CLASSICS LIBRARY · STORY MAP

# The Beast in the Jungle

**Henry James** · *1903 · James's English*

What determined the speech that startled him in the course of their encounter scarcely matters, being probably but some words spoken by himself quite without intention—spoken as they lingered and slowly moved together. So the 1903 tale opens, Project Gutenberg #1093. For grades 11–12. A long tale, complete as hosted, not a later film. Quote James. The "beast" of the title is not a hunted animal in the first sentence; stay with the encounter, and the speech, as he writes them. Tact.

THE CENTRAL QUESTION

## How should a school read The Beast in the Jungle as James opens it—a speech that startled him in an encounter, words spoken without intention, as they lingered and slowly moved together—rather than as a later slogan, or as a hunt?

*"What determined the speech that startled him in the course of their encounter scarcely matters"*

Chapter I

The hosted file is Henry James's The Beast in the Jungle, 1903, Project Gutenberg #1093, complete as hosted, a long tale. It opens: What determined the speech that startled him in the course of their encounter scarcely matters, being probably but some words spoken by himself quite without intention—spoken as they lingered and slowly moved together. Teach that opening, for grades 11–12, with tact. The "beast" of the title is not, in the first sentence, a hunted animal; stay with the encounter, and the speech, as he writes them. Quote James, in this English, not a later shorthand only, and not a film. One map of the opening cannot teach the whole tale; go on in his wording.

KEY CHARACTERS

**The man who is startled**
*Whose own words, spoken quite without intention, open the tale*

**The other, with whom he lingers**
*With whom he slowly moves together, in the first sentence*

**Henry James**
*Whose 1903 English, in this complete hosted tale, is what the map quotes*

HOW TO BEGIN THIS TALE

> *"What determined the speech that startled him in the course of their encounter scarcely matters"*
> Chapter I

> *"spoken as they lingered and slowly moved together after"*
> Chapter I

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

01

### A Speech That Startled Him

CHAPTER I

*What determined the speech that startled him in the course of their encounter scarcely matters. The tale begins with a speech, and an encounter, and with what can be set aside.*

- Keep "speech that startled him" and "scarcely matters."
- 11–12. Tact.
- Quote James.
- Not a later slogan only.

> *"What determined the speech that startled him in the course of their encounter scarcely matters"*
> Chapter I

02

### Words Spoken without Intention

CHAPTER I

*Being probably but some words spoken by himself quite without intention. The startling speech may have been his own, and unmeant.*

- Keep "quite without intention."
- 11–12.
- Quote this English.
- The later pages follow from this encounter.

> *"being probably but some words spoken by himself quite without intention--spoken"*
> Chapter I

03

### They Lingered and Slowly Moved Together

CHAPTER I

*Spoken as they lingered and slowly moved together. The two are already walking, and delaying, before the tale explains them.*

- Keep "lingered and slowly moved together."
- 11–12. Tact.
- Stay with the encounter as he writes it.
- The title's "beast" is not a hunt in this first sentence.

> *"spoken as they lingered and slowly moved together after"*
> Chapter I

04

### The Title's Beast Is Not a Hunt Here

CHAPTER I, AND THE TITLE

*The "beast" of the title is not, in the opening, a hunted animal. Do not replace his first sentence with a later shorthand. Stay with the speech and the encounter, then go on in his wording, with tact.*

- Do not invent a jungle scene the opening does not give.
- 11–12. Tact.
- Quote James.
- A long tale, complete as hosted.

> *"What determined the speech that startled him in the course of their encounter scarcely matters"*
> Chapter I

05

### James, 1903, Complete as Hosted

THE EDITION

*The Beast in the Jungle, 1903, Project Gutenberg #1093, complete as hosted. For grades 11–12. Tact. Quote this English, not a later film or a slogan only. One map of the opening cannot teach the whole tale.*

- Name 1903, and a complete long tale.
- 11–12. Tact.
- Quote the encounter first.
- Not another James novel already in this library.

> *"What determined the speech that startled him in the course of their encounter scarcely matters"*
> Chapter I

A speech, and an encounter | Words without intention | Lingering, and moving together | A title not to be taken as a hunt at first | A complete 1903 tale

## What to watch for as you read

GRADES 11–12

1. It opens: "What determined the speech that startled him in the course of their encounter scarcely matters," words spoken quite without intention, as they lingered and slowly moved together.
2. The "beast" of the title is not a hunted animal in the first sentence. Do not replace his opening with a later shorthand.
3. James, 1903, PG #1093, a long tale complete as hosted, for grades 11–12. Tact. Quote this English, not a film.
4. One map of the opening cannot teach the whole tale. Go on in his wording.

**Quotations** are verbatim from the James's English, Project Gutenberg #1093, the public-domain text hosted at classicslaunch.org/works/henry-james-the-beast-in-the-jungle/. Citations give book and chapter (or canto and line) so every line can be checked.