CLASSICS LIBRARY · STORY MAP

The Life of Friedrich Schiller

Thomas Carlyle · *1825 · Carlyle's English*

Among the writers of the concluding part of the last century there is none more deserving of our notice than Friedrich Schiller. Distinguished alike for the splendour of his intellectual faculties, and the elevation of his tastes and feelings, he has left behind him in his works a noble emblem of these great qualities. Thomas Carlyle, 1825, PG #23209. For grades 10–12. Quote Carlyle. This is a life, not the plays. The book is long; one map cannot teach it all.

THE CENTRAL QUESTION

How should a school read Carlyle's 1825 Life of Friedrich Schiller as he opens it—among the writers of the concluding part of the last century, none more deserving of our notice—rather than as a later summary, or as the plays themselves?

"Among the writers of the concluding part of the last century there is none more deserving of our notice than Friedrich Schiller."
Opening

Carlyle opens by placing Schiller among the writers of the concluding part of the last century, and by saying that none is more deserving of our notice. Distinguished alike for the splendour of his intellectual faculties and the elevation of his tastes and feelings, he has left behind him in his works a noble emblem of these great qualities. Teach that opening, for grades 10–12, as Carlyle's English, 1825. This is a life, not the plays; if the school also has those, name the file you are in. Quote Carlyle, not a later biographer. The book is long; one map cannot teach it all. Project Gutenberg #23209.

KEY CHARACTERS

Friedrich Schiller
The poet and dramatist whose life Carlyle undertakes, and whose works he calls a noble emblem of great qualities

Thomas Carlyle
The author of this 1825 life, in his own English

The works left behind
Which, in Carlyle's opening, are the emblem, and are not replaced by the life

HOW TO BEGIN THIS LIFE

> *"Among the writers of the concluding part of the last century there is none more deserving of our notice than Friedrich Schiller."*
> Opening

> *"he has left behind him in his works a noble emblem of these great qualities: and"*
> Opening

Grades 10–12
Read the full text free at classicslaunch.org.

01

Among the Writers of the Last Century

OPENING

Among the writers of the concluding part of the last century there is none more deserving of our notice than Friedrich Schiller. The life begins with a placing, and a claim of attention.

- Keep "concluding part of the last century" and "none more deserving of our notice."
- 10–12.
- Carlyle, 1825.
- Quote him, not a later life.

> *"Among the writers of the concluding part of the last century there is none more deserving of our notice than Friedrich Schiller."*
> Opening

02

Splendour, and Elevation

OPENING

Distinguished alike for the splendour of his intellectual faculties, and the elevation of his tastes and feelings. The praise is paired, and costly if it is to be shown in a life.

- Keep "splendour" and "elevation."
- 10–12.
- Do not flatten this into a later slogan only.
- Quote this English.

> *"Distinguished alike for the splendour of his intellectual faculties, and the elevation of his tastes and feelings, he"*
> Opening

03

A Noble Emblem in His Works

OPENING

He has left behind him in his works a noble emblem of these great qualities. The life will send the reader to the works, not replace them.

- Keep "noble emblem" and "in his works."
- 10–12.
- This map is the life, not the plays.
- The later chapters will follow a career; start here.

> *"he has left behind him in his works a noble emblem of these great qualities: and"*
> Opening

04

Carlyle's English, 1825

THE EDITION

Project Gutenberg #23209 is The Life of Friedrich Schiller, 1825, in Carlyle's English. Quote him. For grades 10–12. A later, fuller life, if a class has heard of one, is not this file unless it is this file.

- Name 1825, and Carlyle.
- Not a film of Weimar.
- A life, not the plays.
- One map cannot teach the whole book.

> *"Among the writers of the concluding part of the last century there is none more deserving of our notice than Friedrich Schiller."*
> Opening

05

A Long Life, One Map

THE LATER BOOK

The later chapters follow Schiller's years and works. Teach the opening claim first, and do not pretend one map taught the whole life. For grades 10–12.

- Honesty about length.
- Quote Carlyle.
- Elevation of taste is his word; teach it as his.
- Not a later digest only.

> *"Distinguished alike for the splendour of his intellectual faculties, and the elevation of his tastes and feelings, he"*
> Opening

A life placed among writers | Elevation of tastes and feelings | Works as a noble emblem | Carlyle's 1825 English | A long life, honestly scoped

What to watch for as you read

GRADES 10–12

1. "Among the writers of the concluding part of the last century there is none more deserving of our notice than Friedrich Schiller."
2. Splendour of faculties, elevation of tastes and feelings, and a noble emblem in the works. Keep his pairings.
3. This is Carlyle's 1825 life, PG #23209, for grades 10–12—not the plays, and not a later biographer.
4. The book is long; one map cannot teach it all. Quote Carlyle.

Quotations are verbatim from the Carlyle's English, Project Gutenberg #23209, the public-domain text hosted at classicslaunch.org/works/life-of-friedrich-schiller/. Citations give book and chapter (or canto and line) so every line can be checked.