



Billy Budd

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Herman Melville



MACMILLAN READERS

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BEGINNER LEVEL

HERMAN MELVILLE

Billy Budd

Retold by Margaret Turner



MACMILLAN

BEGINNER LEVEL

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:

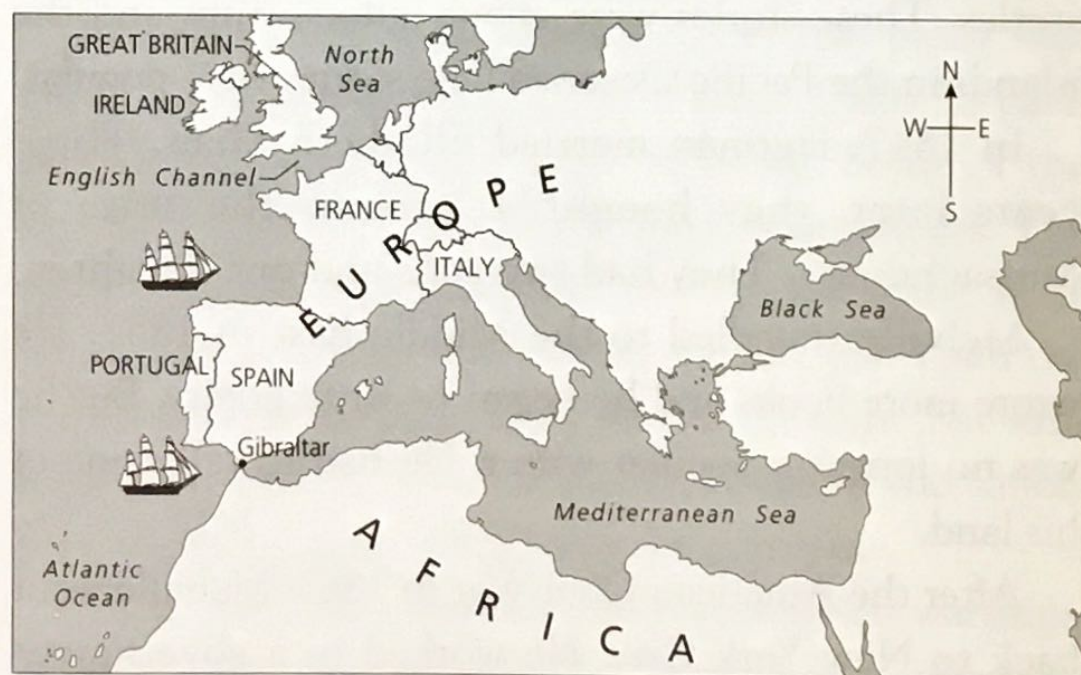
Starter	about 300 basic words
Beginner	about 600 basic words
Elementary	about 1100 basic words
Pre-intermediate	about 1400 basic words
Intermediate	about 1600 basic words
Upper	about 2200 basic words

Vocabulary

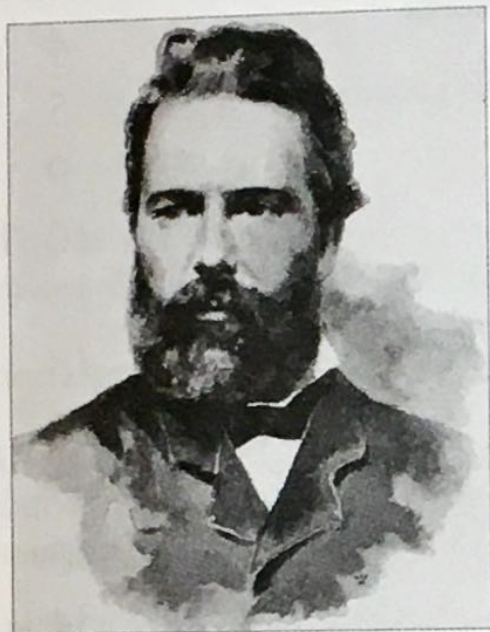
Some difficult words and phrases in this book are important for understanding the story. Some of these words are explained in the story and some are shown in the pictures. From Pre-intermediate level upwards, words are marked with a number like this: ...³. These words are explained in the Glossary at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

Contents

<i>A Note About the Author</i>	4
<i>A Note About This Story</i>	5
<i>The People in This Story</i>	9
1 <i>A British Warship</i>	10
2 <i>The Trading-ship</i>	13
3 <i>Billy Budd, Foretopman</i>	18
4 <i>The Master-at-Arms</i>	21
5 <i>The Spy</i>	25
6 <i>The Gold Coins</i>	30
7 <i>Who Is the Enemy?</i>	34
8 <i>Billy Cannot Speak</i>	41
9 <i>The Trial</i>	48
10 <i>The Death of Billy Budd</i>	55
11 <i>Captain Vere's Last Battle</i>	60



A Note About the Author



Herman Melville was an American. He was born on 1st August 1819, in New York City. From the age of fifteen, Herman Melville had many different jobs. He worked in a bank. He worked on ships. He was a teacher in a school.

In 1841, Melville worked on a ship called *Acushnet*. It sailed to the Pacific Ocean. The sailors on the *Acushnet* hunted whales and killed them. After many adventures in the Pacific islands, Melville sailed on a ship called *The United States*. This ship belonged to the US Navy.

In 1844, Melville left the US Navy. He began to write stories. These stories were about sailors, ships and the islands in the Pacific Ocean. These stories were popular.

In 1847, Herman married Elizabeth Shaw. Three years later, they bought a farm in the state of Massachusetts. They had two sons and one daughter.

Melville travelled to the Middle East in 1857. He wrote more books and he began to write poetry. But he was no longer a popular writer. He had to sell some of his land.

After the American Civil War in 1863, Melville went back to New York City. He worked in a government office. He lived in New York City until he died. He died

on 28th September 1891. He was 72 years old.

Some of Herman Melville's stories are: *Typee* (1846), *Omoo* (1847), *Mardi* (1849), *Redburn* (1849), *White-jacket* (1850) and his famous story about a whale – *Moby Dick* (1851). *Billy Budd* was Melville's last story. It was published in 1924, 33 years after Melville's death.

A Note About This Story

Time: 1797. **Place:** the Mediterranean Sea.

This was a time of wars and revolutions. Many people did not want kings to rule their countries anymore. The people wanted more food, better work and more freedom.

In 1797, George III was King of Great Britain and Ireland. There was a war between France and Britain. The French and British armies fought battles on the land. The French and British navies fought battles on the sea.

Warships were made of wood. They had many sails and huge, powerful guns. (Look at pages 6 and 7.) Each warship had hundreds of men on board. Some of the men were sailors. Some of the men were officers. The sailors cooked the food and they cleaned the ship. They listened to the orders from the officers. Then the sailors steered the ship. They moved the sails. The sails made the ship go faster or slower. Some of the sailors fired the huge guns. They were the gunners.

There were also marines and corporals on warships. Marines were special soldiers. They fought in battles at sea.

A British warship with 74 guns

