



Bleak House

Charles Dickens



MACMILLAN READERS

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UPPER LEVEL

CHARLES DICKENS

Bleak House

Retold by Margaret Turner



MACMILLAN

Founding Editor: John Milne

The Macmillan Readers provide a choice of enjoyable reading materials for learners of English. The series is published at six levels – Starter, Beginner, Elementary, Pre-Intermediate, Intermediate and Upper.

Level control

Information, structure and vocabulary are controlled to suit the students' ability at each level.

The number of words at each level:

Starter	about 300 basic words
Beginner	about 600 basic words
Elementary	about 1100 basic words
Pre-Intermediate	about 1400 basic words
Intermediate	about 1600 basic words
Upper	about 2200 basic words

Vocabulary

Some difficult words and phrases in this book are important for understanding the story. Some of these words are explained in the story and some are shown in the pictures. From Pre-Intermediate level upwards, words are marked with a number like this: ...³. These words are explained in the Glossary at the end of the book.

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The Court Of Chancery

London in November. The Lord Chancellor is in his High Court of Chancery. Ada Clare, Richard Carstone and Esther Summerson meet the Lord Chancellor. He tells the three young people that they are going to live at Bleak House.

London, 1852. London in November. It was cold winter weather. There was mud in the streets. Dogs were covered in mud, almost drowned in it. Horses, pulling carriages³ through the city streets, were splashed up to their eyes. Shivering crossing-sweepers³ tried hard to sweep back the mud and dirt on the busy roads.

There was fog too. The fog was everywhere. It came up the river and down the river. Fog covered the boats on the river and filled the boatmen's eyes. Street lamps sent a pale, yellow light through the thick, foggy air.

Cold, mud and fog filled the streets of London. And the fog was thickest and the mud was deepest near Lincoln's Inn, the very heart of London. The Lord High Chancellor was there, sitting in his High Court of Chancery¹.

Some of the fog and the mud had got into the courtroom too. Perhaps a little fog and mud had got into the minds of the people in the High Court of Chancery.

Chancery had ruined⁵ many men and driven others to madness. Whole families had been destroyed by Chancery and Chancery had brought great houses to decay and destruction. The streets of London were dark that day and in the Court of Chancery



London. London in November. It was cold winter weather.

UPPER LEVEL

- Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck
The Great Ponds by Elechi Amadi
Rebecca by Daphne du Maurier
Our Mutual Friend by Charles Dickens
The Grapes of Wrath by John Steinbeck
The Return of the Native by Thomas Hardy
Weep Not, Child by Ngugi wa Thiong'o
Precious Bane by Mary Webb
Mine Boy by Peter Abrahams

For further information on the full selection of Readers at all five levels in the series, please refer to the Macmillan Readers catalogue.

Published by Macmillan Heinemann ELT
Between Towns Road, Oxford OX4 3PP
Macmillan Heinemann ELT is an imprint of
Macmillan Publishers Limited
Companies and representatives throughout the world
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ISBN 1-405-07321-7
EAN 978-1-405073-21-9

This retold version by Margaret Turner for Macmillan Readers
First published 1976
Text © Margaret Turner 1976, 1992, 1998, 2002
Design and illustration © Macmillan Publishers Limited 2002

This edition first published 2005

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Illustrated by Kay Dixie
Cover illustration by Angus Mewse

Printed in Thailand

2009 2008 2007 2006 2005
10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1