

黑暗之心

Heart of Darkness




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ABOUT THIS BOOK

For the Student

-  Listen to the story and do some activities on your Audio CD.
-  Talk about the story.
-  Prepare for Cambridge English: Preliminary (PET) for schools.

For the Teacher



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Level 5 Structures

Modal verb would	Non-defining relative clauses
I'd love to . . .	Present perfect continuous
Future continuous	Used to / would
Present perfect future	Used to / used to doing
Reported speech / verbs / questions	Second conditional
Past perfect	Expressing wishes and regrets
Defining relative clauses	

Structures from other levels are also included.

CONTENTS



About the Author	4
About the Book	6
Before Reading	8

Chapter 1	17
Chapter 2	23
Chapter 3	32
Chapter 4	41
Chapter 5	51
Chapter 6	63
Chapter 7	69

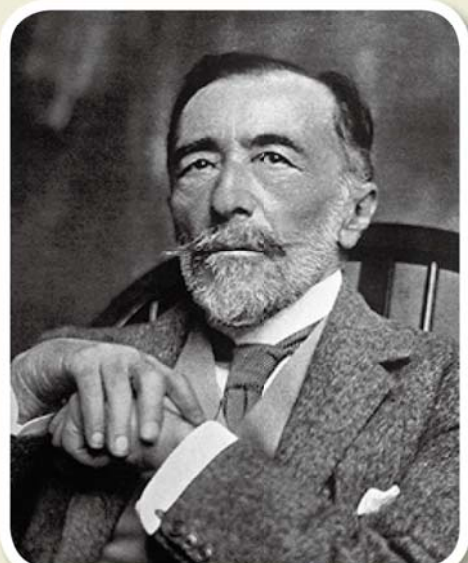
After Reading	78
Test	88
Project Work	92
Translation	94
Answer Key	122

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Joseph Conrad was born in 1857, in Berdychiv, part of the Polish Ukraine. His real name was Jozef Teodor Konrad Nalecz Korzeniowski. Conrad lived in the Ukraine¹ and Russia as a child and after the death of both of his parents, he was looked after² by his uncle in Poland.

From an early age he learnt French, read Shakespeare and became very fond of the Polish³ romantic poets, but he also had a passion⁴ for the sea. His uncle allowed him to go to sea⁵ as soon as he had finished school and in 1878, he joined the British Merchant⁶ Navy⁷, eventually becoming a captain.

Conrad sailed extensively⁸ all over the world and in 1890 he went to the Belgian⁹ Congo, which was later his inspiration¹⁰ for *Heart of Darkness* (1902). This journey, however, made Conrad ill and in 1894, he gave up¹¹ the sea to become a full-time writer, mainly because of his health problems.



In 1886 Conrad obtained¹² British nationality¹³ and when he left the navy he settled¹⁴ in the south of England. In 1895, his first novel—*Almayer's Folly*, an adventure set on the coast of Borneo¹⁵—was published. In 1896 he married Jessie George and they had two sons. He regularly published short stories, novels and essays¹⁶, but was not financially¹⁷ successful until 1913, when his novel *Chance* became popular.

Conrad was widely recognized¹⁸ as a remarkable¹⁹ writer by other writers, and his novels *Lord Jim* (1900), *Heart of Darkness* (1902), *Nostromo* (1904), *The Secret Agent* (1907) and *Under Western Eyes* (1911) were highly praised. His ability to handle English with such style is even more impressive when one thinks that it was his third language. Conrad died of²⁰ a heart attack²¹ in 1924.

1 Ukraine ['ju:kren] (n.) 烏克蘭

2 look after 照顧

3 Polish ['pɒlɪʃ] (a.) 波蘭的

4 passion ['pæʃən] (n.) 熱情

5 go to sea 去當水手

6 merchant ['mɜ:tʃənt] (a.) 商業的

7 navy ['neɪvɪ] (n.) 海軍

8 extensively [ɪk'stensɪvli] (adv.) 到處

9 Belgian ['belgən] (a.) 比利時的

10 inspiration [ˌɪnspə'reɪʃən] (n.) 靈感

11 give up 放棄

12 obtain [əb'ten] (v.) 獲得

13 nationality [ˌnæʃən'æləti] (n.) 國籍

14 settle ['setl] (v.) 定居

15 Borneo ['bɔ:ni,o] (n.) 婆羅洲

16 essay ['ese] (n.) 散文

17 financially [faɪ'nænʃəli] (adv.) 財務地

18 recognize ['rekəg,naɪz] (v.) 承認

19 remarkable [rɪ'mɑ:kəbl] (a.)
值得注意的；卓越的

20 die of 死於（某疾病）

21 heart attack 心臟衰竭

BEFORE READING

- 1 This story focuses on a journey along the Congo River, also known as the Zaire, in Africa in 1902. Look at the pictures and words and then use them to complete these sentences from the story. Look up any words you don't know in a dictionary.






desolate	natives
journey	steamboat
wilderness	canoe

- a We followed the coast of Africa which seemed like the edge of a _____.
- b Kurtz's station was empty and _____ in the heart of the jungle.
- c The _____' camps surrounded the place, and the chiefs came to see him every day.
- d A lone white man paddling back in his _____ with four natives.
- e But in order to understand the effect this _____ had on me, you need to know a number of things.
- f I got a job with the company as the captain of a river _____.



 **2** What do you know about the Congo River and the jungle surrounding it? Work with a partner and do some research on the internet.

3 The main character Marlow says: "I remembered there was a foreign company that **traded** on the Congo River." Read this definition below.

trade

the action of buying and selling goods and services

In 1902 what goods were taken to Africa and what goods were brought back from Africa by traders? Fill in the lists below, choosing from these items.



BEADS



IVORY



COTTON



ALCOHOL



RUBBER



GOLD

TAKEN TO AFRICA

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

BROUGHT BACK FROM AFRICA

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Chapter 1



Night was falling. We were sitting on the *Nellie*, a sailing boat. We were anchored¹ in the Thames² in London, waiting for the tide to change so that we could leave. The air was dark, and there was a great gloom³ all over the city. All five of us were experienced sailors and old friends, and we were relaxed together. As the darkness increased, we saw more and more lights on the small boats going backwards and forwards across the river.

"This has also been one of the dark places of the earth," said Marlow suddenly.

Marlow was the only one of us who was still working as a sailor. He was a seaman, and also a wanderer⁴. He was interested in the ships, the sea, the foreign ports⁵ that he visited and the foreign faces that he saw. And he was also very interested in understanding deeper and more complex⁶ things about the places that he visited and the people that he met. So his remark⁷ was not surprising to us, and nobody answered. Then he continued, very slowly:

1 anchor [ˈæŋkə] (v.) 拋錨泊船

2 Thames [tɛmz] (n.) 泰晤士河

3 gloom [glum] (n.) 陰暗

4 wanderer [ˈwʌndərə] (n.) 漫遊者

5 port [pɔ:t] (n.) 港口

6 complex [ˈkɒmpleks] (a.) 複雜的

7 remark [rɪˈmɑ:k] (n.) 談論



"I was thinking of the very old times, when the Romans first came here, nineteen hundred years ago. They sailed up the river Thames to a dark and wild place, with bad weather, bad food and death hiding all around them. But the Romans were strong enough to face the darkness. They were conquerors¹. They just took what they could get.

Conquest² is not a nice thing when you look at it too closely: it is robbery³ and murder⁴ on a large scale⁵. Conquerors, of course have the idea that conquest is something noble, that has real meaning."

Marlow broke off⁶. We watched the lights on the river, waiting patiently for him to continue. After a long silence, Marlow went on⁷, "I once sailed up a big river," and we knew that he wanted to tell us one of his long inconclusive⁸ stories.

Marlow began his story.

I don't want to bother you too much with what happened to me personally. But in order to⁹ understand the effect¹⁰ this journey had on me, you need to know a number of things: how I got there, what I saw, and how I went up that river to the place where I first met Kurtz.

1 conqueror ['kɒŋkərə] (n.) 征服者

2 conquest ['kɒŋkwɛst] (n.) 征服；佔領

3 robbery ['rɒbəri] (n.) 搶劫

4 murder ['mɜːdə] (n.) 殺害

5 on a large scale 大規模地

6 break off 停止講話

7 go on 繼續說

8 inconclusive [ˌɪnkənˈklusɪv]
(a.) 無結論的

9 in order to 為了……

10 effect [ɪˈfekt] (n.) 作用



A good story

- Which of these elements are important for you in a story? Tick (✓).
 - ☐ Background and description.
 - ☐ Good plot with lots of action.
 - ☐ Satisfactory ending.
 - ☐ Hidden meaning and moral¹¹.
 - ☐ Convincing¹² characters.



I was hanging around London, resting before looking for¹³ my next job. At first I wanted to go back to sea, but I couldn't find a ship. Then one day I saw a map in a shop window that I had seen as a boy. It was a map of a big dark area near the equator¹⁴ with a huge river in its center. I decided that I wanted to go there: to Africa.

I remembered there was a foreign company that traded on the Congo River, and that I had an aunt who knew one of the bosses of that same company. And so thanks to my aunt I got a job with the company as the captain of a river steamboat¹⁵.



¹¹ moral ['mɔrəl] (n.) 寓意

¹² convincing [kən'vɪnsɪŋ] (a.) 使人信服的

¹³ look for 寻找

¹⁴ equator [ɪ'kwetə] (n.) 赤道

¹⁵ steamboat ['stɪmbot] (n.) 汽船