




Contents

About the Author	6
Before Reading	8
Daisy Miller	11
After Reading	76

Before Reading

-  **1** Before you read the story, take a look at the pictures in the book and on the cover. Write a list of ten words or expressions that you think will describe the story you are going to read. If possible, work with a partner and compare your lists.
-  **2** The title of the story is *Daisy Miller*. What type of story do you think it will be and what do you think it will be about? Discuss the ideas below in groups of three or four.
- a) A love story. A young woman called Daisy will fall in love and get married.
 - b) A tragedy. Daisy will make a serious mistake and someone will die as a result.
 - c) A mystery. Daisy will be involved in a series of mysterious events.
 - d) A family drama. There will be conflict between members of Daisy's family.
 - e) A travel story. Daisy will go on a long journey, and learn about life in the process.

Share your ideas with the rest of the class.

-  **3** Look at this picture of Daisy Miller. What do you think she is like? Write down questions you would like to ask her. Ask and answer with a partner.



- 4** Imagine that you are the parents of a 16-year-old girl. What would you allow her to do and what would you *not* allow her to do? Write a list.

Now imagine that you are the parents of a 16-year-old boy. Make a list of the things that you would allow him to do and the things you *wouldn't* allow him to do.

Are your two lists the same or different?

- 5** On a scale of 1 to 5 (1 = I don't agree at all; 5 = I agree entirely) how far do you agree with the following statements?

- a) Living for a long time in a foreign country helps you become more open-minded.

1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐

- b) When you live in a foreign country, you should behave just as you would in your own country.

1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐

- c) You should be careful not to offend people by doing things they don't approve of.

1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐

- d) If you love a person, their upbringing and social class are not important.

1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐

- e) Men can make friends with anyone they like, but women cannot.

1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐

I



In the little town of Vevey, in Switzerland, there is a most comfortable hotel, which is seated upon the edge of a clear blue lake. The shore of the lake has a range of establishments of this type. One of the hotels, however, is famous, being distinguished from many of its neighbours by an air both of luxury and of maturity. In this region, in the month of June, American travellers are extremely numerous. There is a flitting here and there of 'stylish' young girls, a rustling of muslin frills, a rattle of dance music in the morning hours, a sound of high-pitched voices at all times. You receive an impression of these things at the excellent inn of the 'Trois Couronnes'.

I hardly know what was in the mind of a young American, who, two or three years ago, sat in the garden of the 'Trois Couronnes', looking about him, rather idly, at some of the graceful objects I have mentioned. He had come from Geneva the day before by the little steamer, to see his aunt, who was staying at the hotel – Geneva having been for a long time his place of residence. But his aunt had a headache – his aunt had almost always a headache – and now she was closed in her room, so that he was at liberty to wander about.

Glossary

- **distinguished:** (here) shown to be different
- **establishments:** (here) hotels
- **flitting:** moving about quickly from place to place
- **high-pitched:** with a high and sharp tone
- **inn:** guest house; place where you can sleep and eat
- **muslin:** thin, semi-transparent material used to make dresses
- **rustling:** sound that some materials (silk and muslin) make
- **steamer:** ship with a steam-driven engine

He was some seven-and-twenty years of age. His friends usually said that he was in Geneva 'studying'. Other people said that the reason he spent so much time in Geneva was that he was extremely devoted to a lady who lived there – a foreign lady – a person older than himself. Very few Americans had ever seen this lady, about whom there were some curious stories. Winterbourne had gone to school and college in Geneva, and this had led to his forming a great many youthful friendships there. Many of these he had kept, and they were a source of great satisfaction to him.

After learning that his aunt was not feeling well, he had taken a walk about the town, and then he had come in to have breakfast. Now he was drinking a small cup of coffee at a little table in the garden. At last he finished his coffee and lit a cigarette. Soon a small boy of nine or ten came along the path. The child had a pale face, and was dressed in knickerbockers, with red stockings, which displayed his poor little thin legs; he also wore a brilliant red cravat. He carried a long alpenstock, the sharp point of which he thrust into everything that he approached – the flowerbeds, the garden benches, the trains of the ladies' dresses. In front of Winterbourne he paused, looking at him with a pair of bright, penetrating eyes.



Glossary

- **alpenstock:** a stick carried by mountain walkers
- **cravat:** informal neck-tie
- **displayed:** showed
- **knickerbockers:** old-fashioned short trousers often worn by young boys
- **thrust:** pushed with great force or power
- **trains:** (here) long pieces of material at the back of ladies' dresses

‘Will you give me a lump[•] of sugar?’ he asked in a hard little voice.

Winterbourne glanced at the small table near him and saw that several pieces of sugar remained. ‘Yes, you may take one,’ he answered; ‘but I don’t think sugar is good for little boys.’

This little boy carefully selected three lumps of sugar, two of which he buried in the pocket of his knickerbockers, depositing[•] the other in his mouth. He tried to crack[•] it with his teeth.

‘Oh, it’s har-r-d!’ he exclaimed, pronouncing the adjective in a peculiar[•] manner.

Winterbourne had immediately perceived[•] that he might have the honour of claiming him as a fellow countryman. ‘Take care you don’t hurt your teeth,’ he said, paternally.

‘I haven’t got any teeth to hurt. I have only got seven teeth. My mother said she’d slap[•] me if any more came out. It’s the climate that makes them come out.’

Winterbourne was greatly amused. ‘If you eat three lumps of sugar, your mother will certainly slap you,’ he said.

Trois Couronnes, Rue d’Italie, Vevey

CHILDHOOD

Think back to when you were a child. Did you have any habits that annoyed your parents or guardians? What did they say to you?

- **crack:** break
- **depositing:** putting
- **lump:** small piece

- **peculiar:** strange
- **perceived:** realised
- **slap:** hit someone with your hand; smack