

# THE AGE OF INNOCENCE

## EDITH WHARTON

STAGE 3  
B1  
YOUNG ADULT READERS

### ACTIVITIES

Put these sentences into the negative or positive.

all the time - again - after x 2 - over the next few days  
when - still

1 Let them see you driving around with Beaufort.

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2 Granny wanted to keep me with her.

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3 Don't let go of them completely.

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4 They always want me to talk.

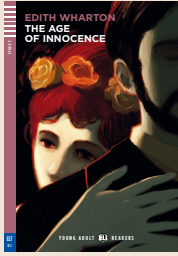
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5 Does everyone cry here?

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6 No one needs to cry!

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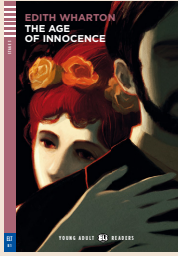
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### TEST YOURSELF

Are the sentences about New York society in the 1870s true or false?

- |   | T                        | F                        |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 In the 1870s, rich New Yorkers go out to the theatre.   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 Some families have their own boxes to sit in at the theatre.                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 In 1870s New York, people don't worry too much about what others think.                         | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 Rich New Yorkers don't show their emotions in public.   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5 They don't like gossip, they don't think you should be interested in the lives of other people. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6 Being fashionable is the most important thing in life.  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |



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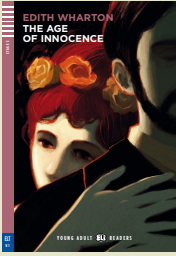
## PET - Reading

Look at the text, read the question, then choose the correct answer, A, B or C.

- 1** I'm so sorry, but I won't be able to come to the theatre with you tonight. My sister is ill and has asked me to help her with her children.  
Beatrice  
Why can't Beatrice go to the theatre tonight?
- A** She is ill and her sister has asked for her help.
- B** Her sister's children are ill.
- C** Her sister is ill and needs her help.

- 2** For sale!  
Fashionable dress  
Direct from Paris  
Never worn - was not the right size
- A** The wrong dress was sent from Paris.
- B** The dress was either too big or too small.
- C** The dress was not fashionable.

- 3** Dear Newland, how are you? I want to speak to you tomorrow about something important. Please don't tell anyone I have asked to speak you. Beaufort.
- A** Beaufort wants Newland to tell everyone about their meeting.
- B** Beaufort and Newland have important things to tell each other.
- C** Newland must not tell anyone about meeting Beaufort.



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FOCUS ON...

# Playing like Edith



When Edith Wharton was a little girl, her favourite game was called “making up.” It involved walking around with an open book and (before she could read) making up and then later half reading, half inventing stories about real people, narratives that she would chant very loud and very fast. Her parents looked at her secretly, and it made them nervous. Edith’s Old New York, old-money-society mother tried to copy what Edith was saying, but she spoke too fast; Mrs. Jones’s anxiety increased when Edith asked her to amuse children who came to play because she was too busy making up.