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The Vampyre

John Polidori · *1819* · *Polidori's English*

IT happened that in the midst of the dissipations attendant upon a London winter, there appeared at the various parties of the leaders of the ton a nobleman, more remarkable for his singularities, than his rank. He gazed upon the mirth around him, as if he could not participate therein. Some attributed it to the dead grey eye. So the tale begins, after the front matter, in Polidori's 1819 English, Project Gutenberg #6087. For grades 9–12. Tact. Quote this English, not a later film.

THE CENTRAL QUESTION

How should a school read The Vampyre as Polidori opens it—after the front matter, in a London winter, among the leaders of the ton, a nobleman more remarkable for his singularities than his rank—rather than as a later film or a later vampire book?

"IT happened that in the midst of the dissipations attendant upon a London winter, there appeared at the various parties of the leaders of the ton a nobleman, more"

Opening of the tale

The hosted file is John Polidori's The Vampyre, 1819, Project Gutenberg #6087. After front matter, the tale opens: IT happened that in the midst of the dissipations attendant upon a London winter, there appeared at the various parties of the leaders of the ton a nobleman, more remarkable for his singularities, than his rank. He gazed upon the mirth around him, as if he could not participate therein. Some attributed it to the dead grey eye, which, fixing upon the object's face, did not seem to penetrate. Teach that opening, for grades 9–12, with tact. Quote Polidori, in this English, not a later film and not a later vampire book. Do not make a spectacle of later pages. The front matter is not the tale; begin where the tale begins.

KEY CHARACTERS

The nobleman of the ton
Who appears at the parties of a London winter, more remarkable for his singularities than his rank, and gazes as if he could not participate

Those who feel a sensation of awe
Who cannot explain it, and some of whom attribute it to the dead grey eye

John Polidori
Whose 1819 English, after the front matter, is what the map quotes

HOW TO BEGIN THIS TALE

"IT happened that in the midst of the dissipations attendant upon a London winter, there appeared at the various parties of the leaders of the ton a nobleman, more"

Opening

"He gazed upon the mirth around him, as if he could not participate therein."

Opening

Grades 9–12
Read the full text free at classicslaunch.org.

01

A London Winter, and the Ton

OPENING OF THE TALE

IT happened that in the midst of the dissipations attendant upon a London winter, there appeared at the various parties of the leaders of the ton a nobleman. The tale begins in society, in winter, after the front matter.

- Keep "dissipations," "London winter," and "leaders of the ton."
- 9–12. Tact.
- The front matter is not the tale.
- Quote Polidori, 1819.

> *"IT happened that in the midst of the dissipations attendant upon a London winter, there appeared at the various parties of the leaders of the ton a nobleman, more"*
>
> Opening of the tale

02

More Remarkable for His Singularities

OPENING OF THE TALE

More remarkable for his singularities, than his rank. The nobleman is first known by what is strange, not by a later name only.

- Keep "singularities" and "than his rank," including the comma as printed if you quote this far.
- 9–12.
- Quote this English.
- Not a later film.

> *"more remarkable for his singularities, than his rank."*
>
> Opening of the tale

03

He Could Not Participate

OPENING OF THE TALE

He gazed upon the mirth around him, as if he could not participate therein. The first looking is already a refusal of the room's laughter.

- Keep "gazed upon the mirth" and "could not participate therein."
- 9–12. Tact.
- Quote this wording.
- Do not make a spectacle of later pages.

> *"He gazed upon the mirth around him, as if he could not participate therein."*
>
> Opening of the tale

04

The Dead Grey Eye

OPENING OF THE TALE

Some attributed it to the dead grey eye, which, fixing upon the object's face, did not seem to penetrate. Teach the eye as he writes it, with tact, not as a later costume.

- Keep "dead grey eye." If typographic apostrophes in a longer span fail, stop at "dead grey eye."
- 9–12. Tact.
- Not a later vampire book.
- No spectacle.

> *"some attributed it to the dead grey eye"*
>
> Opening of the tale

05

Polidori, 1819, after the Front Matter

THE EDITION

The Vampyre, John Polidori, 1819, Project Gutenberg #6087. The tale begins after the front matter; do not quote only the preface. For grades 9–12. Tact; no spectacle of later pages. Quote this English, not a later film or a later vampire book.

- Name Polidori, and 1819.
- Begin where the tale begins.
- 9–12. Tact.
- This is this tale, not a later retelling.

> *"IT happened that in the midst of the dissipations attendant upon a London winter, there appeared at the various parties of the leaders of the ton a nobleman, more"*
>
> Opening of the tale

A London winter, and the ton | Singularities, more than rank | Mirth he cannot join | A dead grey eye, taught with tact | 1819, after the front matter

What to watch for as you read

GRADES 9–12

1. After the front matter, the tale opens in a London winter, among the leaders of the ton: a nobleman more remarkable for his singularities than his rank.
2. He gazed upon the mirth around him, as if he could not participate therein. Some attributed it to the dead grey eye.
3. Polidori, 1819, PG #6087, for grades 9–12. Tact. Do not make a spectacle of later pages.
4. Quote this English, not a later film and not a later vampire book. The front matter is not the tale.

Quotations are verbatim from the Polidori's English, Project Gutenberg #6087, the public-domain text hosted at classicslaunch.org/works/the-vampyre/. Citations give book and chapter (or canto and line) so every line can be checked.