

Introduction

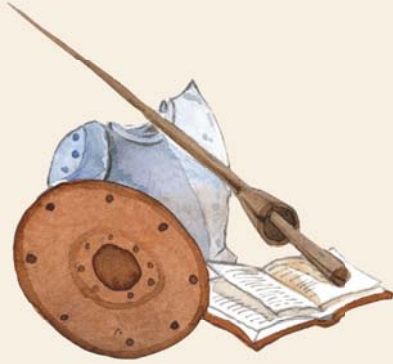
作者簡介

塞萬提斯



Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra (1547-1616)

Miguel de Cervantes, a Spanish poet, novelist, and playwright, was born in Alcala de Henares near Madrid as the fourth child of a poor family. He couldn't have a proper education at school. He went to Italy in 1569, where he was in the service of a cardinal, and the following year he enlisted in the army and stayed in the service for 5 years. While returning to Spain in 1575, he was captured by Barbary pirates and was sold as a slave. He eventually became the property of the viceroy of Algiers. Although in 1580 he was ransomed by his parents and the Trinitarians and returned to his family in Spain, his life was less than successful. He had a hard time working as a writer, a purchasing agent, and a tax collector. He was imprisoned twice for irregularities in his accounts. Finally, in 1605 he had a huge success with the first volume of his great work *Don Quixote*. The book did not make him rich, but it brought him a great reputation as a man of letters. Afterward he published lots of novels and plays, and in 1615 he published the 2nd volume of *Don Quixote*. Despite his success in writing, he never had enough money to live a comfortable life. He died in Madrid on April 23, 1616, at the age of 69, one year after the publication the 2nd volume of *Don Quixote*. Despite his many difficulties, Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra maintained a positive attitude and good mental health until he died.

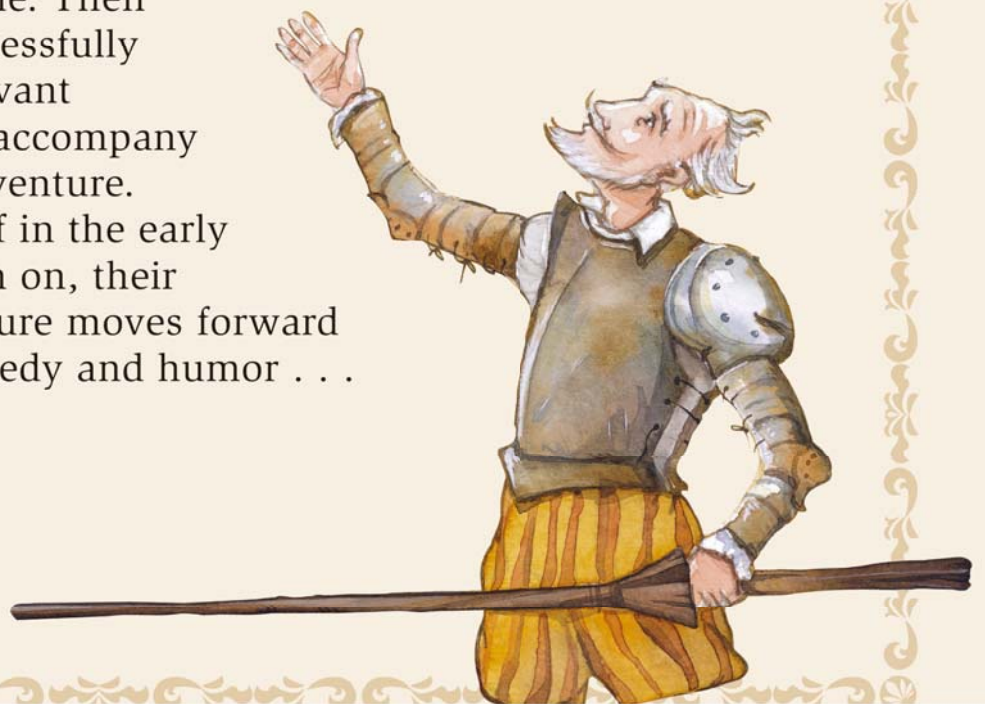


Don Quixote

Don Quixote's fully title is *The Ingenious Hidalgo Don Quixote of La Mancha*. This novel is one of the classics and ranks high on the lists of the greatest works of fiction ever published.

It has given unique inspirations to various literary genres. Don Quixote and his servant Sancho, two main characters in the book with their conflicting attitudes and personalities, have been much loved regardless of ages and nations.

Alonso Quejana, who is in his fifties and lives in La Mancha, Spain, is so obsessed with stories about brave errant knights that he is in a senile and confused state. He believes himself to be a knight called “Don Quixote” and sets out to receive the title of knight with his old skinny horse named “Rosinante.” After Don Quixote has been disgraced and beaten up by a trader from Toledo, he goes back home. Then Don Quixote successfully persuades his servant Sancho Panza to accompany him on a new adventure. The two sneak off in the early morning. From then on, their ridiculous adventure moves forward and is full of comedy and humor . . .

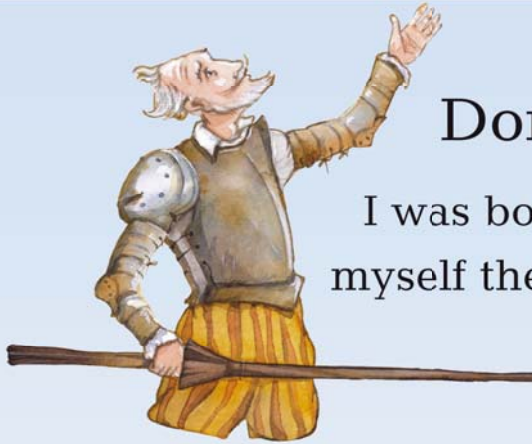


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Before You Read

The characters from *Don Quixote* are going to introduce themselves. Please, greet them with a warm welcome.



Don Quixote

I was born Alonso Quixano, but have given myself the name Don Quixote. I was also known as the Knight of the Long Face, so named by my squire¹, during our difficult adventures². However, every great knight has difficulties³. He should never quit⁴ because that would be shameful⁵.



Sancho Panza

I was a farmer before I became my master's squire. He promised me that our adventures would make me rich. However, I am beginning to think my master is not quite sane⁶. He attacks⁷ sheep and windmills. I try to tell him that they are only sheep and windmills, but he thinks they are enemy⁸ armies and evil⁹ giants¹⁰.

- 1 squire [skwɪə] (n.) 扈從
- 2 adventure [əd'ventʃər] (n.) 冒險
- 3 difficulty ['dɪfɪkəlti] (n.) 困難
- 4 quit [kwɪt] (v.) 離開；放棄
- 5 shameful ['ʃeɪmfəl] (a.) 可恥的；丟臉的

- 6 sane [seɪn] (a.) 神智正常的
- 7 attack [ə'tæk] (v.) 攻擊
- 8 enemy ['enəmi] (a.) 敵人的
- 9 evil ['i:vəl] (a.) 邪惡的；罪惡的
- 10 giant ['dʒaɪənt] (n.) 巨人



Priest and Barber

We are friends of Don Quixote. We are getting very worried about him. He used to¹ be just an ordinary² landowner³. Then he went crazy, reading adventure stories. We must do something to make him wake up to reality⁴!



Carrasco

Don Quixote's friends convinced⁵ me to try to get Don Quixote to stay home. Perhaps if I pretended⁶ to be a knight and challenged Don Quixote to a duel⁷, I could get him to promise to stay home if he loses.



Dutch and Duchess

We just love Don Quixote. He was so funny! We gave him a great feast⁸ in our castle and delighted⁹ to hear his crazy stories. We also had Don Quixote and his servant ride a fake¹⁰ horse in our courtyard blindfolded¹¹. It was so funny!

1 used to 曾經

2 ordinary [ɔːrdənəri] (a.) 平常的；普通的

3 landowner [lænd,əʊnər] (n.) 地主

4 reality ['riælɪti] (n.) 真實；事實

5 convince A to 說服某人去……

6 pretend to 自稱

7 duel ['duːəl] (n.) 決鬥

8 feast [fiːst] (n.) 筵席

9 delight to 令人高興

10 fake [feɪk] (a.) 假的；冒充的

11 blindfolded ['blaɪndfəʊldɪd] (a.) 蒙住眼睛的



A Gentleman from La Mancha

In the Spanish village of La Mancha, there lived a gentleman

who loved to read. His favorite stories were of knights¹ and their code² of chivalry³: full of dragons⁴, magic⁵ swords⁶, enchanted⁷ forests, and damsels⁸ in distress⁹.

This gentleman was not a wealthy man, but rather a hidalgo¹⁰. A hidalgo was a landowner¹¹ who was richer than a peasant¹², but poorer than a nobleman¹³. His name was Senor¹⁴ Quixano.

Response Notes

1 knight [naɪt] (n.) 騎士

2 code [kəʊd] (n.) 行為規範

3 chivalry ['tʃɪvəlri] (n.) 騎士精神

4 dragon ['dræɡən] (n.) 龍

5 magic ['mædʒɪk] (a.) 魔法的

6 sword [sɔːrd] (n.) 劍

7 enchanted [ɪn'tʃæntɪd] (a.) 施過魔法的

8 damsel ['dæmzəl] (n.) 少女

9 in distress 遇難

10 hidalgo [hɪ'dælgəʊ] (n.) 西班牙紳士

11 landowner ['lænd,əʊnər] (n.) 地主

12 peasant ['pezənt] (n.) 農夫

13 nobleman ['nəʊbəlˌmæn] (n.)
出生高貴之人

14 senor [seɪn'jɔːr] (n.) 先生；紳士

15 modestly ['mɒdɪstɪli] (adv.)
謙虛地

16 housekeeper ['haʊs,ki:pər] (n.)
女管家

Senor Quixano lived modestly¹⁵ with his housekeeper¹⁶ and his young niece¹⁷. He was a tall, thin man in his fifties. He was a strong and healthy man, who went hunting every morning.

However, he started to read adventure¹⁸ stories all the time. His best friends, the local priest¹⁹ and the village barber²⁰, were worried. Their friend suddenly began spending night and day in his chair, reading adventure books through crazed²¹, bloodshot²² eyes.

Soon he started thinking these stories were true. Finally he went completely crazy.



17 niece [ni:s] (n.) 姪女

18 adventure [əd'ventʃər] (n.) 冒險

19 priest [pri:st] (n.) 牧師

20 barber ['bɑ:rbər] (n.) 理髮師

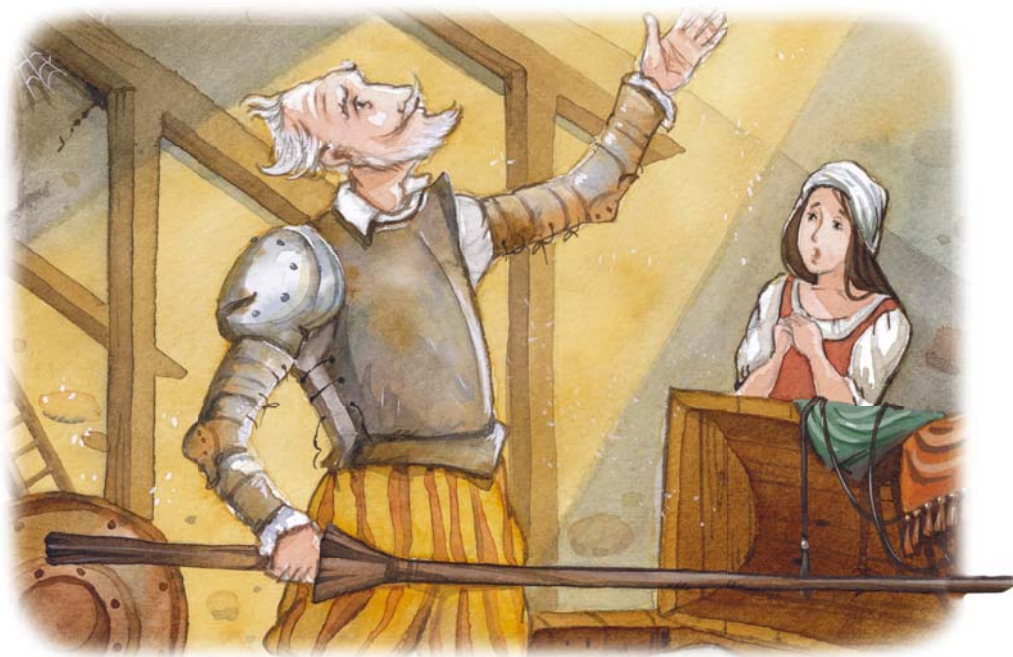
21 crazed ['kreɪzd] (a.) 瘋狂的

22 bloodshot ['blʌdʃa:t] (a.) 佈滿血絲的

Waking up in his reading chair one morning, Senor Quixano announced¹, "I'm going to become a knight-errant²!"

"A what?" asked his concerned³ niece.

"A knight-errant is a righter⁴ of wrongs, a friend to the unfortunate, a rescuer⁵ of fair⁶ maidens⁷, and a killer of dragons!"



1 announce [ə'naʊns] (v.) 宣布；聲稱

2 knight-errant [ˌnaɪt'erənt] (n.)
遊俠騎士

3 concerned [kən'sɜːrnd] (a.) 憂心的

4 righter ['raɪtər] (n.) 改正者

5 rescuer ['reskjʊː] (n.) 援助者

6 fair [feɪ] (a.) 美麗的

7 maiden ['meɪdn] (n.) 少女

8 attic ['ætɪk] (n.) 頂樓；閣樓

9 rusty ['rʌstɪ] (a.) 生鏽的

10 armor ['ɑːrmər] (n.) 盔甲

11 bold [bəʊld] (a.) 大膽的

12 faithful ['feɪθfəl] (v.) 忠實的

13 steed [stiːd] (n.) 坐騎

14 worn-out ['wɔːrnaʊt] (a.) 過時的

15 nag [næg] (n.) 老馬

"But Uncle," she cried, "there are no dragons in Spain! And who are these maidens who need rescuing?"

The old man went to the attic⁸ of his house and found a rusty⁹ old suit of armor¹⁰. He put the suit on and felt ready for action.

In a bold¹¹ voice, he announced, "Now, to my faithful¹² steed¹³!"

This "steed" was really a worn-out¹⁴ nag¹⁵. But to his delusional¹⁶ eyes, it was a valiant¹⁷ war horse.

"I name you Rocinante, Queen of the hacks¹⁸! And I will call myself. . ."

He took a moment to think of the perfect name. "Don Quixote!"

This is the Spanish equivalent¹⁹ of Sir Thigh²⁰-piece.

✓Check Up Fill in the blanks.

Senor Quixano named himself _____, and his horse _____.

Ans: Don Quixote, Rocinante

16 delusional [de'luʒən] (a.) 妄想的

17 valiant ['væliənt] (a.) 英勇的

18 hack [hæk] (n.) 老馬

19 equivalent [i'kwɪvələnt] (a.) 相等的

20 thigh [θaɪ] (n.) 大腿

"Now I must dedicate my life to¹ a lady!"

"Do you know a lady?" sobbed² the man's niece, frightened³ by his insane⁴ ramblings⁵.

"All knights know a lady," the man replied.

"When I conquer⁶ a giant or capture⁷ a villain⁸, I'll parade⁹ them in front of her to prove¹⁰ my love and loyalty¹¹."

Then he remembered stories he had heard of a beautiful peasant girl¹² from the nearby village of El Toboso. Having lost his grip on¹³ reality, he decided that she was a lonely princess.

"What's her name?" demanded¹⁴ his niece, hoping to bring him to his senses¹⁵.

Quickly, he invented a name. "All of the sweetest ladies are named Dulcinea. Her name is Dulcinea del Toboso, and to her I dedicate my life! Don't try to stop me. I must go!"

1 dedicate A to B 奉獻給

2 sob [sɑ:b] (v.) 哭訴；嗚咽

3 frightened ['fraɪnd] (a.)
驚嚇的；害怕的

4 insane [ɪn'seɪn] (a.) 瘋狂的

5 rambling ['ræmblɪŋ] (n.) 漫無目的說話

6 conquer ['kɒŋkə] (v.) 征服

7 capture ['kæptʃə] (v.) 捕獲

8 villain ['vɪlən] (n.) 壞人；惡棍

9 parade [pə'reɪd] (v.) 遊行

10 prove [pru:v] (v.) 證明

11 loyalty ['lɔ:əlti] (n.) 忠誠；忠心

12 peasant girl 鄉下姑娘

13 grip on 抓住