

Vanity Fair

William Thackeray



About the author

Thackeray was born on July 18, 1811, in Calcutta, India. His father was a wealthy merchant. At age 18, Thackeray entered the University of Cambridge but he left without taking his degree. He worked first as an editor of a journal then became an art student in Paris. He produced *The Paris Sketchbook* and *Comic Tales and Sketches*. He joined the staff of the satirical magazine *Punch* in 1842 and in 1847, began work on *Vanity Fair*. Published in three parts, it was an immediate success, and Thackeray became an instant celebrity. Towards the end of his life, Thackeray worked as the editor of *Cornhill Magazine* from 1860 to 1862 and had begun work on his last novel when he died on December 24, 1863, in London.

Character summary

Rebecca (Becky) Sharp: The central character. She is Amelia Sedley's friend, and later Rawdon Crawley's wife. She is from a poor background but is clever and cunning.

Amelia Sedley: Rebecca's friend and the wife of George Osborne, and mother of Georgy. She is nice but naïve.

Joseph Sedley: Joseph is Amelia's older brother. He is rich, worries about his health a lot and exaggerates his limited achievements.

John Sedley: Father of Amelia and Joseph, he was very rich, but loses all his money.

Old John Osborne: Father of George, John is a mean and calculating man. He is upset and angry with his son. He tries to be good at the end.

George Osborne: George has a long relationship with the Sedley family and with Dobbin. He is a good-looking, self-centred, proud, free-spending, gambler. He marries Amelia and dies in a war.

Sir Pitt Crawley: Sir Pitt is a wealthy nobleman who is uneducated, dirty, a womaniser and mean with money.

Rawdon Crawley: Son of Sir Pitt Crawley and husband of Rebecca. He is a socialite, gambler and an opportunist.

Miss Crawley: Miss Crawley is the sister of Sir Pitt Crawley. She is old and eccentric but also very rich.

William Dobbin: Dobbin is a soldier and is the only real nice person in the book, apart from Amelia, who he is in love with.

Summary

The story revolves around Rebecca Smart. Born into a poor family, she is determined to better her life through marriage and money, even if this is at the expense of the people close to her. She is ruthless. Sometimes her plans are successful and sometimes not, but she and her husband go through life leaving debts and ruined lives in their wake. She finally gets what she deserves, when a scandal of her own making, nearly destroys her. Her friend, Amelia Sedley, an innocent and loving person, suffers also, but her downfall is due to circumstances and fate, and not vanity and greed.

Chapters 1–5: Rebecca leaves school to start a job as a governess at Sir Crawley's house, but before she starts work she spends a week at her best friend Amelia's house. There, she flirts with Joseph Sedley, Amelia's unattractive but rich brother. We are then introduced to George Osborne, a handsome army Lieutenant and his friend Captain Dobbin, a normal looking man of good character. The group attend a party where Joseph disgraces himself by getting drunk. The next day, he leaves for Scotland and Rebecca starts her job at the home of Sir Pitt Crawley and his two sons, Pitt and Rawdon Crawley. She is an effective governess and learns a lot about the family. She lies about her own, supposedly rich, family. Miss Crawley, Sir Pitt's sister, comes to visit. She is a rich old woman. She adores Rawdon Crawley, a fun loving gentleman who enjoys gambling. Miss Crawley pays his debts. Rebecca makes sure Miss Crawley likes her because she realises how rich and influential she is. She also starts flirting with Rawdon.

Chapters 6–9: Amelia is in love with George Osborne. He likes her but is not in love. George's father had originally told his son to marry her, but has now changed his mind because Amelia's family has lost all their money. Meanwhile, Sir Pitt visits Rebecca in London. She is in London looking after the sick Miss Crawley. He asks Rebecca to be his wife and to come back to his home, Queen's Crawley. She tells

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him she can't because she is already married. Miss Crawley is angry that a mere governess, Rebecca, has married her favourite man, Rawdon. The new couple worry that she might not give them any money. Meanwhile, the Sedley family is ruined and their things are sold. Old Mr Osborne tells Amelia that the wedding is cancelled. Dobbin, who only has Amelia's interest at heart, makes arrangements so that the couple can get married. George, Rawdon and Dobbin then go to war in Brussels. The ladies and Joseph Sedley go with them. George flirts with Becky, but Amelia doesn't know. Joseph, who is a coward, wants to leave Brussels but he hasn't any horses. Rebecca sells him two for a huge price. A battle takes place and George is killed.

Chapters 10–13: After the battle of Waterloo, Colonel Rawdon and Becky go to Paris. Mrs Becky Crawley is popular with the Paris elite. When she gives birth to a baby boy, Miss Crawley is so enraged that she orders Rawdon's brother, Pitt, to marry Lady Jane to stop Rawdon getting money from the family. Rawdon and Rebecca live well in Paris with no money. They cheat hotel owners and have debts. They then return to London. Meanwhile, George's father is in torment over his dead son. He sees Amelia and Dobbin one day in Brussels while visiting the place where his son died. Dobbin tells him that Amelia is ill, pregnant and in need of money. Old Osborne refuses to see her. Dobbin is then deployed. Rawdon and Becky rent a house from an old friend and servant of the Crawley's, Mr Raggles. They don't pay the rent and Raggles goes to prison because he can't pay the loan on his house. We learn that Dobbin gave money to Amelia and pretended it had come from the army, and that old Mr Osborne was told his grandson was beautiful, just like his father.

Chapters 14–18: Old Sir Pitt Crawley dies and his son, the new Sir Pitt, invites Rawdon and Rebecca to the house. Rebecca is already making plans. She wants Rawdon to get a job as governor, using the help of Sir Pitt and Lord Steyne. Meanwhile, old Mr Osborne has made Amelia an offer. He will pay her money, if she allows her son to live with him. She reluctantly agrees. Later, Rawdon goes to prison for debt. When he leaves prison unexpectedly early, he finds Rebecca and Lord Steyne holding hands. He challenges the Lord to a duel. Later he discovers that Rebecca has secretly hidden money from him, and that is enough to end their marriage. He is offered a post of governor and dies four years later. Amelia, her son Georgy and Joseph travel to Europe and meet up with Rebecca at a dance. She is leading a terrible life of poverty and is

pursued by the scandal about her and Lord Steyne. They take pity on her, except Dobbin who leaves, apparently for ever. Rebecca tells Amelia some unpleasant truths about her dead husband, and produces evidence that he was unfaithful to her and that she should accept Dobbin's affections. They are later married. Rebecca looks after Joseph Sedley till his death and receives half his money. She is never spoken of again.

Background and themes

Vanity: The title tells us the main theme. Almost every character in the book is vain. They make false boasts to better their image; they are obsessively concerned about their physical attractiveness and social standing, or view money as the only means of expressing their worth. Joseph Sedley invents stories of bravery in India to impress Becky and later implies he was at Waterloo. George Osborne is vain about his looks, and Becky relishes the attentions of men and is desperate to appear to have money, even if it means ruining other people's lives to obtain it.

Money: The subject of money runs throughout the book. The people with money are portrayed as manipulative, repulsive characters. Sir Pitt is a dirty, old man, John Osborne uses his money to buy Amelia's child and Miss Crawley is a spiteful person, using her money and position to influence someone's inheritance. The people who haven't money are always in debt and sometimes go to prison.

Fate: The novel asks a question 'Do the things we do determine our fate?' Becky goes through life leaving a lot of misery in her wake, but she finally gets her just deserts. Amelia, on the other hand, is an innocent and good-hearted person, but her fate is not exactly happy. Her husband is killed, her child is taken away from her and her family goes bankrupt.

Discussion activities

Before reading

- 1 **Pair work:** Write *Vanity* on the board and check students understand the meaning by referring them to the word list. Tell students that the adjective of *vanity* is *vain*. Put students in small groups and ask them to discuss the things people can be vain about. (See discussion key for suggestions.) Write their suggestions on the board. Ask them if they are vain in any areas of their personality.

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Introduction

After reading

- 2 **Write:** Ask the students to write answers to the following questions about the author: *When was he born? Where was he born? What did his father do? Which University did he go to? What was his first wife's name? Which magazine did he write for? When did the book come out?*

Chapters 1–5

While reading (p. 5, after 'Or that I nearly died of fear:')

- 3 **Group work:** Put the students into small groups and ask them to discuss a situation they have been in that was frightening. Consider the following: *When did it happen? Where did it happen? Were you alone when it happened? What happened in the end?*

After reading

- 4 **Write and guess:** Put students in pairs and ask them to choose a short paragraph from Chapters 1–5. Tell them to write it again, making five changes to words in the text. Students then read out their paragraphs to the other students, who have to identify the mistakes.

Chapters 6–9

While reading (p. 21, after 'The four friends often spent the evening together:')

- 5 **Role play:** Put the students in groups of four and ask them to act out the conversation between Amelia, Becky, George and Rawdon. Remind them that George is worried about his father's reaction to his marriage, and Rawdon is worried about Miss Crawley's attitude to him.

After reading

- 6 **Pair work:** Write the following words on the board: *cheque, Lady Crawley, silver knife, war, note, horses, heart.* Ask the students in pairs to talk and write to say how these words were used in Chapters 6–9.
- 7 **Research:** Tell the students to look for information on the Internet about the battle of Waterloo. Students then give an oral presentation of what they have found.

Chapters 10–13

Before reading

- 8 **Quiz:** Put the students in pairs and tell them they are going to answer some questions about Paris and London. Then read out the following question and answer options, giving students time to talk about the answers. *How long does a flight from Paris to London take? How far is it between P and L? What is the population of London? When was the Eiffel Tower built? What money do people use in London? What is the name of the river in Paris? What is another name for the Metro/underground in London? Where is the Louvre museum?* See discussion key for answer options.

After reading

- 9 **Write and guess:** Write 'Becky and Rawdon spent the winter of 1815 in London.' on the board. Elicit which word is wrong from the students (Paris, not London). Now students choose a sentence from Chapters 10–13 and rewrite it changing one word. Students mingle, reading out their sentences and other students have to identify and correct the mistake.

Chapters 14–18

While reading (p. 43, after 'Lord Steyne had her hand in his:')

- 10 **Role play:** Put the students in groups of three and tell them to act out the scene between Rawdon, Becky and Lord Steyne. Remind them that Rawdon is angry, Becky is embarrassed, and Lord Steyne is frightened.

After reading

- 11 **Act and guess:** Put students in small groups and ask them to choose one scene from the book. Tell them they have to mime the scene. Give them time to practise and then get them to perform it for the class. The other students have to say what is happening.
- 12 **Discuss:** Draw the following table on the board and ask students to write down the names of the characters and a number to show how good or bad they think they are. Now put students in small groups to compare what they have put, giving reasons for their choices.

	bad				good
Rebecca Sharp	1	2	3	4	5
Amelia Sedley	1	2	3	4	5
Miss Crawley	1	2	3	4	5
John Osborne	1	2	3	4	5
Rawdon Crawley	1	2	3	4	5
John Sedley	1	2	3	4	5
William Dobbin	1	2	3	4	5
Sir Pitt Crawley	1	2	3	4	5
Joseph Sedley	1	2	3	4	5
George Osborne	1	2	3	4	5
Mr Raggles	1	2	3	4	5
Lord Steyne	1	2	3	4	5

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While reading

Chapters 1–5

1 Write the names next to the person who says or thinks this.

Joseph Sedley Amelia Rawdon Crawley
 George Osborne Sir Pitt Crawley
 Miss Crawley William Dobbin
 Rebecca Sharp

- a 'I don't want that stupid dictionary.'
.....
- b 'You must come and stay at my house.'
.....
- c 'I killed a lot of wild animals in India.'
.....
- d 'He's a good soldier but he's not very handsome.'
.....
- e 'Nobody wants to talk to me. I just carry the shawls.'
.....
- f 'I know I wear dirty clothes and don't speak well, but I'm important.'
.....
- g 'I want that girl to sit next to me at dinner.'
.....
- h 'I would be poor if my aunt didn't give me money.'
.....

2 Put a word on the left with a word on the right.

- | | |
|---------------|------------|
| a downstairs | dark |
| b interesting | clean |
| c dangerous | boring |
| d pushed | nice |
| e forgotten | upstairs |
| f dirty | small |
| g unpleasant | remembered |
| h silent | loud |
| i pale | safe |
| j large | pulled |

3 Circle the right words.

- a The dictionary had Miss Pinkerton's *address / signature / letter* inside.
- b Rebecca's father taught *drawing / French / History* at the school.
- c Amelia left the school when she was *eighteen / twenty / seventeen*.
- d Before he went to India, Joseph was too *ill / young / shy* to enjoy London.
- e Joseph *ate / drank / sang* too much at the party.

- f Rebecca thought that Sir Pitt was very *nervous / handsome / thin*.
- g Miss Crawley wanted Rawdon to marry a *pretty / rich / clever* girl.
- h Rebecca loved the smell of the *smoke / wine / garden*.

Chapters 6–9

4 Are these sentences right (✓) or wrong (X)?

- a Old Mr Osborne wanted his son to marry Amelia in the end.
- b Sir Pitt offered to marry Rebecca.
- c Miss Crawley was happy that Rebecca married Rawdon.
- d Captain Dobbin bought the piano for Amelia.
- e John Osborne wanted his money back from John Sedley.
- f George and Amelia went to Brighton after the marriage.
- g Dobbin gave Rebecca a note at the dance.
- h Joseph Sedley died in the battle of Waterloo.

5 Find the right words in Chapters 6–9.

- a A place outside of towns where there are trees and grass. (p. 14)
- b A place in a town. It has four sides. (p. 15)
- c A piece of paper that you can change into money at a bank. (p. 15)
- d A word for someone or something that is funny. (p. 16)
- e A part of the body in the middle of your legs. (p. 17)
- f Something that is difficult to understand. (p. 18)
- g A piece of clothing that women wear over their shoulders. (p. 19)
- h You have these when you owe money to somebody. (p. 20)
- i Money used in England. (p. 23)
- j Something is this when it costs a lot of money. (p. 26)

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- 6 What comes first? Number the sentences, 1–6.**
- a John Sedley sold everything in his house.
 - b George Osborne was killed.
 - c The four friends met in Brighton.
 - d Miss Crawley became ill.
 - e Everyone went to Belgium.
 - f Rebecca told Sir Pitt she was married.

Chapters 10–13

- 7 Put the underlined letters in the right place to make a word.**
- a Because Rawdon was brave in the battle he was now a lnoolec
 - b George was loved by his father but not gvnofrie
 - c Old Mr Osborne went to the fedliletbta to see where his son died.
 - d Mr Raggles's life was yrseotded by the Crawleys.
 - e Rebecca wanted a edgепohs to look after her.
 - f Amelia thought that her son was a fecetrp little boy.
 - g Miss Osborne was Mr Osborne's dslete daughter.

- 8 Finish the sentences with the right words.**
felt bought looked saved receive tried spent knew
- a Becky the presents from a market in Brussels.
 - b Many famous people from different countries to get near Rebecca.
 - c Mr Osborne didn't want to any messages from his son.
 - d Mr Osborne love and hate at the same time.
 - e Dobbin many hours talking to Amelia and her family.
 - f Mr Raggles a lot of money to buy a house.
 - g Joseph Sedley everything about the battle of Waterloo.
 - h The boy, Georgy, exactly like his father.

- 9 Put the words in the right place to make a sentence.**
- a wrote Becky to letter Miss Crawley the.

- b French all Becky the liked ladies.
- c Mr Osborne son George decided was his not that.
- d doctors Amelia very were The about worried.
- e brought Amelia son Dobbin England her and to.
- f Rawdon buy in Becky not London and could house a.
- g Mr Raggles cook house the was same a in.
- h debt Mr Raggles prison for went to.

Chapters 14–18

- 10 Put a word or words on the left with a word or words on the right.**
- | | |
|-------------|---------------|
| a seat | luck |
| b debt | letters |
| c bad | in Parliament |
| d food | hearted |
| e evening | dress |
| f card | asleep |
| g love | story |
| h newspaper | collector |
| i half | and wine |
| j soft | player |

- 11 Finish the sentences with the right numbers.**
100 4 150 200 1000 3000 500 15
- a Mr Osborne offered to pay Amelia pounds a year.
 - b Amelia gave her father pounds .
 - c Rawdon owed his friend Nathan pounds.
 - d Lord Steyne gave Becky a banknote for a pounds.
 - e The job of Governor of Coventry Island paid pounds a year.
 - f Rawdon died after years on the island.
 - g Old Mr Osborne left Amelia pounds a year when he died.
 - h Georgy put the money on number

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1 What's first? Number the sentences, 1–10.

- a Becky married Rawdon.
- b Rawdon saw Becky and Lord Steyne together.
- c Amelia married Dobbin.
- d Joseph Smedly drank too much wine at a party in Vauxhall.
- e Rawdon was the governor on Coventry island.
- f George Osborne died at the battle of Waterloo.
- g Becky and Amelia leave Miss Pinkerton's school.
- h Baby Georgy was born.
- i Amelia had to give her son, Georgy, to Mr Osborne.
- j Becky went to work as a governess at Queen's Crawley.

2 Match the names of the people with the right sentences.

a Becky	1) took someone's son away from them.
b Amelia	2) bought a piano for someone.
c John Osborne	3) worked as a collector in India.
d Sir Pitt Crawley	4) was a very important baronet.
e Joseph Sedley	5) thought her boss was a dirty, old man.
f Rawdon Crawley	6) was a bad husband.
g George Osborne	7) her father had to sell all his furniture.
h Miss Crawley	8) went to prison for debt.
i Dobbin	9) Lost a lot of money in business.
j John Sedley	10) ordered Mr Pitt to marry Lady Jane

3 Finish the sentences with the right place.

India Queen's Crawley Brussels
 Mr Raggles's house Vauxhall Pinkerton's School
 Pumpernickel Brighton Miss Crawley's House
 Paris

- a Becky's father taught drawing at
- b Amelia met George Osborne at a party in.....
- c Becky worked at
- d Sir Pitt Crawley asked Becky to marry him in

- e Amelia and George went to after their marriage.
- f The British army went to
- g After the war, Becky and Rawdon lived in
- h Rawdon and Becky didn't pay any money for
- i At a dance in Georgy saw Becky playing cards
- j Dobbin and Joseph arrived at Amelia's house from

4 Are the following right (✓) or wrong (X)?

- a Becky's mother was French.
- b Becky went to London because Miss Crawley was ill.
- c Miss Crawley didn't like Sir Pitt's oldest son.
- d Becky married Sir Pitt's eldest son.
- e John Osborne wanted Mr Sedley to pay his debts immediately.
- f George bought the Sedley's piano for Amelia.
- g George and Amelia met Rebecca and Rawdon in Brighton.
- h Joseph Sedley bought some horses from George Osborne.
- i After his son died, John Osborne received a letter from him.
- j Amelia's child looked like Rawdon.
- k Rawdon wanted to kill Lord Steyne.
- l Amelia realised that Dobbin gave her the piano.
- m Becky said that Amelia's husband was always a good man.

5 Circle the right word or words.

- a Amelia thought that George Osborne was the *bravest / most intelligent / most beautiful* man in the army.
- b Sir Pitt Crawley wrote very *bad / good / long* letters.
- c Miss Crawley was very *amused / surprised / angry* when she heard of the marriage offer of Sir Pitt.
- d At first, Amelia was *worried / excited / frightened* about going to Belgium.
- e George was shot in *England / France / Belgium*.
- f Rawdon thought that his wife was *stupid / funny / clever*.

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Book key

- 1 In *Vanity Fair*, Thackeray suggests what he does not like about people. He took the title from John Bunyan's book *The Pilgrim's Progress*. Vanity Fair is a market where people sell unimportant things. People really want these things. They will do anything to get them.
- 2 Open answers
- 3 a army, battle, captain, colonel, general, lieutenant, major, regiment (and possibly revolution)
b baronet, carriage, fashionable, gentleman, governess, vanity (and other words, with good reasons)
- 4 a ✗ b ✓ c ✓ d ✗ e ✗ f ✗ g ✗ h ✗
i ✓ j ✗ k ✓
- 5 a Amelia Sedley
d Joseph Sedley
e William Dobbin
f Sir Pitt Crawley
g Mr Pitt Crawley
h Miss Crawley
j Rawdon Crawley
- 6 a At Miss Pinkerton's school, Amelia is a student and Becky helps the students with French lessons. Joseph is Amelia's brother. Becky meets him at the Sedleys' house in London, in Russell Square. George Osborne goes to the Royal Gardens in Vauxhall with Becky and Amelia. He is a friend and neighbour of the Sedley family. Amelia is in love with him.
Becky meets Sir Pitt Crawley at his home, Queen's Crawley.
Becky thinks that he works there. She meets Sir Pitt's daughters at Queen's Crawley. She is their governess. She meets Miss Crawley at Queen's Crawley when she visits her brother and his family. She meets Rawdon Crawley at Queen's Crawley. He comes for a visit because he is Miss Crawley's favourite relative.
- b Becky and Amelia are good friends. In fact, kind Amelia is the only person that Becky likes at Miss Pinkerton's school.
Becky thinks that Joseph is rich. So she tries to make friends with him. He likes her because she is kind to him. She listens to his stories.
Becky understands George. She knows that he loves himself.
We don't know what he thinks of her yet. Becky is happy to work for Sir Pitt. She does a good job

in his house. Becky is useful to Sir Pitt and he gives her important jobs. Becky doesn't spend much time with Sir Pitt's daughters. They like her because they don't have to study much.

Becky likes Miss Crawley because she has a lot of money. She wins the old woman's heart. Miss Crawley enjoys talking to Becky. They become friends. Becky thinks that Rawdon is fashionable. She sees that everyone loves him. She thinks he will be very rich after Miss Crawley dies. So she tries to be very nice to him.

Rawdon enjoys Becky's company.

7–9 Open answers

- 10 a Amelia Sedley to Captain William Dobbin
b old Mr Osborne to George Osborne
c Miss Crawley to Rawdon Crawley
d Becky Sharp to Sir Pitt Crawley
e Rawdon Crawley to Becky Sharp
f William Dobbin to George Osborne
g Rawdon Crawley to Becky Sharp (now his wife)
h Becky Sharp to George Osborne
i Captain William Dobbin to Joseph Sedley
j Becky Sharp to Joseph Sedley
- 11 a Amelia Sedley wants to see George, but he has forgotten about her and is playing cards.
b Mr Osborne doesn't want his son to marry Amelia because her father's business has gone bad. Mr Sedley has lost a lot of money.
c Miss Crawley has a high opinion of Becky Sharp. Perhaps Rawdon has a good opinion of her now.
d Becky Sharp can't marry Sir Pitt Crawley and become rich. Now we find out that she is married to Rawdon.
e Rawdon knows that his wife is cleverer than he is. She looks after both of them.
f With this news about Amelia, George Osborne decides to marry her.
g Rawdon Crawley loves his wife because she is strong. She is not weak like Amelia.
h George Osborne wants to dance with Becky more than with his wife.
i Captain William Dobbin shows his love for Amelia again. He is worried about her and wants her brother to look after her.
j Becky knows how to look after herself. She finds ways to make money.

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- 12 a** Amelia is at home there. William Dobbin comes to look for George Osborne. Then he goes out to look for him. Amelia waits for George but he does not come to her house.
- b** The Sedley family have to move into this house after Mr Sedley loses most of his money.
- c** George Osborne and Amelia go to Brighton for a few days after their marriage, and they are happy there. Then Joseph and other friends join them. Soon Becky and Rawdon Crawley are there because they have no money. William Dobbin brings news about the war, and Miss Crawley is there because she has been ill.
- d** George Osborne, Rawdon Crawley and William Dobbin go to Brussels because they are in the army. Becky, Amelia and Joseph go too. They want to be with the men and it is exciting to be in Brussels during the war. Becky is very popular with all the men.
- 13 a** George Osborne has a very high opinion of himself.
- b** They really discussed more interesting subjects.
- c** Rawdon doesn't have any love for his brother, Mr Pitt Crawley.
- d** Everyone in Vanity Fair spends a lot of money. But how do they get it?
- e** Amelia is already worried about her husband. Does he really love her? Will he prefer to be with other people?
- 14** Open answers
- 15** George Osborne dies in the Battle of Waterloo. The other people are still alive. + Open answers
- 16 a** X **b** ✓ **c** ✓ **d** X **e** ✓ **f** ✓ **g** X **h** X
i X **j** ✓ **k** X
- 17 a** Becky and Rawdon have some money from Rawdon's two horses. Becky speaks French very well. She has a stupid husband. She always looks pretty on her horse in the Bois de Boulogne. She gives good parties and dinners and she is amusing.
- b** Miss Crawley orders Mr Pitt Crawley to marry Lady Jane. She is angry that Rawdon has a son with his wife, Becky Sharp.
- c** Rawdon has big debts in London.
- d** Becky does not pay her bill when she leaves his hotel.
- e** He ordered his son not to marry her. He stops seeing his son after his marriage.
- f** Major Dobbin loves Amelia. He is worried about her because she has very little money. She is also ill and she is going to have a baby.
- g** In the past Mr and Mrs Raggles worked in Miss Crawley's house. They were happy and successful there. They like people from the Crawley family.
- h** After Waterloo, he returns to Bengal and talks about Waterloo and Napoleon all the time.
- i** Old Mr Osborne still loves his dead son, but he also hates him. The baby is beautiful and looks like George.
- 18–20** Open answers
- 21 a** a lot of **b** happy **c** expensive
d a very friendly **e** very angry **f** money
g excited
- 22 a** prison **b** Lady Jane **c** money **d** Governor
e child **f** Joseph **g** George **h** Georgy
i Becky **j** Dobbin
- 23 a** They go to Queen's Crawley.
- b** Lady Jane and Becky spend half an hour together. They become the best of friends.
- c** Amelia sends Georgy to live with his grandfather, old Mr Osborne.
- d** Rawdon catches Becky with Lord Steyne. Rawdon and Becky's marriage comes to an end.
- e** He leaves most of his money to Georgy and five hundred pounds a year to Amelia.
- f** Rebecca offers to go with him, and he pays for her move.
- g** Amelia cries and changes her opinion about both George and William Dobbin.
- h** He leaves half his money to Amelia and half to Becky.
- 24–34** Open answers

Discussion activities key

- 1** People can be vain about the following: looks, clothes, cars, intelligence, physical abilities.
- 2** 1811, India, a collector and governor of a part of India, Cambridge University, Isabella Shawe, Punch magazine, 1847.
- 3–5** Open answers
- 6** Mr Osborne gave George a cheque. Sir Pitt wanted to marry Becky and make her Lady Crawley. Amelia sent George a silver knife and other things. The men went to fight a war in Belgium. George gave Becky a note at the dance. Becky sold Joseph Sedley some horses. George was shot through his heart.

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- 7 Open answers
- 8 Give the students the following options, the underlined one is correct: 1 hour, 2 hours, 3 hours. 250 kms, 350 kms, 450 kms. 5 million, 7 million, 10 million. 1789, 1889, 1929. Pounds, Euros, Kroner. Seine, Rhine, Danube. Tube, Drain, Pipe. Paris, London, another city.

9–12 Open answers

Activity worksheets key

- 1 a Rebecca Sharp
b Amelia Sedley
c Joseph Sedley
d George Osborne
e William Dobbin
f Sir Pitt Crawley
g Miss Crawley
h Rawdon Crawley
- 2 a downstairs – upstairs
b interesting – boring
c dangerous – safe
d pushed – pulled
e forgotten – remembered
f dirty – clean
g unpleasant – nice
h silent – loud
i pale – dark
j large – small
- 3 a signature b drawing c seventeen d young
e drank f thin g rich h garden
- 4 a ~~X~~ b ✓ c ~~X~~ d ✓ e ✓ f ✓ g ~~X~~ h ~~X~~
- 5 a countryside b square c cheque d amusing
e knees f mystery g shawl h debts i penny
j expensive
- 6 a 3 b 6 c 4 d 1 e 5 f 2
- 7 a colonel b forgiven c battlefield d destroyed
e sheepdog f perfect g eldest
- 8 a bought b tried c receive d felt e spent
f saved g knew h looked

- 9 a Becky wrote the letter to Miss Crawley.
b All the French ladies liked Becky.
c Mr Osborne decided that George was not his son.
d The doctors were very worried about Amelia.
e Dobbin brought Amelia and her son to England.
f Rawdon and Becky could not buy a house in London.
g Mr Raggles was a cook in the same house.
h Mr Raggles went to prison for debt.
- 10 a seat – in Parliament
b debt – collector
c bad – luck
d food – and wine
e evening – dress
f card – player
g love – letter
h newspaper – story
i half – asleep
j soft – hearted
- 11 a 200 b 100 c 150 d 1000 e 3000 f 4
g 500 h 15

Progress test key

- 1 a 4 b 8 c 10 d 2 e 9 f 5 g 1 h 6
i 7 j 3
- 2 a 5 b 7 c 1 d 4 e 3 f 8 g 6 h 10
i 2 j 9
- 3 a Pinkerton's School b Vauxhall
c Queen's Crawley d Miss Crawley's House
e Brighton f Brussels g Paris
h Mr Raggles's house i Pumpernickel j India
- 4 a ✓ b ✓ c ✓ d ~~X~~ e ✓ f ~~X~~ g ✓ h ~~X~~
i ✓ j ~~X~~ k ✓ l ✓ m ~~X~~
- 5 a most beautiful b bad c surprised d excited
e Belgium f clever