

The Prisoner of Zenda

Book key

- 1 a coronation, crown, majesty, throne
b army: colonel, marshal; government: ambassador, chancellor
c a castle
- 2 a T b F c T d T e T
- 3 a ✓ b ✓ c ✗ d ✓ e ✗
- 4 a It has been brought forward by two days.
b Instead of watching the coronation, he will be crowned King.
c Instead of being crowned King, he will be a prisoner in Zenda.
d Instead of succeeding in becoming king, he will watch Rudolf Rassendyll be crowned.
- 5 a Madame de Mauban wants to marry the Duke of Strelsau.
b The Duke of Strelsau and Rudolf the Fifth are brothers.
c Colonel Sapt and Fritz von Tarlenheim have responsibility for the King.
d Princess Flavia and Rudolf the Fifth are expected to become husband and wife.
- 6 Open answers
- 7 a 3 b 7 c 5 d 1 e 4 f 8 g 6 h 2
- 8 a Michael
b Rudolf
c Max Holf, the Duke
d Josef
e Michael's men
- 9 a Sapt says this to Rudolf when he explains that they will leave Zenda to avoid Michael's guard. When the guard arrives, nobody will be there.
b Rudolf, pretending to be the King, is talking to Princess Flavia about Michael's desire to have the throne and the Princess.
c Sapt is explaining to Rudolf why Rudolf must return to Strelsau and why the Duke can not tell anybody that Rudolf is not the King.
d Sapt says this to Rudolf after the two men have murdered some of the Duke's horsemen. He means that Josef is not the only dead man now.
- 10 If Rudolf does not go back to Strelsau, Black Michael will tell the people that the King was too drunk to go to his coronation and has sent a servant to take his place. Rudolf is attracted to the danger of Sapt's plan and agrees to it.
- 11 Open answers
- 12 a thinking that he is the King.
b Rudolf has a wounded finger.
c being guarded by three of Duke Michael's men.
d Mr Detchard, the Englishman.
e she does not want the Duke to become King.
f a tea table.
- 13 Michael wants three of his famous Six to kill Rudolf in the summerhouse. Sapt and Fritz will then be taken, and the city put under the control of the army, before a message is sent to the other three of the Six to kill the King. Michael will then make himself King and marry the Princess. Madame de Mauban wants to marry Michael herself.
- 14–15 Open answers
- 16 a YES b NO c NO d YES e NO f YES
g YES h YES i YES j NO k YES
- 17–18 Open answers
- 19 a 3 b 5 c 1 d 4 e 2
- 20 a T b T c T d T e F
- 21–24 Open answers
- 25 a Michael
b Rupert
c Rudolf
d the King
e Sapt, Rudolf
- 26 a Rudolf is talking about the King's ring. He has tried to behave as a king should.
b the King
c Rudolf
d Flavia is saying that she must marry the King, as everyone believes that she is going to do. It is important for her own sense of honour and for her country.
e Fritz
f Rose is talking about Strelsau, where Sir Jacob Borrodaile is going to be the next British ambassador. Rudolf could, if he wanted to, go with Sir Jacob.
g Rudolf
h Robert is looking at a picture of his brother – who he thinks is the real King – being crowned King of Ruritania.
- 27–39 Open answers

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Discussion activities key

- 1 Possible answers:
- Perhaps this is an adventure story. 'Setting a Trap' and 'A Dangerous Plan' sound adventurous.
 - I think it's a love story as I can see the word 'love' in one of the chapter headings.
 - This might be a mystery. The words like 'secret' and 'trap' made me think so. Also the second last chapter says 'Face to Face in the Forest' sounds like you can solve the mystery at the end.
- 2
- Rupert of Hentzau*
 - He was a lawyer.
 - Seven years.
 - He was 70 years old.
 - It's about the love life of the younger sister of a previous king of Ruritania, Rudolf III.
 - For the work he did at the Ministry of Information during World War I.
- 3
- He's 29 years old.
 - He has a good social position.
 - He has enough money.
 - He doesn't work.
 - He likes travelling.
 - He can speak German and French as well as English.
 - He's a good swordsman.
 - He can ride any kind of a horse.
 - He's calm and sensible.
 - He has got red hair.
- 4 Possible answers:
- I would travel around the world.
 - I would like to write a novel.
 - I would have a nice holiday on a tropical island.
 - I would study something new.
- 5 Perhaps he means that a person like him should enjoy the opportunities when they arise.
- 6 Possible answers:
- The castle has high walls and towers.
 - There's a moat around the castle, and it's filled with water.
 - The drawbridge is the only way to get into the castle.
- 7–9 Open answers

- 10 Good points:
- People can see the King very well.
The King can hear what people are saying.
The King might become more popular by this.
- Bad points:
- Someone might attack the King.
The King might get hurt easily.
- 11 Open answers
- 12 Possible answers:
- Perhaps someone came to the cellar to kidnap the King.
 - I think someone was trying to kill the King.
 - The King woke up but cannot remember anything.
- 13 Possible answers:
- Perhaps they will fight each other in the future.
 - Maybe Rassendyll will kill him.
 - He might hurt Rassendyll badly.
 - He might become Rassendyll's servant.
- 14 Open answers
- 15 Possible answers:
- Perhaps he makes a terrible mistake.
 - It must be hard to remember all the rules and people's names.
 - I think it's enjoyable to be treated as king.
 - I think decision making is the most difficult part.
- 16 They like each other.
- The sentences to support this:
- 'It was a difficult part for me to play.'
'She was the most beautiful girl I had ever seen.'
'She reddened.'
"And to your cousin," she whispered.'

17 See 18

1	Lauengram	Ruritanian
2	Krafstein	Ruritanian
3	Rupert Hentzau	Ruritanian
4	de Gautet	Frenchman a tall thin man with a big moustache
5	Bersonin	Belgian rather fat, middle height, no hair
6	Detchard	Englishman a narrow-faced man, with close-cut fair hair and a sunburnt face

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- 19 • Because she doesn't want Duke Michael to marry Flavia.
• Rassendyll is honourable. He believed in Antoinette de Mauban. He fought bravely. Also, he did not fire until the enemies did as he promised.
- 20 Possible answers:
• When I read Chapter 1, I thought Rassendyll was a careless, easygoing, rich man who was not serious.
• Now I think he is more earnest, honourable and reliable.
- 21–23 Open answers
- 24 Possible answers:
I don't want to be famous. People will look at you wherever you go. You cannot have a private life.
- 25 Open answers
- 26 Perhaps he needed some money.
Perhaps he didn't like his master Duke Michael.
He knew that Michael would dismiss him when he finishes his business with the King.
- 27–30 Open answers
- 31 They are both non-Ruritanian.
Neither wants Duke Michael to become the king of Ruritania.
- 32–35 Open answers
- 36 Possible answers:
• Perhaps he is dead.
• I think he is badly wounded, but he isn't dead because it doesn't clearly say 'he fell down dead.'
- 37 Open answers
- 38 At the end of Chapter 12, Flavia sees Rassendyll in the forest. Sapt told her he's not the King. Flavia asks Rassendyll if it's true or not, and Rassendyll tells her that he isn't the King. Flavia faints.
- 39 Possible answers:
• I think she did the right thing. She is loyal to her country, and she behaved honourably.
• I think she should have left the country with Rassendyll and be happy.
- 40–41 Open answers
- Activity worksheets key**
- I a Sir Jacob Borrodaile
b Antoinette de Mauban
c Rudolf Rassendyll
d Strelsau is crowded because the coronation has been brought forward, so he thinks he won't get a room there.
e The border official and Johann
- 2 a Who: The King, To whom: Josef, What: Asking him to open the bottle of wine that Michael has sent him.
b Who: The King, To whom: Fritz, What: He realizes that he and Rassendyll look alike.
c Who: Fritz, To whom: Rassendyll, What: He learns that Rassendyll was once an officer in Queen Victoria's army.
- 3 a the chief of the Ruritanian Army.
b he thought she had listened to their plans.
c the people here are loyal to Duke Michael.
d guard the King in the cellar.
e their journey to Strelsau.
f at the church.
- 4 a Sapt and Rassendyll ride back to the lodge where they left the king.
b Sapt and Rassendyll hide from two riders – the Duke and Johann's brother – who go to the castle.
c The old woman and the King have gone, and Josef has been killed.
d To return to Strelsau as a King to stop Michael taking the city.
- 5 a It seemed to me that if a real king's life is a hard one an acting king's is much harder.
b Anyone of them would cut a throat if Michael ordered it.
c My wounded finger came in very useful, as it removed all doubts about my writing.
d She was the most beautiful girl I had ever seen.
e You are like the prince in Shakespeare who became a different man when he was king.
f If the King was dead, all the Six would be here with Michael.
- 6 a Because the three Ruritanians of the Six are there.
b Because he sees more writing on the other side which shows the letter to be from Antoinette.
c He plans to kill Rassendyll, seize Sapt and Fritz and put the city in the control of the army, kill the King, make himself King and marry Flavia.
d He rushes out of the summer house using the iron table to protect himself, and runs into the three men who fall over. Rassendyll runs away.
- 7 a Who: Sapt; her: Flavia
b Who: Flavia; you: Rassendyll
c Who: Rassendyll; him: Duke Michael
d Who: Rassendyll; her: Flavia
e Who: Rassendyll; you: Flavia
- 8 a 2 b 3 c 1 d 5 e 4

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- 9 ~~a room where the King is prisoner~~ > pipe
~~b on his horse into the forest~~ > by swimming across the moat to the castle
~~c the leading doctors are not allowed to look after the wounded King~~ > she thinks the King is dangerously wounded
~~d left the country~~ > been killed by Michael
- 10 a 6 b 5 c 4 d 3 e 2 f 1
- 11 a 4 b 6 c 1 d 7 e 2 f 5 g 8 h 3
- 12 a Antoinette de Mauban
 b Rupert Hentzau
 c To fight Michael for Antoinette.
 d Because Rassendyll is wounded.
 e Rupert Hentzau and Rudolf Rassendyll
- 13 a 'The secret must be kept.' Who: The King, To whom: Rassendyll
 b 'There will never be another woman in the world for me.' Who: Rassendyll, To whom: Flavia
 c 'If love were all, I would follow you to the world's end.' Who: Flavia, To whom: Rassendyll
 d 'Heaven doesn't always make the right men kings.' Who: Fritz, To whom: Rassendyll
- 14 Open answers

Progress test key

- 1 a 2 b 1 c 5 d 10 e 6 f 9 g 8 h 7
 i 4 j 3
- 2 a 1 b 6 c 2 d 4 e 5 f 3
- 3 a 2 b 3 c 2 d 3 e 2
- 4 a coronation
 b drawbridge
 c earnest
 d ambassador
 e procession
 f carriage
 g determined
 h revolver
 i moat
 j bowed
- 5 a pipe
 b dark and stormy
 c family
 d Fritz
 e sword