CLASSICS LIBRARY · STORY MAP

The History of the Adventures of Joseph Andrews

Henry Fielding · *1742 · original English text*

It is a trite but true observation, that examples work more forcibly on the mind than precepts. Joseph Andrews is Fielding's complete comic novel, assembled on this site from Project Gutenberg volumes 1 and 2, a road-book of chastity, charity, and hypocrisy after Pamela.

THE CENTRAL QUESTION

What is virtue worth on the road when a young man's chastity and a parson's charity are tested by inns, thieves, and fine people, and how should a comic history be taught without hiding its ruder scenes?

"It is a trite but true observation, that examples work more forcibly on the mind than precepts:"

Book I, Chapter I, the opening

The hosted text is The History of the Adventures of Joseph Andrews (1742), complete, assembled from Project Gutenberg #9611 and #9609 (volumes 1 and 2); the site header itself says the coverage is the complete novel. The opening of Book I, Chapter I is exact, including "trite but true." The book is a comic counterpart to Pamela, and it contains ruder inns, attempted seductions, and bodily jokes; for older students, teach with discretion, not as spectacle. Parson Adams is the book's other hero. Quote this typography.

KEY CHARACTERS

Joseph Andrews
The young footman whose chastity and adventures are the book's road.

Parson Abraham Adams
The curate whose charity and absent-minded goodness are the other spine of the book.

Fanny
The young woman Joseph loves, who shares the later road.

Lady Booby, and Mrs Slipslop
The fine lady and the chambermaid of the first trial.

EXAMPLES WORK MORE FORCIBLY

> *"It is a trite but true observation, that examples work more forcibly on the mind than precepts:"*
>
> Book I, Chapter I

Grades 11–12
Read the full text free at classicslaunch.org.

01

Examples, not Precepts Only

BOOK I, CHAPTER I, THE OPENING

It is a trite but true observation, that examples work more forcibly on the mind than precepts. Fielding begins by praising a good man's example, and by preparing a comic history rather than a sermon only.

- The opening is exact in both witnesses.
- The first chapter also names Pamela, whose example this book will answer.
- For older students.

> *"It is a trite but true observation, that examples work more forcibly on the mind than precepts:"*
>
> Book I, Chapter I

02

Joseph, and a Road

BOOK I CONTINUED, AND THE GOING OUT

Joseph Andrews, a footman of great endowments, is turned out and must take the road. Lady Booby and Mrs Slipslop are part of the first trial. The ruder scenes belong to the book; teach them with discretion.

- Do not hide the attempted seductions; do not make a spectacle of them.
- The hosted text is the complete novel, volumes 1 and 2 joined.
- A wide older band can read this with help.

03

Parson Adams, and Charity

THE LATER BOOKS

Abraham Adams, the curate, becomes the road's other hero. Charity, hypocrisy, and a comic recognition close the history. Keep Adams in view; he is not a side joke only.

- Map the complete book through the later books, not Book I only.
- The close is a comic recognition, as Fielding wrote it.
- Cite this typography.

04

A Complete 1742 Novel

THE HOSTED FILE

The site text and EPUB are the complete novel assembled from PG #9611 and #9609. Quote stretches that appear in both.

- Complete Joseph Andrews, both volumes.
- For older students; some ruder inn scenes; teach with discretion.
- Original English.

Virtue on the Road | Charity | Hypocrisy Unmasked | A Comic History | A Good Example

What to watch for as you read

GRADES 11–12

1. The hosted text is The History of the Adventures of Joseph Andrews (1742), complete, assembled from Project Gutenberg #9611 and #9609 (volumes 1 and 2); the site header itself says the coverage is the complete novel. The opening of Book I, Chapter I is exact: "It is a trite but true observation, that examples work more forcibly on the mind than precepts:"
2. The book is a comic counterpart to Pamela, and it contains ruder inns, attempted seductions, and bodily jokes; for older students, teach with discretion, not as spectacle. Parson Adams is the book's other hero.
3. Quote stretches that appear in both the Gutenberg text and the site EPUB.

Quotations are verbatim from the original English text, Project Gutenberg #9611 and #9609, the public-domain text hosted at classicslaunch.org/works/fielding-joseph-andrews/. Citations give book and chapter (or canto and line) so every line can be checked.