CLASSICS LIBRARY · STORY MAP

Botchan

Natsume Sōseki · *1906 · Yasotaro Mori, revised by J. R. Kennedy (1918; 1919 printing)*

Because of an hereditary recklessness, I have been playing always a losing game since my childhood. Botchan is Sōseki's complete comic novel of a Tokyo youth sent to teach in the provinces, in the Mori and Kennedy English of 1918, not the later Sasaki translation.

THE CENTRAL QUESTION

What kind of honesty can a reckless young man keep when he is sent to teach among small intrigues, and how should this English be named so that it is not confused with a later translation?

"Because of an hereditary recklessness, I have been playing always a losing game since my childhood."

Chapter I, the opening, after the translator's note

The hosted text is Botchan (Master Darling), translated by Yasotaro Mori (the 1919 title page spells the name "Yasotaro Morri"), revised by J. R. Kennedy, PG #8868, complete in eleven chapters. This is the 1918 English (1919 printing), not Umeji Sasaki's 1922 translation. The title page may call the author "The Late Mr. Kin-nosuke Natsume." Quote Chapter I, not the translator's note. The opening is exact, including "hereditary recklessness" and "losing game." A complete comic novel for a wide older band. Quote this typography.

KEY CHARACTERS

Botchan, the teller
The reckless young man who has been playing a losing game since childhood, and who is sent to teach.

Kiyo
The old servant of the Tokyo home, a measure of loyalty in the book.

Porcupine, and the colleagues
The fellow teachers of the provincial school, named as this English names them.

the landlady, and the town
The small-town company among whom the intrigues unfold.

A LOSING GAME SINCE CHILDHOOD

> *"Because of an hereditary recklessness, I have been playing always a losing game since my childhood."*
>
> Chapter I

Grades 7–12

Read the full text free at classicslaunch.org.

01

A Losing Game since Childhood

CHAPTER I, THE OPENING

Because of an hereditary recklessness, I have been playing always a losing game since my childhood. During grammar school days he was once laid up for about a week by jumping from the second story of the school building. The book begins as a character, not yet as a post.

- The opening is exact in both witnesses, including 'hereditary recklessness.'
- Quote Chapter I, not the translator's note that precedes it.
- This English is Mori, revised by Kennedy, not Sasaki 1922.

> *"Because of an hereditary recklessness, I have been playing always a losing game since my childhood."*
>
> Chapter I

02

A Post in the Provinces

THE GOING DOWN, AND THE SCHOOL

Botchan is sent to teach in a provincial school. New colleagues, a landlady, and small-town manners meet a Tokyo frankness. The comic trials of the middle book are already a test of honesty.

- Keep the provincial school as the book's scene.
- Kiyo, the old servant of the Tokyo home, remains a measure of loyalty.
- A wide older band can read this with help.

03

Intrigues, and a Temper

THE LATER CHAPTERS

Nicknames, a farewell dinner, and a quarrel with crookedness occupy the later book. Botchan's temper is both a fault and a kind of honesty. Teach the close as Sōseki wrote it in this English.

- Map the complete eleven chapters.
- Do not flatten the book into mere school farce.
- Cite this typography, including the title-page spelling Morri if you mention the name.

04

The 1918 English, Complete

THE HOSTED FILE

PG #8868 and the site EPUB are this complete Mori–Kennedy English (1919 printing). Quote stretches that appear in both, from Chapter I onward.

- Complete Botchan in this translation.
- Not the Sasaki 1922 English.
- For a wide older band. The title page may say Kin-nosuke Natsume.

Honesty and Temper · A Provincial Post · Loyalty · School Intrigues · A Reckless Youth

What to watch for as you read

GRADES 7–12

1. The hosted text is Botchan (Master Darling), translated by Yasotaro Mori (the 1919 title page spells the name "Yasotaro Morri"), revised by J. R. Kennedy, Project Gutenberg #8868, complete in eleven chapters. This is the 1918 English (1919 printing), not Umeji Sasaki's 1922 translation. The title page may call the author "The Late Mr. Kin-nosuke Natsume." Quote Chapter I, not the translator's note. The opening is exact: "Because of an hereditary recklessness, I have been playing always a losing game since my childhood."
2. A complete comic novel for a wide older band.
3. Quote stretches that appear in both the Gutenberg text and the site EPUB.