



Macmillan Collector's Library

Why Read the Classics in Your Book Club?

Throughout history, book clubs have served as a forum for great minds to come together to share and discuss literature, as well as current events and issues. The Socratic circles, Ben Franklin's Junto Club, Stratford-on-Odeon, The Algonquin Round Table, and Oprah's Book Club are just a few famous ones.

It doesn't matter if your book club is seriously academic, highly social, or anything in between, recommend reading a classic next time! Classic literature is filled with gorgeous writing, complex plots, unforgettable characters along-side social and political issues that are still relevant today, making them great options for both fun and meaningful discussions.

We're here to help your book club tackle the literary canon with our Macmillan Collectors Library Book Club Guides to the Classics.

About the Book

Wonderful
Adventures of Mrs Seacole
in Many Lands
MARY SEACOLE



Wonderful Adventures of Mrs Seacole in Many Lands is a delightfully entertaining autobiography by Mary Seacole - nurse, entrepreneur and intrepid traveller.

Mary Seacole left her native Jamaica to travel through the Caribbean, The Bahamas, Central America and to England. Keen to offer her services to English troops in the Crimea War, she was at first refused official support. Undaunted she went anyway and set up her famous hotel catering for British soldiers. She supplied food, drink and welcome respite from the front line. She also tended to wounded soldiers and dispensed medicine in the teeth of battle. Despite her invaluable contribution, she returned to England penniless and in ill health. Thankfully her astonishing achievements were acknowledged and she became the toast of London society.

ISBN: 978-1-52-904032-6

Part of the Macmillan Collector's Library; a series of stunning, clothbound, pocket sized classics with gold foiled edges and ribbon markers. These beautiful books make perfect gifts or a treat for any book lover.

About the Author

Mary Seacole was born in Kingston in 1805 to a Scottish father and free Jamaican mother. She learnt West African herbal medicine from her mother who ran a boarding house. She travelled extensively honing her medical knowledge and she set up a number of businesses. When the Crimean War broke out she applied for nursing work but was denied multiple times. She decided to travel to Crimea herself and opened a very successful hotel providing food and respite to soldiers. She returned to England in poor health and deep in debt. However her supporters organized fundraising events in her honor which revived her fortunes and she published her memoirs in 1857. She died in 1881.



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Wonderful Adventures of Mrs Seacole in Many Lands
Book Club Discussion Points

- If Mary Seacole was alive today, how might her life be different? In what ways do you think her experiences may be the same?
- How would you describe Mrs. Seacole? In what ways does her writing give you such wonderful insights into both her life story and personality?
- What do the letters and notes Mrs. Seacole transcribes in her memoir tell readers about her? What was your favorite thing you learned about her through the people who really knew her?
- *Wonderful Adventures of Mrs. Seacole in Many Lands* is not an extremely popular classic book. Why do you think it's not included on many reading lists? Why do you think it should or should not be included on future booklists?
- While in the Crimea, Mrs. Seacole referred to herself as a “doctress, nurse, and ‘mother’.” Give at least one example of how she fulfilled each of these roles.
- Why do you think that Mrs. Seacole displayed so much anxiety in her writing?
- Have you ever known anyone like Mrs. Seacole? How were they alike? What attributes did they share? Did they have any differences?
- How was Mary Seacole treated by the people she encountered on her travels? Choose one encounter and explain why you think she included it in her memoir.
- Which of Mrs. Seacole's wonderful adventures was your favorite? Why?
- In what ways was Mary Seacole a pioneer in nursing and a leader in public health care?
- Even though Mrs. Seacole achieved many successes she also confronted many hardships. Explain how at least one of each of these occurrences affected her life.
- If you could send Mary Seacole on one more adventure—at any time or place throughout history, where would you send her and why?
- Do you think Mrs. Seacole lived a wonderful life? Why or why not?
- If you could have accompanied Mrs. Seacole on any of her adventures, which one would it have been and why?

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