* Treves said.

ACTIVITY 2 AFTER READING

- 2 NURSE: Dr Treves, Dr Treves! Help!
- 5 TREVES: What's the matter, nurse? Why are you screaming?
- 4 NURSE: Oh, doctor, there's a horrible creature in Mr Merrick's room!
- 10 TREVES: What does this horrible creature look like?
- 8 NURSE: It's got an enormous head with an elephant's tooth in its mouth, and a big horrible arm!
- 7 TREVES: That's Mr Merrick, nurse! He looks like that. What did you do in the room?
- 3 NURSE: I dropped his food on the floor and ran out. I was afraid. Is he very ill?
- 9 TREVES: No, Mr Merrick isn't ill, but he's very ugly. Now sit down and listen to me, nurse. Is this your first day here?
- 1 NURSE: Yes. I started work this morning.
- 11 TREVES: Well, don't be afraid of Mr Merrick. He isn't horrible. He's a nice, kind man. Now go back in that room, and talk to him. All right?
- 6 NURSE: All right, doctor. Thank you.

ACTIVITY 3 AFTER READING

The picture goes on page 14.

- 1 He is going back to London.
- 2 In Belgium, with Silcock.
- 3 The police put him in prison.

Lines from the text on page 14 would make suitable captions, for example:

- *Merrick came back to London by himself.*
- *Everybody on the ship looked at him, and laughed at him.*

Or students might like to be more imaginative, and think of a caption to describe the Elephant Man's situation or feelings:

- *Poor Joseph Merrick! Nobody wanted to talk to him / be his friend.*
- *The Elephant Man was always alone / by himself.*

ACTIVITY 4 AFTER READING

Last night Joseph Merrick, the famous 'Elephant Man', died. Merrick did not have an easy life. His mother gave him to a man called Silcock, *and* Silcock took him from town to town, to make money. *When* Silcock left him in Belgium, Merrick came back to England. He was not ill, *but* he could not work, *so* the London Hospital gave him a home. There, people were kind to him for the first time in his life, *and* he had many friends.

'He had a very ugly body,' said his friend Dr Treves, '*but* we all liked him *because* he was a good, kind man.'

ACTIVITY 5 AFTER READING

Open discussion.