



VANITY FAIR

WILLIAM MAKEPEACE THACKERAY

STAGE 5
C1
YOUNG ADULT READERS

ACTIVITIES

Put the verbs in brackets in the correct form, including the hypothetical.

Becky 1 _____ (to take) Joseph's arm while they
2 _____ (to walk). 'How I 3 _____ (to like) to
see India,' she remarked.

'Really!' replied Joseph. His heart 4 _____ (to beat) fast.
The two couples 5 _____ (to arrive) at their seats while
Dobbin 6 _____ (to look on).

He knew that he 7 _____ (to be forgotten) tonight.

And 8 _____ (to be) alone at the Vauxhall is a very sad
experience. So he decided 9 _____ (to go) for a walk
and 10 _____ (to leave) the happy couples to their

conversation. Joseph soon 11 _____ (to forget) how
critical the situation was. He 12 _____ (to start)

13 _____ (to enjoy) himself. He 14 _____ (to order)
the waiters about with great majesty, he opened the champagne
bottle, and cut the chicken, and 15 _____ (to eat) and 16
_____ (to drink) almost all of it.

For most people that 17 _____ (to be) enough.

They 18 _____ (to be) full. But not Joseph. He decided
19 _____ (to order) another bottle of champagne.

And it 20 _____ (to be) this extra bottle of champagne
that 21 _____ (to change) the whole course of this story.

ANSWERS:
1 took; 2 were walking; 3 would like; 4 was beating; 5 arrived; 6 looked on; 7 would
be forgotten; 8 to be; 9 to go; 10 leave; 11 forgot; 12 started; 13 to enjoy; 14 ordered;
15 ate; 16 drank; 17 would have been; 18 would have been; 19 to order; 20 was;
21 will change



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TEST YOURSELF

Match the personality fault with its definition. Then write a sentence using each one – you can take examples from the book or from personal experience.

- 1 jealous
- 2 proud
- 3 snobbish
- 4 indifferent
- 5 dishonest
- 6 ignorant
- 7 vain
- 8 selfish

- A Someone who thinks they are more intelligent, important or beautiful than others.
- B Someone who doesn't know very much and doesn't care.
- C Someone who thinks he or she is important and doesn't easily accept he or she is wrong.
- D Someone who feels unhappy or envious about the success of another person.
- E Someone who looks down on those he or she thinks is inferior or less important than him or herself.
- F Someone who doesn't tell the truth or lets others think something is true when it isn't.
- G Someone who doesn't care about the problems and suffering of others.
- H Someone who only thinks about him or herself, or always puts him or herself first.



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TEST YOURSELF

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

4 _____

5 _____

6 _____

7 _____



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CAE-style Speaking Activity

**Works in pairs. Discuss personality types and weaknesses.
Use the questions below to help you.**

- Which character faults do you feel most strongly about?
- Which character faults do you not mind too much?
- How much does character and personality affect your friendships?
- How important is it to learn about yourself and your characteristics?
- How important is it for you to be tolerant of others?



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FOCUS ON...

When Literature joins to Acting



It is amazing when three kinds of art, like literature, acting and music connect together. A typical example is Alan Murray, an English comedian and actor with the passion for drums. Distinguishing marks? He is the great-great-great-grandchild of William Makepeace Thackeray, the writer of the fortunate *Vanity Fair*. Before he became a novelist, he wrote for Punch magazine from 1843 and was the country leading satirical journalist. Talent is a typical feature of the family: Winner of the “Perrier Award” at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe in 1999 for the comedy Pub Landlord, Alan also writes his songs while he plays drums during his free time. That’s not all: he is interested in World War II and he grew up going to Normandy and looking at battlefields.