CLASSICS LIBRARY · STORY MAP

The Travels of Marco Polo

Marco Polo (with Rustichello da Pisa) · *c. 1298–1300 · Sir Henry Yule; revised by Henri Cordier (1903)*

Great Princes, Emperors, and Kings, Dukes and Marquises, Counts, Knights, and Burgesses! and People of all degrees who desire to get knowledge of the various races of mankind and of the diversities of the sundry regions of the World, take this Book and cause it to be read to you. Yule–Cordier, 1903, the complete travels (Prologue and Books I–IV), Project Gutenberg #10636 and #12410. For grades 7–12. Quote the travels, not only Yule's notes. Polo with Rustichello da Pisa. One map cannot teach the whole crossing.

THE CENTRAL QUESTION

How should a school read the Travels as this Yule–Cordier English opens them—an address to princes and to people of all degrees, to take this Book and cause it to be read—rather than as only the editor's notes, or as a later romance of the East?

"Great Princes, Emperors, and Kings, Dukes and Marquises, Counts, Knights, and Burgesses! and People"

Prologue, opening

The hosted text is the complete travels—Prologue and Books I–IV—in Sir Henry Yule's translation as revised by Henri Cordier (1903), Project Gutenberg #10636 and #12410. Quote the travels, not only Yule's notes. It opens: Great Princes, Emperors, and Kings, Dukes and Marquises, Counts, Knights, and Burgesses, and people of all degrees who desire to get knowledge of the various races of mankind and of the diversities of the sundry regions of the World, take this Book and cause it to be read to you. Teach that address, for grades 7–12. Marco Polo is named with Rustichello da Pisa; the book is a dictated travel, not a later film. One map cannot teach the whole crossing. Name Yule and Cordier.

KEY CHARACTERS

Marco Polo
The traveler whose book this is, told with Rustichello da Pisa

Rustichello da Pisa
Named with Polo as maker of the book

The princes and people addressed in the prologue
To whom the book is first given, to be read

Sir Henry Yule, and Henri Cordier
Translator, and reviser, of this 1903 English

HOW TO BEGIN THE TRAVELS

> *"Great Princes, Emperors, and Kings, Dukes and Marquises, Counts, Knights, and Burgesses! and People"*
>
> Prologue

> *"and People of all degrees who desire to get knowledge of the various races of mankind and of the diversities of the sundry regions of the World, take this Book and cause it to be read to you. For ye"*
>
> Prologue

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

01

Princes, and People of All Degrees

PROLOGUE, OPENING

Great Princes, Emperors, and Kings, Dukes and Marquises, Counts, Knights, and Burgesses: the book is addressed widely, from the first clause.

- Keep the ranks as this English lists them.
- 7–12.
- Yule–Cordier, 1903.
- Quote the travels, not only a note.

> *"Great Princes, Emperors, and Kings, Dukes and Marquises, Counts, Knights, and Burgesses! and People"*
>
> Prologue, opening

02

Take This Book and Cause It to Be Read

PROLOGUE, OPENING

And people of all degrees who desire to get knowledge of the various races of mankind and of the diversities of the sundry regions of the World, take this Book and cause it to be read to you. The book asks to be read aloud.

- Keep "cause it to be read to you."
- Knowledge of races and regions is the stated desire; teach it as a medieval travel's claim, with care, not as a later slogan.
- 7–12.
- Quote this English.

> *"and People of all degrees who desire to get knowledge of the various races of mankind and of the diversities of the sundry regions of the World, take this Book and cause it to be read to you. For ye"*
>
> Prologue, opening

03

Polo, and Rustichello da Pisa

THE MAKING OF THE BOOK

The Travels were made with Rustichello da Pisa. Name both. The hosted English is a translation of that book, not a modern retelling.

- Name Rustichello as well as Polo.
- 7–12.
- Do not treat the book as a later novel.
- The prologue's address is the right first quotation.

> *"take this Book and cause it to be read to you. For"*
>
> Prologue, opening

04

Yule, and Cordier, 1903

THE EDITION

Sir Henry Yule's translation, revised by Henri Cordier, third edition, 1903, is the hosted English. The catalogue names the complete text of the travels, Prologue and Books I–IV. Quote the travels, not only the notes. For grades 7–12.

- Name Yule and Cordier.
- Do not invent another translator.
- The notes, if present, are theirs; the address is the book's.
- PG #10636 and #12410.

> *"Great Princes, Emperors, and Kings, Dukes and Marquises, Counts, Knights, and Burgesses! and People"*
>
> Prologue, opening

05

A Long Crossing, One Map

THE LATER BOOKS

Books I–IV will carry the reader far. Teach the prologue first, and do not pretend one map taught the whole journey. For grades 7–12. Not a film of the East, and not a later abridgment if you are in this complete travels file.

- Honesty about length.
- Quote this English.
- Curiosity under a disciplined reading, not a spectacle.
- A book to be read, as it asks.

> *"and People of all degrees who desire to get knowledge of the various races of mankind and of the diversities of the sundry regions of the World, take this Book and cause it to be read to you. For ye"*
>
> Prologue, opening

A book to be read aloud

Princes and people, addressed together

Regions of the world, as the book claims them

A traveler, and a maker of the book

A long crossing, honestly named

What to watch for as you read

GRADES 7–12

1. The prologue addresses princes and people of all degrees: take this Book and cause it to be read to you.
2. This is Yule–Cordier, 1903, the complete travels (Prologue and Books I–IV), PG #10636 and #12410. Name both men.
3. Quote the travels, not only Yule's notes. Name Rustichello da Pisa with Polo.
4. For grades 7–12. One map cannot teach the whole crossing. Not a later film or romance only.

Quotations are verbatim from the Sir Henry Yule; revised by Henri Cordier (1903), Project Gutenberg eBooks #10636 and #12410, The Travels of Marco Polo, the complete Yule–Cordier edition (3rd ed., 1903), Vols. 1–2, the public-domain text hosted at classicslaunch.org/works/the-travels-of-marco-polo/. Citations give book and chapter (or canto and line) so every line can be checked.