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# Three Men in a Boat (To Say Nothing of the Dog)

**Jerome K. Jerome** · *1889 · original English text*

There were four of us—George, and William Samuel Harris, and myself, and Montmorency. We were sitting in my room, smoking, and talking about how bad we were—bad from a medical point of view I mean, of course. The hosted book is this complete 1889 comic voyage up the Thames.

THE CENTRAL QUESTION

## What is a holiday worth when four friends, counting the dog, set out to cure themselves by a boat on the Thames, and what does a comic record of small disasters keep of friendship?

*"There were four of us—George, and William Samuel Harris, and myself, and Montmorency."*

Chapter I, the opening

The hosted text is Three Men in a Boat (To Say Nothing of the Dog) (1889, PG #308), complete as Jerome's comic Thames voyage. The opening of Chapter I is exact, including the em dash and the naming of George, William Samuel Harris, the teller, and Montmorency the dog. A short comic preface on "hopeless and incurable veracity" stands before the first chapter; quote the tale proper, or quote the preface only if the stretch appears in both files. A complete light novel for a wide band. Quote this typography.

KEY CHARACTERS

**the teller, J.**
*The host of the room in which the four sit and diagnose themselves.*

**George**
*One of the three men, named first in the opening.*

**William Samuel Harris**
*The second of the three, named in full in the first sentence.*

**Montmorency**
*The dog who makes the four, and who will not be left out of the voyage.*

FOUR OF US

> *"There were four of us—George, and William Samuel Harris, and myself, and Montmorency."*
> Chapter I

Grades 7–12
Read the full text free at classicslaunch.org.

01

## Four of Us

CHAPTER I, THE OPENING

*There were four of us—George, and William Samuel Harris, and myself, and Montmorency, sitting in a room, talking about how bad they were from a medical point of view. The book begins as a diagnosis among friends.*

- The opening is exact in both witnesses, including the naming of Montmorency.
- The comic preface stands before this chapter; the tale proper begins here.
- A wide band can hear this with help.

> *"There were four of us—George, and William Samuel Harris, and myself, and Montmorency."*
> Chapter I

02

## A Boat, and a River

THE VOYAGE UP THE THAMES

*They agree that they are overworked and need rest, and the rest is a boat. The middle book is a string of small disasters, meals, and landings, told as if they were history.*

- Keep the voyage as one comic plot, not a heap of jokes only.
- The dog is one of the four, as the first sentence says.
- Cite this typography.

03

## Friendship as a Cure

THE LATER REACHES

*The holiday does not always cure the seedy feeling, but the companionship is the book's other medicine. The close is still the same four, and the same river.*

- Do not flatten the book into mere farce; the friendship is the spine.
- A complete 1889 text, not an abridgment.
- For a wide band.

04

## The 1889 Voyage, Complete

THE HOSTED FILE

*PG #308 and the site EPUB are this complete book. Quote stretches that appear in both, from Chapter I onward, or from the preface if both files share it.*

- Complete Three Men in a Boat.
- The subtitle is To Say Nothing of the Dog.
- For a wide band.

Friendship | A River Holiday | Comic Disasters | A Need of Rest | The Dog Counted In

## What to watch for as you read

GRADES 7–12

1. The hosted text is Three Men in a Boat (To Say Nothing of the Dog) (1889, Project Gutenberg #308), complete as Jerome's comic Thames voyage. The opening of Chapter I is exact: "There were four of us—George, and William Samuel Harris, and myself, and Montmorency."
2. A short comic preface on hopeless and incurable veracity stands before the first chapter; quote the tale proper, or quote the preface only if the stretch appears in both files. A complete light novel for a wide band.
3. Quote stretches that appear in both the Gutenberg text and the site EPUB.

**Quotations** are verbatim from the original English text, Project Gutenberg #308, the public-domain text hosted at classicslaunch.org/works/jerome-three-men-in-a-boat/. Citations give book and chapter (or canto and line) so every line can be checked.