SHOWTIME
READERS

Pygmalion

George Bernard Shaw

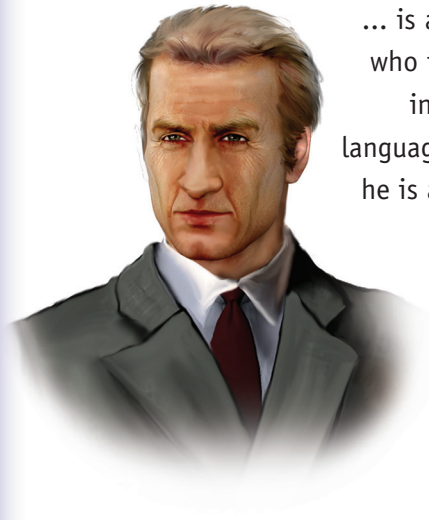
retold by Virginia Evans - Jenny Dooley



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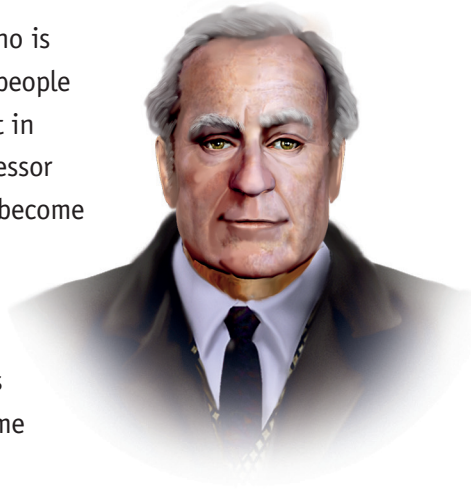
The Characters

Professor Henry Higgins



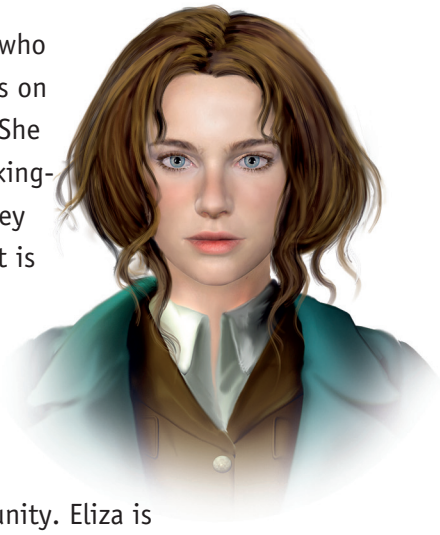
... is a clever man who is interested in the English language. Although he is a good man, generally speaking, he can be a bit arrogant at times.

Colonel Pickering



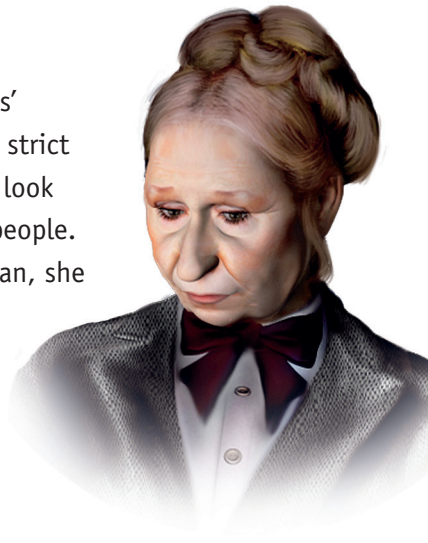
... is also a man who is interested in how people speak. He has a lot in common with Professor Higgins, and they become good friends. Pickering is a very polite man. He is intelligent, like his friend, and has some clever ideas. He is better at getting along with people than the Professor.

Eliza Doolittle



... is a girl who sells flowers on the street. She speaks working-class Cockney English, but is willing to refine her speech and behaviour when given the opportunity. Eliza is a common but quite sensitive girl who gets upset easily. She eventually transforms into a lady worthy of admiration.

Mrs Pearce



... is Professor Higgins' housekeeper. She is a strict woman who seems to look down on lower class people. Being a sensible woman, she finds the Professor's idea of changing Eliza into a lady inappropriate.

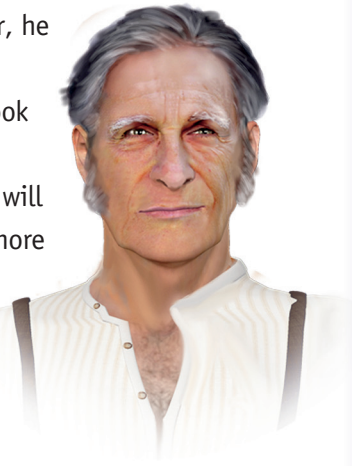
MRS HIGGINS



... is the Professor's mother. She is a sociable person who becomes upset at the idea that she could lose her friends. She is a respectable lady who does not approve of the Eliza Doolittle experiment. She is kind to Eliza when the Professor upsets her.

ALFRED DOOLITTLE

... is Eliza's father. He is not an educated man but he is very quick-witted. Although Alfred loves his daughter, he is willing to allow other people to look after her if he believes that this will benefit her and, more importantly, himself.

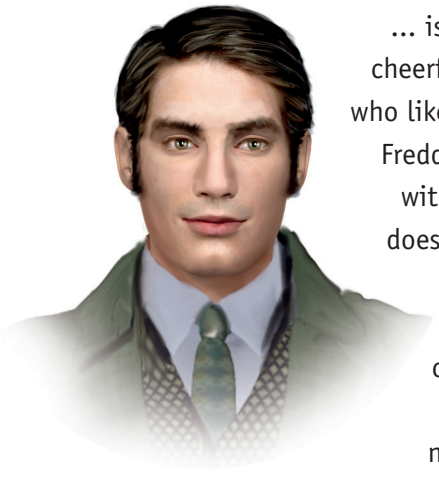




MRS EYNSFORD-HILL

... is a middle-aged woman who mixes in London's upper-class society. She is a model of English good manners. Although her behaviour is rather conservative and old-fashioned, she is less snobbish than her daughter, Clara.

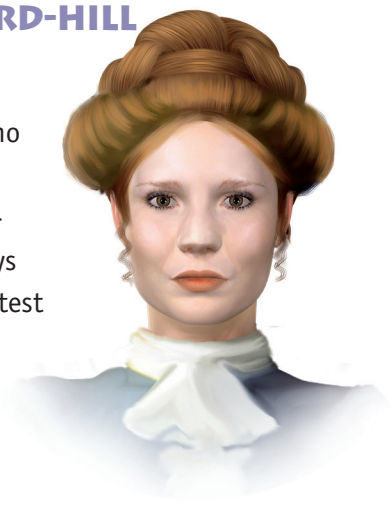
FREDDY EYNSFORD-HILL



... is an extremely cheerful young man who likes having fun. Freddy falls in love with Eliza and he doesn't care about her social background or the way she speaks. He is not a snob like his sister.

CLARA EYNSFORD-HILL

... is a snobbish, haughty young lady who doesn't have much patience with working-class people. She enjoys keeping up with the latest fashions in high society.





1. Caught In The Rain

It was raining heavily in Covent Garden. Under the entrance of St Paul's Church, a group of people were gathered, shaking the water off their clothes and peering out at the rain. One man, however, did not seem to care about the dreadful weather. He had his back to the others and was busily writing in a notebook.

Clara Eynsford-Hill was looking out at the pouring rain. At one point, she turned to her mother with an annoyed expression on her face.

"Where can Freddy be?" she asked. "He's been gone for twenty minutes."

Mrs Eynsford-Hill shook her head. "I don't know," she said. "He must have found a cab by now."

Just then, Freddy ran in from the rain, closing his dripping umbrella.

"I'm afraid I can't find a cab," he told his mother and sister.

"Oh, Freddy," sighed Clara. "You didn't try properly. Go and look again!"

"There aren't any cabs, I tell you," replied Freddy. "The rain came on suddenly, and everybody wanted to take a cab. There simply aren't any left."

"Don't be silly, Freddy," said Mrs Eynsford-Hill. "Go and look again and don't come back until you've found a cab."

Freddy sighed. "Oh, very well," he said. "I'll go."

He opened his umbrella and ran back out into the street, but he ran straight into a young girl with a basket of flowers. The basket fell to the ground, and the flowers landed in the wet, muddy street.

"Ow, Freddy, look where you's going, won't ya?" cried the girl as she picked up her flowers.



"Sorry!" said Freddy and ran off to look for a taxi.

"Well, there's rude for ya!" said the girl as she sat at the foot of a column in the church entrance.

Mrs Eynsford-Hill looked at the girl.

"Excuse me," she said. "But how do you know my son's name?"

"Ow, he's your son, is he?" said the girl. "Well, you didn't taught him no manners, did ya? He done spoil my flowers and didn't paid me for them. Will you pay me?"

Clara Eynsford-Hill took hold of her mother's arm.

"Don't give her any money, Mother," she said. "You shouldn't give her anything."

"Please be quiet, Clara," said Mrs Eynsford-Hill. "Have you got any pennies?"

"No," said Clara. "I've only got sixpence."

Mrs Eynsford-Hill took the coin from her daughter and gave it to the flower girl. The girl took the coin quickly.

"Thank ya, lady!" she cried.

"Make her give you the change, Mother," said Clara. "Those flowers are only a penny a bunch."

Mrs Eynsford-Hill ignored her daughter.

"You can keep the change," she said to the girl, "but please tell me how you know my son's name."

"I don't!" replied the flower girl. "I only called him Freddy or Charlie, same as I'd call any stranger when I wanted to be friendly."

"Really, Mother!" said Clara in disgust. "What a waste of a sixpence!"

Episode 3

Before Reading

1 **Look at the pictures. What do you think is going on? What could the flower girl be discussing with the two gentlemen?**

While Reading

2 **Read or listen to the episode and answer the questions.**

1 What was Higgin's and Pickering's topic for discussion?
2 Why did Eliza go to Wimpole Street?
3 How did Mrs Pearce treat Eliza?
4 Why wasn't Higgins pleased to see Eliza at first?
5 How much money did Eliza offer Higgins?
6 Why did Eliza start to cry?
7 What did Higgins give to Eliza?
8 What lesson in good manners did Higgins give Eliza?

After Reading

3 **Discuss in pairs:**

1 What do you think of Higgins' behaviour towards Eliza?
2 What do you think of Colonel Pickering in comparison to Professor Higgins?
3 What do you think of Mrs Pearce when judging the way she speaks about Eliza?

Think! Do you think it is possible to make someone into someone they are not? Why (not)?

Episode 4

Before Reading

1 **What do you think the people in the pictures are talking about? How do you think Eliza feels?**

While Reading

2 **Read or listen to the episode. Who says the following sentences? Write *H* for Higgins, *E* for Eliza, *M* for Mrs Pearce or *P* for Pickering.**

1 "I have an idea!" .....
2 "You're a real gentleman!" .....
3 "Take her away and clean her up." .....
4 "You don't know anything about this girl!" .....
5 "Do be sensible, Professor." .....
6 "Who'd marry me?" .....
7 "Are you going to pay her wages?" .....
8 "You will learn how to speak beautifully." .....

After Reading

3 **What do you think of Mrs Pearce?**

4 **In pairs, discuss which words from the list below best describe the way Eliza was feeling. Which words describe the way Higgins was feeling? Why?**

• amused • upset • anxious • excited
• impatient • disappointed • worried

Think! What does Higgins mean by saying that Eliza is "so very dirty"? Why does this make him feel excited?

Episode 5

Before Reading

1 **Look at the first picture. Both Higgins and Pickering are looking at the man who has just walked into the study. Describe the man. What opinion do you think Higgins and Pickering have of him?**

2 **What do you think is going on in the second picture?**

While Reading

3 **Read or listen to the episode and say who the words in bold refer to.**

1 **He** was looking for his daughter.
2 **He** told Alfred to take Eliza away.
3 **He** threatened to call the police.
4 **He** was good at public speaking.
5 **He** asked for five pounds.
6 **They** came to an arrangement.
7 **He** thought Alfred had no morals.

After Reading

4 **Discuss in pairs:**

1 Why did Alfred come to Wimpole Street?
2 Why did Higgins get angry with Alfred in the beginning?
3 Why did Pickering think Alfred had no morals?
4 What did Alfred mean when he said "Morals are for the rich"?

Think! George Bernard Shaw once wrote: *Lack of money is the root of all evil.* Do you think he was right? Why (not)?

Episode 6

Before Reading

1 **Look at the title. What do you think it means?**

2 **What can you tell from the people's expressions in the pictures?**

While Reading

3 **Read or listen to the episode and mark the sentences *T* (true) or *F* (false).**

1 Alfred asked for more than five pounds. .....
2 Alfred didn't recognise Eliza at first. .....
3 Higgins approved of Eliza's appearance. .....
4 Mrs Pearce was less enthusiastic than the others. .....
5 Eliza wanted to see her father again. .....
6 Eliza missed her old life. .....
7 Higgins thought that Eliza should be nice to her old friends. .....
8 Eliza wasn't willing to try on her new clothes. .....

After Reading

4 **Discuss in pairs:**

1 Why do you think Alfred only asked for five pounds? Why didn't he want any more money?
2 Alfred was proud of Eliza. Do you think he was right to be proud of her? Why (not)?
3 Do you think Alfred will come back to visit Eliza? Why (not)?
4 Eliza started acting a bit snobbishly. Can you explain how? Do you think she was right?

Think! Why does the Professor say that he and the Colonel have taken on a difficult job?

turn into (phr v) = make sb or sth different
useful (adj) = helpful

EPISODE 10

accompany (v) = go somewhere with sb
adopted (adj) = a child that has legally been made part of a family they were not born into
approach (v) = get closer to sb or sth
attract sb's attention (phr) = make sb notice sth
battle (n) = a violent fight between groups of people, esp. military forces
chat (v) = have an informal friendly conversation with sb
cloakroom (n) = a place where people can leave their coats, umbrellas, etc
crowd (n) = a large group of people
deceive (v) = make sb believe sth that is not true
enthusiastically (adv) = in a way that shows excitement
essential (adj) = extremely important or necessary
expert (n) = sb who is very skilled at sth or knows a lot about a particular subject
eyebrows (n) = the lines of hair above the eyes
foreigner (n) = sb who comes from a different country
fraud (n) = sb or sth that is not genuine
frightfully (adv) = very
hairy (adj) = covered with a lot of hairs
hostess (n) = a woman who provides everything needed for her guests
impression (n) = the opinion one has about sb or sth
international (adj) = involving different countries
interpreter (n) = sb whose job is to translate what sb else says into another language
mingle (v) = move around and talk to other people at a party or gathering
royal (adj) = relating or belonging to a king or queen
staircase (n) = a set of stairs inside a building
triumphantly (adv) = in a way that shows pride because of victory or success
urge (v) = strongly suggest that sb does sth
whiskers (n) = the hair on the sides of a man's face

EPISODE 11

accuse (v) = tell sb they have done sth wrong
achievement (n) = sth that sb has succeeded in doing
attend (v) = be present at an event
burst into tears (phr) = suddenly start crying
crouch (v) = bend your legs under you so that you are close to the ground
dare (v) = have the courage to do sth risky or frightening
dash (v) = throw sth violently
decisively (adv) = in a way that shows confidence
dignified (adj) = impressive and respectable
doorway (n) = a space where a door opens into a room or building
dread (v) = feel anxious or worried about sth
flame (n) = a hot bright stream of burning gas
furiously (adv) = in a way that shows a lot of anger
hire (v) = pay money for sth so that you can use it for a short period of time
incredibly (adv) = extremely
jewel (n) = a precious stone
lack (n) = when there is not enough of sth, or none
lose one's temper (phr) = become angry
make a difference (phr) = have an effect on sb or sth
murmur (v) = say sth very softly and quietly
nail (n) = the hard covering that grows at the end of one's fingers and toes
notice (v) = realise that sb or sth exists
pale (adj) = skin colour that is almost white
satisfied (adj) = pleased because you have got what you want
scream (v) = make a very loud, high-pitched cry because you are in pain or very frightened
sensitivity (n) = the ability to understand other people's feelings or problems
slippers (n) = loose, soft shoes you wear in the house
sparkle (v) = shine with light
sternly (adj) = in a severe way showing strong disapproval
stretch (v) = put your arms or legs out and tighten your muscles
stunning (adj) = extremely beautiful or impressive
thank God! (phr) = used to show you are glad about sth
threaten (v) = say or imply that you will harm sb if they do not do what you want
turn in (phr v) = go to bed
what on earth...? (phr) = used to ask a question when you are very surprised or angry
wide awake (adj) = completely awake
yawn (v) = open your mouth very wide and breathe in air, especially when you are tired or bored
yell (v) = shout loudly because you are excited, angry or in pain

EPISODE 12

absurd (adj) = ridiculous or unreasonable
amazement (n) = a feeling of great surprise
burst into a place (phr) = enter suddenly with a lot of energy or force
complicated (adj) = difficult to understand
contact (v) = write to or telephone sb
deliver (v) = take sth to a particular place or person
despair (n) = the feeling that everything is wrong and nothing will improve
destroy (v) = damage badly
disbelief (n) = a feeling that sth is not true
head (v) = go towards a place
maid (n) = a woman who works as a servant
march (v) = walk quickly, with firm steps
moralist (n) = sb who has very strong beliefs about what is right and wrong
morality (n) = principles defining what is right and wrong in people's behaviour
point (v) = hold out your finger towards sb or sth so that people take notice

provide (v) = make sth available to sb
relation (n) = a member of one's family
ruin (v) = spoil completely
sense (n) = the ability to understand or judge sth
snap (v) = say sth quickly, in an angry way
support (v) = help sb financially
will (n) = a legal document that says who one's money and property go to after they die

EPISODE 13

bully (v) = use strength or power to hurt or frighten sb
chilly (adj) = unpleasantly cold
confidently (adv) = in a way that shows you are sure about sth
dumb (adj) = unable to speak because of shock, anger etc.
errand (n) = a short trip in order to do sth for sb
fetch and carry (phr) = perform boring tasks for sb
fool (v) = deceive or trick sb
ladylike (adv) = behaving in a polite way suitable for a woman
manner (n) = the way in which sb behaves towards other people
nonsense (n) = sth considered to be untrue or silly
on the contrary (phr) = used to disagree with sth that has just been said or to make a negative reply
pick up (phr v) = lift
pleasant (adj) = enjoyable
praise (n) = words that express approval
privately (adv) = with no one else present
remarkable (adj) = unusual or exceptional
strength (n) = physical power and energy
thoughtless (adj) = ignoring other people's feelings
treat (v) = behave towards sb in a particular way
uneasy (adj) = worried or slightly afraid

SHOWTIME READERS

Pygmalion

Life changes dramatically for Eliza Doolittle, a modern Cinderella who is being transformed from a common flower girl into a lady. Her lessons with Professor Higgins prove valuable for both of them in different ways. But who is to learn their lesson better? Who is to find out that proper pronunciation cannot make up for improper manners?



Level 1 Level 2 Level 3 Level 4 Level 5 Level 6

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