



The Black Tulip

Alexandre Dumas



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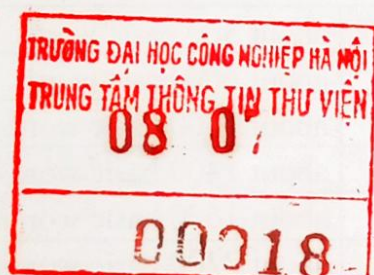
MACMILLAN READERS

BEGINNER LEVEL

ALEXANDRE DUMAS

The Black Tulip

Retold by Florence Bell



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:

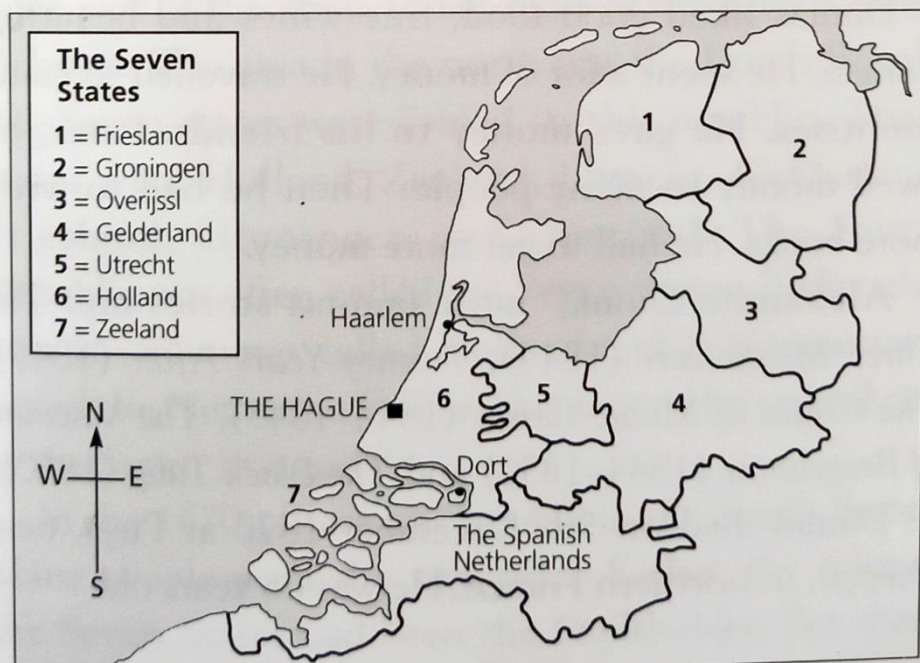
Starter	about 300 basic words
Beginner	about 600 basic words
Elementary	about 1100 basic words
Pre-intermediate	about 1400 basic words
Intermediate	about 1600 basic words
Upper	about 2200 basic words

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 Netherlands, 1671

A Note About the Author



Alexandre Dumas was French. He was born on 24th July 1802 in Villers-Cotterêts, in northern France. His father was an important soldier – a general in Napoleon's army. Dumas' mother was the daughter of an innkeeper.

In 1823, Dumas went to Paris. He wanted to become a lawyer. But he worked in the house of a rich man. Dumas started to write historical plays and novels. They were exciting and they were successful. Dumas became a famous man. He was one of the most popular French writers of the nineteenth century.

Dumas liked good food, fine wines and beautiful women. He spent a lot of money. He travelled to many countries. He gave money to his friends. Later, he owed money to many people. Then he had to write more books. He had to get more money.

Alexandre Dumas' most famous stories are: *The Three Musketeers* (1844), *Twenty Years After* (1845), *The Count of Monte Cristo* (1844–1845), *The Viscount of Bragelonne* (1844–1850) and *The Black Tulip* (1850).

Dumas died on 5th December 1870 at Puys, near Dieppe, in northern France. He was 68 years old.

A Note About This Story

Time: 1671 to 1673. **Place:** The Netherlands.

In the middle of the nineteenth century, Alexandre Dumas heard two interesting stories about the Netherlands. They were stories about the Netherlands in the seventeenth century. Then Dumas himself wrote a novel about the Netherlands in the 1670s. He put the two interesting stories into his new novel.

One of these stories was about two brothers, John and Cornelius De Witt. The brothers lived in The Hague in the seventeenth century. They were officials in the government of the Dutch Republic.

At that time, the Netherlands belonged to two countries. The area in the south had belonged to Spain for many years. This was the Spanish Netherlands. But France wanted this land, and in 1668, France took a large part of the land. Today, most of this area is called Belgium. The area in the north was the Dutch Republic. Seven states were joined in this republic. These states were Holland, Zeeland, Utrecht, Gelderland, Friesland, Groningen and Overijssel. The Dutch Republic was often called the Seven States. Today, this area is sometimes called Holland and it is sometimes called the Netherlands. The Hague was the capital city of the Seven States.

In the 1670s, there was trouble in the Seven States. Many people wanted a new ruler. Earlier, the ruler of the Seven States had been the Stadtholder. But there

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