CLASSICS LIBRARY · STORY MAP

The Black Arrow: A Tale of the Two Roses

Robert Louis Stevenson · *1888 · original English text*

On a certain afternoon, in the late springtime, the bell upon Tunstall Moat House was heard ringing at an unaccustomed hour. The Black Arrow is Stevenson's complete tale of the Wars of the Roses, a young man's loyalty tested in a season of treachery and of a black-arrow fellowship.

THE CENTRAL QUESTION

What is loyalty worth in a war of two roses, when a bell rings at an unaccustomed hour and a young squire must choose whom to serve, and whom to hunt?

"On a certain afternoon, in the late springtime, the bell upon Tunstall Moat House was heard ringing at an unaccustomed hour."
Prologue, John Amend-All, the opening

The hosted text is The Black Arrow: A Tale of the Two Roses (serialized 1883; this book 1888, PG #848), complete as Stevenson's Wars of the Roses adventure, beginning with the prologue John Amend-All. The opening is exact, including "springtime" as one word and "Tunstall Moat House." A short address to a "Critic on the Hearth" stands before the prologue; quote the tale, not that address, unless a stretch appears in both files. A complete historical adventure for a wide middle and older band. Quote this typography.

KEY CHARACTERS

the bell of Tunstall Moat House
The first alarm of the book, ringing at an unaccustomed hour in the late springtime.

Richard Shelton
The young squire whose loyalty the war will test.

Joanna, and the household
The companions of the moat house and of the later road.

John Amend-All, and the fellowship of the arrow
The signed fellowship of the prologue, whose black arrow is a judgment in the war.

AN UNACCUSTOMED HOUR

> *"On a certain afternoon, in the late springtime, the bell upon Tunstall Moat House was heard ringing at an unaccustomed hour."*
> Prologue, John Amend-All

Grades 6–8
Read the full text free at classicslaunch.org.

01

A Bell at an Unaccustomed Hour

PROLOGUE, JOHN AMEND-ALL

On a certain afternoon, in the late springtime, the bell upon Tunstall Moat House was heard ringing at an unaccustomed hour. Far and near, people desert their labors. The tale begins as an alarm, and as a fellowship that signs itself John Amend-All.

- The opening is exact in both witnesses, including 'springtime' as one word.
- The prologue is part of the book, not a disposable preface.
- A wide middle and older band can enter here.

> *"On a certain afternoon, in the late springtime, the bell upon Tunstall Moat House was heard ringing at an unaccustomed hour."*
> Prologue, John Amend-All

02

A Squire, and Two Roses

THE EARLY BOOKS

Richard Shelton's loyalty is tested in a war already old. Guardians, a disguise, and a black-arrow fellowship pull him two ways. Keep the Wars of the Roses as the book's weather, not as a schoolroom chart only.

- This is a complete historical adventure, not a fragment of another Stevenson book.
- Treasure Island is a different book on this site.
- Teach the violence of the civil war with gravity, not as mere sport.

03

Treachery, and a Choosing

THE LATER BOOKS

The later tale turns on whom to serve and whom to forgive. The black arrow is a sign and a judgment. The close belongs to this one book.

- Map the whole tale through its last book.
- Do not flatten the moral choosing into a mere costume adventure.
- Cite this typography.

04

A Complete 1888 Tale

THE HOSTED FILE

PG #848 and the site EPUB are this complete book. Quote stretches that appear in both, from the prologue onward.

- Complete The Black Arrow.
- The opening typography is 'springtime,' one word.
- For a wide middle and older band.

Loyalty | A Civil War | An Alarm Bell | A Black-Arrow Fellowship | A Choosing

What to watch for as you read

GRADES 6–8

1. The hosted text is The Black Arrow: A Tale of the Two Roses (serialized 1883; this book 1888, Project Gutenberg #848), complete as Stevenson's Wars of the Roses adventure, beginning with the prologue John Amend-All. The opening is exact: "On a certain afternoon, in the late springtime, the bell upon Tunstall Moat House was heard ringing at an unaccustomed hour." ("springtime" as one word).
2. A short address to a "Critic on the Hearth" stands before the prologue; quote the tale, not that address, unless a stretch appears in both files. A complete historical adventure for a wide middle and older band. Treasure Island is a different book on this site. Teach the violence of the civil war with gravity, not as mere sport.
3. Quote stretches that appear in both the Gutenberg text and the site EPUB.