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Selected Short Stories

Guy de Maupassant · *1880s · Albert M. C. McMaster, A. E. Henderson, Mme. Quesada, and Others*

For several days in succession fragments of a defeated army had passed through the town. They were mere disorganized bands, not disciplined forces, in tattered uniforms, without a flag, without a leader. So Boule de Suif begins, in the complete Original Short Stories, Project Gutenberg #3090, translated by Albert M. C. McMaster, A. E. Henderson, Mme. Quesada, and Others, named on the title page. The Necklace and The Horla stand later. For grades 11–12. Tact; no prurience. One map cannot teach the whole collection.

THE CENTRAL QUESTION

How should a school read this Maupassant file as the complete Original Short Stories collection it is—opened by Boule de Suif after a defeat, with McMaster, Henderson, and Quesada named from the title page—rather than as a single story, and without turning a war story into prurience?

"For several days in succession fragments of a defeated army had passed through the town. They were"

Boule de Suif

The hosted file, Project Gutenberg #3090, is the complete Original Short Stories collection, including Boule de Suif, The Necklace, and The Horla. The title page names the translators: Albert M. C. McMaster, A. E. Henderson, Mme. Quesada, and Others. Name them; the catalogue's "none" is not the last word. Boule de Suif opens: for several days in succession fragments of a defeated army had passed through the town; they were mere disorganized bands, not disciplined forces, in tattered uniforms, without a flag, without a leader. Teach that opening, for grades 11–12, as a war story, with tact. Do not put prurience on the map. The Necklace and The Horla, and the many other stories, stand later; one map cannot teach the whole collection. Quote this English.

KEY CHARACTERS

The remnants of a defeated army
Who, in the first sentences of Boule de Suif, pass through the town without a flag or a leader

The later travellers of Boule de Suif
Who will enter after this opening; teach that story with tact, and no prurience

Albert M. C. McMaster, A. E. Henderson, Mme. Quesada, and Others
The translators named on the title page of this complete collection

HOW TO BEGIN THIS COLLECTION

> *"For several days in succession fragments of a defeated army had passed through the town. They were"*
> Boule de Suif

> *"They were mere disorganized bands, not disciplined forces."*
> Boule de Suif

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

01
Fragments of a Defeated Army
BOULE DE SUIF

For several days in succession fragments of a defeated army had passed through the town. The first story opens after a defeat, in a town, with remnants, not with a later famous necklace.

- Keep "fragments of a defeated army."
- 11–12. Tact.
- A war story. No prurience on the map.
- The first story, not the whole collection.

> *"For several days in succession fragments of a defeated army had passed through the town. They were"*
> Boule de Suif

02
Disorganized Bands
BOULE DE SUIF

They were mere disorganized bands, not disciplined forces. The opening already distinguishes remnants from an army still in order.

- Keep "disorganized bands" and "not disciplined forces."
- 11–12.
- Quote this English.
- McMaster, Henderson, and Quesada, named from the title page.

> *"They were mere disorganized bands, not disciplined forces."*
> Boule de Suif

03
Without a Flag, Without a Leader
BOULE DE SUIF

The men wore long, dirty beards and tattered uniforms; they advanced in listless fashion, without a flag, without a leader. Exhaustion is named before the later coach.

- Keep "tattered uniforms" and "without a flag, without a leader."
- 11–12. Tact.
- A war story, not a spectacle.
- Quote this wording.

> *"The men wore long, dirty beards and tattered uniforms; they"*
> Boule de Suif

04
The Necklace, and The Horla, Later
THE COLLECTION

The Necklace and The Horla stand later in this complete Original Short Stories collection. Name them when you come to them, and quote their own openings. One map cannot teach the whole file.

- A complete collection as hosted, PG #3090.
- 11–12. Tact throughout.
- Do not treat Boule de Suif as the only story.
- Quote this English, not a later film of one tale.

> *"For several days in succession fragments of a defeated army had passed through the town. They were"*
> Boule de Suif

05
McMaster, Henderson, Quesada, and Others
THE EDITION

The title page names Albert M. C. McMaster, A. E. Henderson, Mme. Quesada, and Others. Name them. For grades 11–12. The file is huge; teach it as a collection, with tact, and no prurience on the map.

- Name the translators from the title page.
- A complete collection, including Boule de Suif, The Necklace, and The Horla.
- 11–12. Tact.
- One map cannot teach it all.

> *"For several days in succession fragments of a defeated army had passed through the town. They were"*
> Boule de Suif

A defeated army, in fragments | A town after a war | A complete collection, honestly sized | Translators named from the title page | Tact, and no prurience

What to watch for as you read

GRADES 11–12

1. Boule de Suif opens: fragments of a defeated army had passed through the town; disorganized bands, tattered uniforms, without a flag, without a leader. A war story. Tact; no prurience on the map.
2. The file is the complete Original Short Stories, PG #3090, including The Necklace and The Horla. One map cannot teach the whole collection.
3. Name the translators from the title page: Albert M. C. McMaster, A. E. Henderson, Mme. Quesada, and Others. Do not leave them unnamed.
4. For grades 11–12. Quote this English, not a later film of one tale.

Quotations are verbatim from the Albert M. C. McMaster, A. E. Henderson, Mme. Quesada, and Others, Project Gutenberg #3090, the public-domain text hosted at classicslaunch.org/works/maupassant-selected-short-stories/. Citations give book and chapter (or canto and line) so every line can be checked.