CLASSICS LIBRARY · STORY MAP

The Journal of a Voyage to Lisbon

Henry Fielding · *1755 · Fielding's English*

WEDNESDAY, June 26, 1754.—On this day the most melancholy sun I had ever beheld arose, and found me awake at my house at Fordhook. By the light of this sun he was, in his own opinion, last to behold and take leave of some of those creatures on whom he doted with a mother-like fondness. Fielding, published 1755, Project Gutenberg #1146. For grades 9–12. Gravity. A long preface stands first; quote the journal. This is a voyage under illness, not one of the novels already mapped in this library.

THE CENTRAL QUESTION

How should a school read Fielding's Journal of a Voyage to Lisbon as he begins the voyage itself—on Wednesday, 26 June 1754, under the most melancholy sun he had ever beheld, awake at Fordhook—rather than as only the long preface, or as one of the novels?

"On this day the most melancholy sun I had ever beheld arose, and found me awake at my house at Fordhook. By the light of"

The Voyage, Wednesday, 26 June 1754

A long preface and editorial matter stand first. The voyage itself opens: Wednesday, June 26, 1754. On this day the most melancholy sun he had ever beheld arose, and found him awake at his house at Fordhook. By that light he was, in his own opinion, last to behold and take leave of some of those creatures on whom he doted with a mother-like fondness, guided by nature and passion, and uncured and unhardened by all the doctrine of that philosophical school where he had learned to bear pains and to despise death. Teach that morning, with gravity, for grades 9–12. The book was published in 1755. Quote the journal, not only the preface. This is not Tom Jones or Joseph Andrews; name the work you are in. He is ill; do not make a spectacle of the dying.

KEY CHARACTERS

Henry Fielding
Who, ill, wakes at Fordhook under the most melancholy sun he has ever beheld, and begins this journal

Those he doted on with a mother-like fondness
Whom, in his own opinion, he was that morning last to behold and take leave of

The ship, and the voyage to Lisbon
The work of the later entries, after this first sunrise

HOW TO BEGIN THIS JOURNAL

> *"On this day the most melancholy sun I had ever beheld arose, and found me awake at my house at Fordhook. By the light of"*
>
> The Voyage, 26 June 1754

> *"By the light of this sun I was, in my own opinion, last to behold and take leave of some of those creatures on whom I doted with a mother-like fondness, guided"*
>
> The Voyage, 26 June 1754

Grades 9–12
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01

Wednesday, 26 June 1754

THE VOYAGE, OPENING

WEDNESDAY, June 26, 1754. The journal of the voyage is dated from this morning. Keep the heading as the file prints it.

- Keep "WEDNESDAY, June 26, 1754."
- 9–12. Gravity.
- A long preface precedes this; quote the journal.
- Not a novel.

> *"WEDNESDAY, June 26, 1754.--On this day"*
>
> The Voyage, Wednesday, 26 June 1754

02

The Most Melancholy Sun

THE VOYAGE, OPENING

On this day the most melancholy sun he had ever beheld arose, and found him awake at his house at Fordhook. The voyage begins at a house, under a hard sunrise.

- Keep "most melancholy sun" and "Fordhook."
- 9–12. Gravity.
- Do not make a spectacle of the illness.
- Quote Fielding.

> *"On this day the most melancholy sun I had ever beheld arose, and found me awake at my house at Fordhook. By the light of"*
>
> The Voyage, Wednesday, 26 June 1754

03

Take Leave, with a Mother-like Fondness

THE VOYAGE, OPENING

By the light of this sun he was, in his own opinion, last to behold and take leave of some of those creatures on whom he doted with a mother-like fondness. The journal begins as a farewell.

- Keep "mother-like fondness" and "in my own opinion."
- 9–12. Gravity.
- Family, not a backdrop only.
- Quote this English.

> *"By the light of this sun I was, in my own opinion, last to behold and take leave of some of those creatures on whom I doted with a mother-like fondness, guided"*
>
> The Voyage, Wednesday, 26 June 1754

04

To Bear Pains and to Despise Death

THE VOYAGE, OPENING

Guided by nature and passion, and uncured and unhardened by all the doctrine of that philosophical school where he had learned to bear pains and to despise death. The philosophy is named, and found not to have hardened him.

- Keep "uncured and unhardened," and "bear pains and to despise death."
- 9–12. Gravity; no spectacle.
- A costly honesty at the start of a voyage.
- The later Lisbon landfall is not this first morning.

> *"guided by nature and passion, and uncured and unhardened by all the doctrine of that philosophical school where I had learned to bear pains and to despise death. In this"*
>
> The Voyage, Wednesday, 26 June 1754

05

The 1755 Journal, after a Long Preface

THE EDITION

Project Gutenberg #1146 is The Journal of a Voyage to Lisbon, published 1755. Editorial lives and a long preface stand first; quote the journal, beginning at Fordhook on 26 June 1754. For grades 9–12. Gravity. This is not one of the novels. He is ill; do not make a spectacle of the dying.

- Name 1755, and Fordhook.
- Quote the journal, not only the preface.
- Not Tom Jones.
- A voyage under a melancholy sun.

> *"On this day the most melancholy sun I had ever beheld arose, and found me awake at my house at Fordhook. By the light of"*
>
> The Voyage, Wednesday, 26 June 1754

A melancholy sunrise | A house, and a farewell | Illness, told with gravity | Doctrine tested by pain | A journal, not a novel

What to watch for as you read

GRADES 9–12

1. A long preface stands first; the voyage itself opens Wednesday, 26 June 1754, at Fordhook, under "the most melancholy sun I had ever beheld."
2. He takes leave of those he dotes on with a mother-like fondness. Gravity; he is ill; do not make a spectacle of the dying.
3. He had learned, in a philosophical school, to bear pains and to despise death, and finds himself uncured and unhardened.
4. Published 1755, PG #1146, for grades 9–12. This is the journal, not Tom Jones or Joseph Andrews. Quote Fielding.

Quotations are verbatim from the Fielding's English, Project Gutenberg #1146, the public-domain text hosted at classicslaunch.org/works/fielding-journal-of-a-voyage-to-lisbon/. Citations give book and chapter (or canto and line) so every line can be checked.