



# Quick Reads

## The Vital Link Guide



Revenge of  
the Judoon  
Terrance Dicks

## Introduction

The launch of a fourth set of Quick Reads titles on World Book Day in March 2008 provides another great opportunity to introduce less confident adult readers to the world of books. This is particularly important during the 2008 National Year of Reading which has adult literacy learners as a priority audience.

The response to the books published since the launch of the Quick Reads initiative in March 2006 has been enormously positive. Thousands of people have discovered an enjoyment of reading for the first time. Tutors and other professionals have recorded an increase in learners' confidence, motivation and acquisition of literacy skills.

The Vital Link encourages practitioners to integrate reading for pleasure into their work with adult literacy learners through partnership with the public library service. Support from the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills has enabled us to provide tools to link the Quick Reads into regular teaching practice and into more informal contact with adults who are improving their literacy skills.

As part of this work, The Vital Link has created resources to support use of the Quick Reads. These provide a 'way in' to using the books in a range of settings through ideas for discussion and extension activities. We have included suggestions for other reading materials, printed and online, and curriculum references for the main learning points.

The resources for the Quick Reads published in 2008 are available to download as individual PDF or Word files from [www.vitallink.org.uk](http://www.vitallink.org.uk).

Similar materials for Quick Reads titles published in 2006 and 2007 are also available from [www.vitallink.org.uk](http://www.vitallink.org.uk). *Starting with Quick Reads*, a 24-page guide supporting the Quick Reads titles published in 2007, is also available as a hard copy free from DIUS. Call 0845 6022260 (ref code SFLQR).

An innovative set of web-based activities for readers linked to the Quick Reads titles published in 2007 can be found at [www.quickreadsideas.org.uk](http://www.quickreadsideas.org.uk). A CD containing resources from 2006 and 2007 (excluding the web quests) for those without internet access is also available from DIUS. Call 0845 6022260 (ref code SFLQRCD).

**The  
Vital  
Link**

Our thanks go to writers Roger Adams and Gill Moore. The Vital Link is run by The Reading Agency in partnership with the National Literacy Trust.

We welcome all feedback on these ideas and on how you are using the Quick Reads. Please contact [genevieve.clarke@readingagency.org.uk](mailto:genevieve.clarke@readingagency.org.uk)



## Revenge of the Judoon

Terrance Dicks

**Readability 12 Level 1**

### The Book

In this new 'Doctor Who' story, the Doctor and his assistant, Martha Jones, travel to Scotland in the 'Golden Age' of the Edwardian era. However, no sooner has the Tardis landed in the Balmoral Estate than they realise something is wrong, as the Castle seems to have gone missing! In the ensuing adventure, the Doctor and Martha meet a number of historical figures as they try to thwart an attempt to take over the world by the mysterious Professor Challoner, who is aided by old adversaries, the Judoon. Finally, everything depends on the Doctor's correct understanding of Judoon psychology.

### The Author

According to the BBC website, Terrance Dicks has written 'more Doctor Who books than you've had hot dinners'. These include a previous Quick Read, *Doctor Who: Made of Steel*. He says his aim is for people to pick up one of his books, 'start reading and find they can't put it down'.

## Book Talk

- What was the Edwardian era, as described in the novel, like? The Doctor refers to it as 'a golden age, a time of peace, prosperity and tranquillity' (p8) but this is not the whole picture. For example, compare life at Balmoral (pp1-5) with the seamier side of London in Black Dog Lane (pp35-38).
- What are the Edwardian characters we encounter in the novel like? These include Carruthers as well as the historic figures such as Edward VII, who is portrayed sympathetically, although with some humour. There are also short portraits of Arthur Conan Doyle (pp28-30) and Baden Powell (pp86-88).
- What examples of humour can be found in the novel? Much of the appeal of the 'Doctor Who' series lies in ironic humour that is aimed at adults rather than children, for example the parallel between Edward and Prince Charles waiting to be King (pp3 & 74).
- How does the author make the reader want to keep reading? One important technique frequently used in 'Doctor Who' is to separate the Doctor and his assistant and keep cutting from the adventures of one to those of the other. This activity could focus on a particular chapter (eg Chapter 5).
- What are the aliens in the novel like? In good science fiction, aliens make us think about our own culture and values. In this novel, the Judoon, though rhinoceros-like, adhere to a strict code of honour (see especially p92) and are quite sympathetic figures, as opposed to the purely evil Professor Challoner.
- World domination is a frequent theme of science fiction. How is this explored? If Challoner's scheme is successful, Edward VII would be 'a puppet Emperor of a world under alien rule' (p72). The novel also makes references to the British Empire and to the Boer War.

Most of the above activities could be done with a mixed level group, since they invite focus on small specific sections of the novel.

## Taking it Further

- Readers could discover more about the Edwardian era, using the Channel 4 website on Edwardian England at: <http://www.channel4.com/history/microsites/C/countryhouse/edwardianlife/index.html>. Amongst other links, it has one to a page where they can find out what their own lives might have been like in 1905. This would be suitable as a group or individual project.
- Readers could write an entry for the Judoon to appear in 'The Encyclopaedia of Aliens'. This would also be suitable as a group or individual activity. The encyclopaedia could be added to by readers who explore further science fiction (SF) titles.
- There are a number of references in the novel to recent developments in the Edwardian era and others that are about to happen, for example the telephone, electric light, flight, the tube, the Boy Scout movement. Readers could discuss which of these has been the most beneficial, possibly as a more formal debate.
- BBC4's 'mysciencefictionlife' website would provide a good starting point for discussion of other SF titles, including films, comics and TV series as well as books, for those who want to explore the genre further: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/mysciencefictionlife/>

## Learning Objectives

*The curriculum references below are for Entry 3 or Level 1, but the suggested activities are quite open-ended to allow for the range of abilities found in many settings. Supported reading and discussion should enable readers with lower levels of literacy to be included.*

Understand how an author uses chronology in narrative to maintain suspense	RT/E3.1; Rt/L1.2
Identify the main ideas explored in a novel	Rt/E3.4
Identify descriptive details that contribute to setting and character	Rt/L1.3
Use organisational features to locate information	Rt/E3.5; Rt/L1.4
Follow and contribute to discussion	Sld/E3.1,2; Sld/L1.1
Write a clear description, using paragraphs	Wt/E3.2; Wt/L1.3

## What Shall We Read Next?

The following websites are suitable for practitioners and for learners with assistance:

The official BBC 'Doctor Who' site includes some e-book versions of Doctor Who novels that are free to download: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/doctorwho/>

This BBC4 site about Science Fiction includes viewers' responses to films, books, etc. Although it is no longer possible to contribute to the site, it contains a great deal of information and opinion on classic examples of the genre, including books, films, comics and TV series, and there are short audio clips of some of the books <http://www.bbc.co.uk/mysciencefictionlife/>

A site about science fact and science fiction, with sections on time travel and aliens: <http://www.scifiscience.co.uk/>

An American website with short stories that can be read online: <http://www.sffworld.com/>

Ray Bradbury is one of the most highly regarded of SF writers and his short stories should be accessible to most Quick Reads readers. It is possible to read some of these online on his official website: <http://www.raybradbury.com/> One of his most famous stories, A Sound of Thunder, is about the hazards of time travel.

The website of SFX magazine contains book, TV and film reviews, though not actual stories: <http://www.sfx.co.uk/>

### Other Quick Reads in the Doctor Who series:

*Doctor Who: Made of Steel* by Terrance Dicks

*I am a Dalek* by Gareth Roberts

See the following pages for additional sources of support for working with emergent readers and a complete list of Quick Reads titles.

## Further Information

See [www.quickreads.org.uk](http://www.quickreads.org.uk) for more about Quick Reads 2008 and the supporting campaign run by NIACE.

You can find a wider range of books suitable for Entry3/Level 1 readers at [www.firstchoicebooks.org.uk](http://www.firstchoicebooks.org.uk)

Copies of the Quick Reads titles first published, re-issued or reprinted in 2008 can be purchased at all main bookshops and supermarket chains. Bulk quantities can be ordered from the following suppliers:

- Avanti – [orders@avantibooks.com](mailto:orders@avantibooks.com) 01438 747000 [www.avantibooks.com](http://www.avantibooks.com)
- Bertrams/THE – [books@bertrams.com](mailto:books@bertrams.com) 0871 303 6600 [www.bertramsthe.com](http://www.bertramsthe.com)
- Browns Books for Students – [schools.services@brownsbfs.co.uk](mailto:schools.services@brownsbfs.co.uk) 01482 384660 [www.bfs.co.uk](http://www.bfs.co.uk)
- Gardners – [custcare@gardners.com](mailto:custcare@gardners.com) 01323 521777 [www.gardners.com](http://www.gardners.com)

Audio versions of the Quick Reads are available from W F Howes Ltd as part of their Clipper Emergent Reader programme – [sales@wfhowes.co.uk](mailto:sales@wfhowes.co.uk) 01664 423000 [www.wfhowes.co.uk/cerp/](http://www.wfhowes.co.uk/cerp/)

Large print versions of several of the Quick Reads titles are available from BBC Audiobooks Ltd – [library.sales@bbc.com](mailto:library.sales@bbc.com) 01225 335336 [www.bbcaudiobooks.com/libraries](http://www.bbcaudiobooks.com/libraries)

Audio extracts from the Quick Reads can be found on the BBC RaW website at [www.bbc.co.uk/raw](http://www.bbc.co.uk/raw) along with a range of resources to support the BBC RaW campaign.

The Quick Reads project in Wales is a joint venture between the Welsh Arts Council and The Basic Skills Agency. Further details can be found at [www.quickreads.net](http://www.quickreads.net)

Publishers producing titles specifically for emergent readers include:

- New Island Open Door series [www.newisland.ie](http://www.newisland.ie)
- Sandstone Press Vista series and accompanying education packs [www.sandstonepress.com](http://www.sandstonepress.com)
- Barrington Stoke [www.barringtonstoke.co.uk](http://www.barringtonstoke.co.uk) (teenagers and young adults)
- Ransom Publishing [www.ransom.co.uk](http://www.ransom.co.uk) (teenagers and young adults)

Gatehouse Media Limited publishes and distributes books and resources for use in adult basic education, including Gatehouse Books written by and for adult beginner readers [www.gatehousebooks.org.uk](http://www.gatehousebooks.org.uk)

New Leaf Publishing publishes titles by and for adults who are new to reading and have low levels of literacy [www.newleafpublishing.org.uk](http://www.newleafpublishing.org.uk)

## Full List of Quick Reads Titles, Including Availability

### New titles published March 2008

<i>Doctor Who: Revenge of the Judoon</i>	Terrance Dicks	978 1 846 07372 4
<i>East End Tales</i>	Gilda O'Neill	978 0 141 03494 2
<i>The Girl on the Platform</i>	Josephine Cox	978 0 00 727008 8
<i>Happy Families</i>	Adele Parks	978 0 141 03491 1
<i>The Hardest Test</i>	Scott Quinnell	978 1 90612595 0
<i>Humble Pie</i>	Gordon Ramsay	978 0 00727096 5
<i>Life's New Hurdles</i>	Colin Jackson	978 1 90612593 6
<i>One Good Turn</i>	Chris Ryan	978 0 099 52234 8
<i>RaW Voices: True Stories of Hardship and Hope</i>	Vanessa Feltz (ed)	978 1 846 07446 2
<i>The 10 Keys to Success</i>	John Bird	978 0 091 92360 0

### Quick Reads backlist

<i>Aim High</i>	Tanni Grey Thompson	1905170890 978 1 905 17089 0
<i>Bring it Back Home</i>	Niall Griffiths	1905170912 978 1 905 17091 3
<i>Chickenfeed</i>	Minette Walters	978 0 330 44031 8
<i>Cleanskin</i>	Val McDermid	978 0 007 21672 7
<i>Danny Wallace and the Centre of the Universe</i>	Danny Wallace	978 0 091 90894 2
<i>A Day To Remember</i>	Fiona Phillips	1905170904 978 1 905 17090 6
<i>Doctor Who: I Am a Dalek</i>	Gareth Roberts	978 0 563 486480
<i>Doctor Who: Made of Steel</i>	Terrance Dicks	978 1 846 07204 8
<i>Don't Make Me Laugh</i>	Patrick Augustus	978 1 902 934464
<i>A Dream Come True</i>	Maureen Lee	978 0 7528 8239 0
<i>The Grey Man</i>	Andy McNab	978 0 552 15433 8
<i>Hell Island</i>	Matthew Reilly	978 0 330 442329
<i>How to Change Your Life in 7 Steps</i>	John Bird	978 0 091 90703 7
<i>Lily</i>	Adele Geras	978 0 752 88224 6
<i>The Name You Once Gave Me</i>	Mike Phillips	978 0 007 216710
<i>Reading My Arse!</i>	Ricky Tomlinson	978 0 7515 3953 0
<i>The Rubber Woman</i>	Lindsay Ashford	1905170882 978 1 905 17088 3
<i>Star Sullivan</i>	Maeve Binchy	978 0 75287 954 3
<i>The Sun Book of Short Stories</i>		978 0 553 181882 6
<i>Survive the Worst and Aim for the Best</i>	Kerry Katona	978 0 091 91754 8
<i>Twenty Tales from the War Zone</i>	John Simpson	978 0 330 44999 1

## Other Titles (only available in libraries)

<i>Blackwater</i>	Conn Iggulden	978 0 007 22166 0
<i>The Book Boy</i>	Joanna Trollope	978 0 747 58211 3
<i>Burning Ambition</i>	Allen Carr	978 0 141 03030 2
<i>The Corpse's Tale</i>	Katherine John	1905170319
<i>Desert Claw</i>	Damien Lewis	0099493535
<i>The Dying Wish</i>	Courtia Newland	0349119635
<i>I Love Football</i>	Hunter Davies	0755314700
<i>The Poison in the Blood</i>	Tom Holland	0349119643
<i>Screw it, Let's Do It</i>	Richard Branson	0753510995
<i>Secrets</i>	Lynne Barrett-Lee	1905170300
<i>Someone Like Me</i>	Tom Holt	1841494461
<i>The Team</i>	Mick Dennis with the Premier League	0552153729
<i>The Thief</i>	Ruth Rendell	0091796865
<i>Winner Takes All</i>	John Francome	0755329481
<i>Woman Walks into a Bar</i>	Rowan Coleman	0099492288