CLASSICS LIBRARY · STORY MAP

The Narrative of Arthur Gordon Pym of Nantucket

Edgar Allan Poe · *1838 · original English text*

My name is Arthur Gordon Pym. My father was a respectable trader in sea-stores at Nantucket, where I was born. The hosted text is Poe's complete 1838 sea narrative, a dark voyage that grows stranger as it runs south, for older students.

THE CENTRAL QUESTION

What kind of truth can a sea-narrative claim when a Nantucket boy tells of mutiny, hunger, and a last white south, and how should its darkest passages be taught?

"My name is Arthur Gordon Pym. My father was a respectable trader in sea-stores at Nantucket, where I was born."

The opening of the narrative proper, after the preface

The hosted text is The Narrative of Arthur Gordon Pym of Nantucket (1838, PG #51060), complete as Poe's novel. The narrative proper opens exactly, including "sea-stores" and "Nantucket." A preface in Pym's voice stands before this opening; quote a continuous stretch that appears in both files. The book contains mutiny, cannibalism, and a strange southern close; for older and advanced students, teach with gravity, not as spectacle. Racial attitudes of 1838 appear; teach the problem, and do not put slurs on the map. The close is famously unfinished in manner; map it as Poe published it. Quote this typography.

KEY CHARACTERS

Arthur Gordon Pym
The Nantucket teller, son of a trader in sea-stores, whose narrative grows darker as it runs south.

Augustus, and the early shipmates
The companions of the first going to sea, and of the mutiny.

the later survivors
The company of the hunger and the south; teach their trial with gravity.

the people met in the south
The later encounters, which must be taught without repeating 1838 slurs.

A NAME, AND NANTUCKET

> *"My name is Arthur Gordon Pym. My father was a respectable trader in sea-stores at Nantucket, where I was born."*
>
> The opening of the narrative proper

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

01

A Name, and Nantucket

THE OPENING OF THE NARRATIVE PROPER

My name is Arthur Gordon Pym. My father was a respectable trader in sea-stores at Nantucket, where I was born. The book begins as a plain account, before the voyage turns dark.

- The opening is exact in both witnesses, including 'sea-stores.'
- A preface stands before this start; quote the narrative proper, or a preface stretch that appears in both files.
- For older and advanced students.

> *"My name is Arthur Gordon Pym. My father was a respectable trader in sea-stores at Nantucket, where I was born."*
>
> The opening of the narrative proper

02

A Stowaway, and a Mutiny

THE EARLY VOYAGE

Pym goes to sea, hides, and meets mutiny. The first darkness of the book is already human, not only the weather. Teach the violence with gravity.

- Do not make a spectacle of the mutiny.
- The Nantucket beginning is not the whole book.
- A wide older band, for older students, can read this with help.

03

Hunger, and a South

THE LATER VOYAGE

The later book runs through hunger, a terrible choice among the living, and a south that grows strange. The close is famously unfinished in manner; map it as Poe published it. Teach the cannibalism with gravity, not as spectacle.

- For older and advanced students only, in this stretch.
- Racial attitudes of 1838 appear; teach the problem; do not put slurs on the map.
- Do not invent a last sentence Poe did not write.

04

A Complete 1838 Narrative

THE HOSTED FILE

PG #51060 and the site EPUB are this complete published novel. Quote stretches that appear in both.

- Complete as Poe published it, including the strange close.
- For older and advanced students.
- The opening typography is 'sea-stores.'

A Sea Narrative · A Darkening Voyage · Hunger and Trial · A Strange South · A Name Given First

What to watch for as you read

GRADES 11–12

1. The hosted text is The Narrative of Arthur Gordon Pym of Nantucket (1838, Project Gutenberg #51060), complete as Poe's novel. The narrative proper opens exactly: "My name is Arthur Gordon Pym. My father was a respectable trader in sea-stores at Nantucket, where I was born." A preface in Pym's voice stands before this opening; quote a continuous stretch that appears in both files.
2. The book contains mutiny, cannibalism, and a strange southern close; for older and advanced students, teach with gravity, not as spectacle. Racial attitudes of 1838 appear; teach the problem, and do not put slurs on the map. The close is famously unfinished in manner; map it as Poe published it, and do not invent a last sentence he did not write.
3. Quote stretches that appear in both the Gutenberg text and the site EPUB.

Quotations are verbatim from the original English text, Project Gutenberg #51060, the public-domain text hosted at classicslaunch.org/works/the-narrative-of-arthur-gordon-pym-of-nantucket/. Citations give book and chapter (or canto and line) so every line can be checked.