

## **Heart Of Darkness How I Triumphed Over A Childhood Of Abuse**

What is poststructuralist theory, and what difference does it make to literary criticism? Where do we find the meaning of the text: in the author's head? in the reader's? Or do we, instead, make meaning in the practice of reading itself? If so, what part do our own values play in the process of interpretation? And what is the role of the text? Catherine Belsey considers these and other questions concerning the relations between human beings and language, readers and texts, writing and cultural politics. Assuming no prior knowledge of poststructuralism, *Critical Practice* guides the reader confidently through the maze of contemporary theory. It simply and lucidly explains the views of key figures such as Louis Althusser, Roland Barthes, Jacques Lacan and Jacques Derrida, and shows their theories at work in readings of familiar literary texts. *Critical Practice* argues that theory matters, because it makes a difference to what we do when we read, opening up new possibilities for literary and cultural analysis. Poststructuralism, in conjunction with psychoanalysis and deconstruction, makes radical change to the way we read both a priority and a possibility. With a new chapter, updated guidance on further reading and revisions throughout, this second edition of *Critical Practice* is the ideal guide to the present and future of literary studies.

In "Heart of Darkness, Captain Marlowe must wend his way up the African Congo to recover the missing Colonel Kurtz in one of the greatest steamship adventures ever told. As Marlowe's ship *Nellie* scrapes along the Congo, the voyage into the human soul, like the morass of steaming foliage along the banks, becomes increasingly dark and perilous. In addition to the Marlowe tales "Heart of Darkness and "Youth, this new volume includes Conrad's classic doppelganger tale "The Secret Sharer and the lesser known "Amy Foster." Michael Matin is a professor in the English Department of Warren Wilson College in Asheville, North Carolina. Includes an Original Map of the Congo.

The story of a journey into darkness. Late nineteenth century Africa. Marlow is a riverboat captain sent into the Congo hinterland to meet the charismatic Kurtz. On the journey he learns more about Kurtz. He learns he that while he is respected by some, he is loathed by others, but nothing can prepare him for their eventual meeting.

Serialized in *Blackwood's Edinburgh Magazine* during the period 1898-1902, 'Youth', 'Heart of Darkness' and 'The End of the Tether' make up the contents of Conrad's most celebrated collection of short narratives, first published in a single volume in 1902. 'Heart of Darkness' forms its sombre centrepiece: set in the Congo of the 1890s, this haunting and widely influential Modernist masterpiece explores the limits of human experience as well as the nightmarish realities and consequences of imperialism. The 'Introduction' situates the stories within the context of Conrad's relationship with the Blackwood publishing firm, traces their sources, lays out the evolution of the volume and surveys its subsequent reception. The 'Explanatory Notes' elucidate literary, historical and geographical references, and supply other contextual materials. A glossary of nautical terms further enriches the explanatory matter, as do maps and illustrations. The essay on the texts in combination with the comprehensive apparatus lays out the history of each story's composition, revision and publication, detailing interventions in the text by Conrad's typists, compositors and editors. Based upon a painstaking comparison of preprint documents, serials and subsequent book versions printed during Conrad's lifetime, the Cambridge Edition presents this trio of stories and their preface in forms more authoritative than any so far published. Errors introduced by typists and early publishers have been repaired and Conrad's own preferred forms recovered; the texts are freed from successive layers of non-authorial intervention; and the impress of magazine house-styles has been bypassed or significantly ameliorated in order to recover the writer's sparer, more expressive punctuation.

Envisioning Africa

Heart of Darkness, Annotated

Heart of Darkness By Joseph Conrad

Heart of Darkness (Reader's Library Classics)

Selected by the Modern Library as one of the 100 best novels of all time • Nominated as one of America's best-loved novels by PBS's *The Great American Read* Introduction by Caryl Phillips Commentary by H. L. Mencken, E. M. Forster, Virginia Woolf, Ernest Hemingway, Bertrand Russell, Lionel Trilling, Chinua Achebe, and Philip Gourevitch Originally published in 1902, *Heart of Darkness* remains one of this century's most enduring works of fiction. Written several years after Joseph Conrad's grueling sojourn in the Belgian Congo, the novel is a complex meditation on colonialism, evil, and the thin line between civilization and barbarity. This edition contains selections from Conrad's *Congo Diary* of 1890—the first notes, in effect, for the novel, which was composed at the end of that decade. Virginia Woolf wrote of Conrad: "His books are full of moments of vision. They light up a whole character in a flash. . . . He could not write badly, one feels, to save his life."

*Heart of Darkness* centers around Marlow, an introspective sailor, and his journey up the Congo River to meet Kurtz, reputed to be an idealistic man of great abilities. Marlow takes a job as a riverboat captain with the Company, a Belgian concern organized to trade in the Congo. As he travels to Africa and then up the Congo, Marlow encounters widespread inefficiency and brutality in the Company's stations. The native inhabitants of the region have been forced into the Company's service, and they suffer terribly from overwork and ill treatment at the hands of the Company's agents. The cruelty and squalor of imperial enterprise contrasts sharply with the impassive and majestic jungle that surrounds the white man's settlements, making them appear to be tiny islands amidst a vast darkness.

Dark allegory describes the narrator's journey up the Congo River and his meeting with, and fascination by, Mr. Kurtz, a mysterious personage who dominates the unruly inhabitants of the region. Masterly blend of adventure, character development, psychological penetration. Considered by many Conrad's finest, most enigmatic story.

Now Filmed as 1947, a motion picture by Deepa Mehta Few novels have caught the turmoil of the Indian subcontinent during Partition with such immediacy, such wit and tragic power.

With Character and Plot Summaries

Heart of Darkness and Other Tales

Critical Practice

And The Secret Sharer

*Heart of Darkness* by Joseph Conrad is a real classic. You should grab it and read it to experience it yourself. Here's simple plot to *Heart of Darkness* by Joseph Conrad As a child, Marlow had been fascinated by "the blank spaces" on

maps, particularly by the biggest, which by the time he had grown up was no longer blank but turned into "a place of darkness". Yet there remained a big river, "resembling an immense snake uncoiled, with its head in the sea, its body at rest curving afar over a vast country and its tail lost in the depths of the land". The image of this river on the map fascinated Marlow "as a snake would a bird". Feeling as though "instead of going to the centre of a continent I were to set off for the centre of the earth", Marlow takes passage on a French steamer bound for the African coast and into the interior. After more than thirty days the ship anchors off the seat of government near the mouth of the big river. Marlow, with still some two hundred miles to go, takes passage on a little sea-going steamer captained by a Swede and departs some thirty miles up the river where his company's station is. Work on the railway is going on, involving removal of rocks with explosives. Marlow enters a narrow ravine to stroll in the shade under the trees, and finds himself in a "gloomy circle of some Inferno" the place is full of diseased Africans who worked on the railroad and now await their deaths, their sickened bodies already as thin as air. Marlow witnesses the scene "horror-struck". Marlow has to wait ten days in the company's Outer Station, where he sleeps in a hut. At this station, which strikes Marlow as a scene of devastation, he meets the company's impeccably dressed chief accountant who tells him of a Mr. Kurtz, who is in charge of a very important trading-post, and a widely respected, first-class agent, a "very remarkable person" who "Sends much ivory as all the others put together". The agent predicts that Kurtz will go very far: "He will be a somebody in the Administration before long. They, above the Council in Europe, you know-mean him to be". Marlow departs with a caravan of sixty men to travel on foot about 200 miles (320 km) into the wilderness to the Central Station, where the steamboat that he is to captain is based. On the fifteenth day of his march, he arrives at the station, which has some twenty employees and is shocked to learn from a fellow European that his steamboat had been wrecked in a mysterious accident two days earlier. He meets the general manager, who informs him that he could wait no longer for Marlow to arrive, because the up-river stations had to be relieved and tells a rumour that one important station is in jeopardy because its chief, the exceptional Mr. Kurtz, is ill. "Hang Kurtz", Marlow thinks, irritated. He fishes his boat out of the river and is occupied with its repair for some months, during which a sudden fire destroys a grass shed full of materials to trade with the natives. While one of the natives is tortured for allegedly causing the fire, Marlow is invited in the station's brick-maker, a man who spent a year waiting for material to make bricks. Marlow gets the impression that the man wants to pump him and is curious to know what kind of information he is after. Hanging on the wall is "a small picture in oils, on a panel, representing a woman draped and blindfolded carrying a lighted torch". Marlow is fascinated with the sinister effect of the torchlight upon the woman's face, and... .. Heart of Darkness by Joseph Conrad

Heart of Darkness is a short and vividly brutal account of colonial enterprise that has as much in common with the Evelyn Waugh of *Black Mischief* as it does with any of Conrad's direct contemporaries in the late nineteenth century. Accompanied in this volume by the tales with which it has been published since 1902, the autobiographical short story "Youth," and the less personal but more substantial tale of an old man's fall from fortune, "The End of the Tether." Though these stories differ considerably in style and content from his later novels, much of his reputation rests upon the words contained in this volume.

Heart of Darkness, Joseph Conrad's fictional account of a journey up the Congo river in 1890, raises important questions about colonialism and narrative theory. This casebook contains materials relevant to a deeper understanding of the origins and reception of this controversial text, including Conrad's own story "An Outpost of Progress," together with a little-known memoir by one of Conrad's oldest English friends, a brief history of the Congo Free State by Sir Arthur Doyle, and a parody of Conrad by Max Beerbohm. A wide range of theoretical approaches are also represented, examining Conrad's text in terms of cultural, historical, textual, stylistic, narratological, post-colonial, feminist, and response criticism. The volume concludes with an interview in which Conrad compares his adventures on the Congo with Mark Twain's experiences as a Mississippi pilot.

"Tales of Unrest is a collection of five compelling short stories in which Conrad explores the nature of the soul and psychological malaise."--p. [4] of cover.

Unraveling the Mysteries of the Invisible Universe

The Secret Sharer

Heart of Darkness Illustrated Edition

(Hepburn Classics)

*Adopted at more than 1,000 colleges and universities, Bedford/St. Martin's innovative Case Studies in Contemporary Criticism series has introduced more than a quarter of a million students to literary theory and earned enthusiastic praise nationwide. Along with an authoritative text of a major literary work, each volume presents critical essays, selected or prepared especially for students, that approach the work from several contemporary critical perspectives, such as gender criticism and cultural studies. Each essay is accompanied by an introduction (with bibliography) to the history, principles, and practice of its critical perspective. Every volume also surveys the biographical, historical, and critical contexts of the literary work and concludes with a glossary of critical terms. New editions reprint cultural documents that contextualize the literary works and feature essays that show how critical perspectives can be combined.*

*Heart of Darkness is a novella written by Polish-born writer Joseph Conrad (born Józef Teodor Konrad Korzeniowski). Before its 1902 publication, it appeared as a three-part series (1899) in Blackwood's Magazine. It is widely regarded as a significant work of English literature and part of the Western canon. This highly symbolic story is actually a story within a story, or frame narrative. It follows Marlow as he recounts, from dusk through to late night, his adventure into the Congo to a group of men aboard a ship anchored in the Thames Estuary. The story details an incident when Marlow, an Englishman, took a foreign assignment as a ferry-boat captain, employed by a Belgian trading company. Although the river is never specifically named, readers may assume it is the Congo River, in the Congo Free State, a private colony of King Leopold*

*II. Marlow is employed to transport ivory downriver; however, his more pressing assignment is to return Kurtz, another ivory trader, to civilization in a cover up. Kurtz has a reputation throughout the region.*

*HEART OF DARKNESS \* AN OUTPOST OF PROGRESS \* KARAIN \* YOUTH The finest of all Conrad's tales, 'Heart of Darkness' is set in an atmosphere of mystery and menace, and tells of Marlow's perilous journey up the Congo River to relieve his employer's agent, the renowned and formidable Mr Kurtz. What he sees on his journey, and his eventual encounter with Kurtz, horrify and perplex him, and call into question the very bases of civilization and human nature.*

*Endlessly reinterpreted by critics and adapted for film, radio, and television, the story shows Conrad at his most intense and sophisticated. The other three tales in this volume depict corruption and obsession, and question racial assumptions. Set in the exotic surroundings of Africa, Malaysia, and the east, they variously appraise the glamour, folly, and rapacity of imperial adventure. This revised edition uses the English first edition texts and has a new chronology and bibliography.*

*ABOUT THE SERIES: For over 100 years Oxford World's Classics has made available the widest range of literature from around the globe. Each affordable volume reflects Oxford's commitment to scholarship, providing the most accurate text plus a wealth of other valuable features, including expert introductions by leading authorities, helpful notes to clarify the text, up-to-date bibliographies for further study, and much more.*

*Discusses the historical background, and critical reception of Joseph Conrad's novel and analyzes its symbolism*

*Heart of Darkness Illustrated*

*Youth, Heart of Darkness, The End of the Tether*

*The Physics Book*

*Includes the Author's Note, Youth: a Narrative, Heart of Darkness & The End of the Tether*

Jane Eyre. Frankenstein. The Scarlet Letter. You're familiar with these pillars of classic literature. You have seen plenty of Frankenstein costumes, watched the film adaptations, and may even be able to rattle off a few quotes, but do you really know how to read these books? Do you know anything about the authors who wrote them, and what the authors were trying to teach readers through their stories? Do you know how to read them as a Christian? Taking into account your old worldview, as well as that of the author? In this beautiful cloth-over-board edition bestselling author, literature professor, and avid reader Karen Swallow Prior will guide you through Jane Eyre. She will not only navigate you through the pitfalls that trap readers today, but show you how to read it in light of the gospel, and to the glory of God. This edition includes a thorough introduction to the author, context, and overview of the work (without any spoilers for first-time readers), the full original text, as well as footnotes and reflection questions throughout to help the reader attain a fuller grasp of Jane Eyre. The full series currently includes: Heart of Darkness, Sense and Sensibility, Jane Eyre, and Frankenstein. Make sure to keep an eye out for the next classics in the series.

Humanity's ongoing quest to unlock the secrets of dark matter and dark energy Heart of Darkness describes the incredible saga of humankind's quest to unravel the deepest secrets of the universe. Over the past thirty years, scientists have learned that two little-understood components—dark matter and dark energy—comprise most of the known cosmos, explain the growth of all cosmic structure and hold the key to the universe's fate. The story of how evidence for the so-called "Lambda-Cold Dark Matter" model of cosmology has been gathered by generations of scientists throughout the world is told here by one of the pioneers of the field, Jeremiah Ostriker, and his coauthor Simon Mitton. From humankind's early attempts to comprehend Earth's place in the solar system, to astronomers' exploration of the Milky Way galaxy and the realm of the nebulae beyond, to the detection of the primordial fluctuations of energy from which all subsequent structure developed, this book explains the physics and the history of how the current model of our universe arose and has passed every test hurled at it by the skeptics. Throughout this rich story, an essential theme is emphasized: how three aspects of rational inquiry—the application of direct measurement and observation, the introduction of mathematical modeling, and the requirement that hypotheses should be testable and verifiable—guide scientific progress and underpin our modern cosmological paradigm. This monumental puzzle is far from complete, however, as scientists confront the mysteries of the ultimate causes of cosmic structure formation and the real nature and origin of dark matter and dark energy.

Heart of Darkness (1899) is a novella by Polish-British novelist Joseph Conrad about a narrated voyage up the Congo River into the Congo Free State in the Heart of Africa. Charles Marlow, the narrator, tells his story to friends aboard a boat anchored on the River Thames. This setting provides the frame for Marlow's story of his obsession with the ivory trader Kurtz, which enables Conrad to create a parallel between what Conrad calls "the greatest town on earth", London, and Africa as places of darkness.

"The Secret Sharer" takes place on a sailing ship in the Gulf of Siam (now the Gulf of Thailand), at the start of a voyage with cargo for Britain. The date is probably in the 1880s, when Conrad was at sea himself. In common with many of Conrad's stories, it is narrated in the first person. The narrator is the ship's young captain, whose name is never given. He is unfamiliar with both his ship and his crew, having joined the ship only a fortnight earlier, and unsure of his ability to exert his authority over the officers and crew who have been together for some time. He makes the point several times that he is the "stranger" on board. After being towed downriver (presumably from Bangkok) by a steam tug, the ship is left at anchor near a group of small barren islands a few miles off shore, waiting for wind to begin its voyage. An incoming ship is anchored similarly a couple of miles away, awaiting a tug to go upriver. That night, the

captain, being restless, unusually takes the watch. As the only man on deck in the small hours of the morning, he sees that a man has swum up to the ship's side. The naked swimmer is hesitant to talk or come on board, but seems pleased to discover he is speaking to the captain. Once on board, the man introduces himself as Leggatt and he and the captain find a natural rapport, almost as if Leggatt were the captain's other self, especially as the captain has now fetched some of his own clothes for Leggatt to wear. Still on deck, Leggatt explains that he was the First Mate of the other ship, but was placed under arrest after being accused of murdering a crew member. The victim was a disobedient bully. During a storm which nearly sank their ship on their voyage here, Leggatt was physically wrestling with the man to make him to pull a rope when a freak wave threw them both against a bulwark and the man was killed. Leggatt, a "stranger" on the other ship just as the captain is on his, would certainly face the gallows on landing. However, he escaped his locked cabin and swam between islands to reach the narrator's ship. Though the captain could, and by all the rules should, arrest Leggatt, he instead leads him to concealment in his cabin. The captain has no plan yet, and hiding Leggatt seems impossibly difficult, given that his cabin is regularly serviced by his steward, the problem of food, a captain's movements being conspicuous to all, and the long voyage ahead. In the morning the captain of Leggatt's ship arrives by boat to inquire if the escapee has been sighted. Our captain, not a natural liar, manages to bluff through, but is left terrified as to what his own officers make of his strained behavior....

Jane Eyre

Heart of Darkness & Tales of Unrest

Heart of Darkness

Heart of Darkness and Selected Short Fiction

Joseph Conrad's novella "Heart of Darkness" (1899) is taught and read all over the world. Everywhere, novelists and travel writers respond to it in their own creative work. I discuss 30 responses, or rewritings, from Africa, India, the Caribbean, Australia, Europe and the US. Their perspectives include those of groups who identify with Conrad's Europeans and groups who feel close to his Africans, and increasingly those of groups who situate themselves between these two extremes in various ways. I identify world-wide developments as well as themes, strategies and paradigm shifts that correlate with different geopolitical situations. Rewriters address the contribution Conrad has made to the identities of his very different readers, and the patterns he has suggested for encounters. In ever more intense dialogues, people from all backgrounds work through images of themselves and of each other. However, like Conrad's narrator, they also become aware of limits of language and communication. Rewriters act as rereaders of the many layers of meaning in "Heart of Darkness," and thus imply that the reader's experience is as important as the author's. This approach is increasingly developing into a use of discourse-analytical methods in non-theoretical texts. Rewritings can bring "Heart of Darkness" close to the readers' lives. Rewriters champion processes of highly personal learning and unlearning as well as political and social approaches, and can thus help readers rework their own cultural backgrounds. Accordingly, I both use close-reading methods and take into account political and didactic intentions. In conclusion, I recommend reading "Heart of Darkness" together with one or more of its rewritings, and outline some ideas for teaching such combinations. After comprehensive introductions to "Heart of Darkness" and to the theory of rewritings, I discuss works by the following authors in a convenient handbook format: Ford Madox Ford (Hueffer), Leonard Woolf, W. Somerset Maugham, Andre Gide, Louis-Ferdinand Celine, Graham Greene, Charlotte Jay, Patrick White, Chinua Achebe, Wilson Harris, Ngugi wa Thiong'o, Tayeb Salih, Arun Joshi, J.M. Coetzee, V.S. Naipaul, Robert Silverberg, Caryl Phillips, David Dabydeen, Marlene NourbeSe Philip, David Malouf, Mineke Schipper, Abdulrazak Gurnah, Urs Widmer, Redmond O'Hanlon, Arundhati Roy, Barbara Kingsolver and Jeffrey Tayler.

In this pair of literary voyages into the inner self, Conrad wrote two of the most chilling, disturbing, and noteworthy pieces of fiction of the 20th century. "Heart of Darkness" and "The Secret Sharer" encapsulate his literary achievements--and his haunting portrayal of the dark side of man. Revised reissue.

Acclaimed cartoonist Peter Kuper delivers a powerful interpretation of Joseph Conrad's classic novella. Heart of Darkness has unsettled generations of readers with its haunting portrait of colonialism in Africa. Acclaimed illustrator Peter Kuper delivers a visually immersive and profound interpretation of this controversial classic, evoking the danger and suspense at the heart of this brutal story. Longtime admirers of the novella will appreciate his innovative interpretations, while new readers will discover a brilliant introduction to a canonical work of twentieth-century literature.

The book tells a story about a voyage up the Congo River into the Congo Free State, in the heart of Africa. Marlow, the story's narrator, tells his story to friends aboard a boat anchored on the River Thames, London, England. This setting provides the frame for Marlow's story of his obsession with the ivory trader Kurtz, which enables Conrad to create a parallel between London and Africa as places of darkness. Central to Conrad's work is the idea that there is little difference between so-called civilized people and those described as savages; Heart of Darkness raises important questions about imperialism and racism. Joseph Conrad acknowledged that Heart of Darkness was in part based on his own experiences during his travels in Africa. In 1890, at the age of 32, he was appointed by a Belgian trading company to serve as the captain of a steamer on the Congo River. Joseph Conrad (1857-1924), was a Polish author who wrote in English after settling in England. Conrad is regarded as one of the greatest novelists in English, though he did not speak the language fluently until he was in his twenties. He wrote stories and novels, often with a nautical setting, that depict trials of the human spirit in the midst of an indifferent universe. He was a master prose stylist who brought a distinctly non-English tragic sensibility into English literature.

Joseph Conrad Heart of Darkness

Ice-Candy-Man

HEART OF DARKNESS

A Century of Dialogue with Joseph Conrad

***Marlow's journey into the heart of the African continent is riddled with ominous encounters. Delineating the atrocious sufferings of the natives under the insensitive company officials, this masterpiece of the 20th century is a peep into the grim realities of imperialism and the dark interiors of human psyche.***

***Did he live his life through in every detail of desire, temptation and surrender during that supreme moment of complete knowledge? He cried whisperingly at some image at some vision,—he cried twice, with a cry that was no more than a breath— "The horror! The Horror!" Charles Marlow's journey into the heart of Africa is odyssey into corruption, absurdity the Africans and conspiring against each other; he voyages upstream on a paddle-steamer that comes under lethal attack; and he encounters the great idealist, Mr. Kurtz, the genius who seemed to represent the best Europe. But Mr. Kurtz has 'taken a high seat among the devils of the land,' and Marlow returns to Europe bearing the burden of appalling knowledge, forced to make his 'choice of***

**nightmares.' Conrad's critical tale of self inspired the far-reaching film *Apocalypse Now* as well as generations of critical discussion. A comprehensive paperback edition, with introduction notes, selected criticism, text summary and chronology of Conrad's life and times**

**Explore the laws and theories of physics in this accessible introduction to the forces that shape our universe, our planet, and our everyday lives. Using a bold, graphics-led approach, *The Physics Book* sets out more than 80 of the key concepts and discoveries that have defined the subject and influenced our technology since the beginning of time. With the focus firmly on unpacking the thought behind each theory—as well as exploring when and how each idea and breakthrough came about—five themed chapters examine the history and developments in specific areas such as Light, Sound, and Electricity. Eureka moments abound: from Archimedes' bathtub discoveries about displacement and density, and Galileo's experiments with spheres falling from the Tower of Pisa, to Isaac Newton's apple and his conclusions about gravity and the laws of motion. You'll also learn about Albert Einstein's revelations about relativity; how the accidental discovery of cosmic microwave background radiation confirmed the Big Bang theory; the search for the Higgs boson particle; and why most of the universe is missing. If you've ever wondered exactly how physicists formulated—and proved—their abstract concepts, *The Physics Book* is the book for you. **Series Overview: *Big Ideas Simply Explained* series uses creative design and innovative graphics along with straightforward and engaging writing to make complex subjects easier to understand. With over 7 million copies worldwide sold to date, these award-winning books provide just the information needed for students, families, or anyone interested in concise, thought-provoking refreshers on a single subject. *The Nellie, a cruising yawl, swung to her anchor without a flutter of the sails, and was at rest. The flood had made, the wind was nearly calm, and being bound down the river, the only thing for it was to come to and wait for the turn of the tide. The sea-reach of the Thames stretched before us like the beginning of an interminable waterway. In the offing the sea and the sky were welded together without a joint, and in the luminous space the tanned sails of the barges drifting up with the tide seemed to stand still in red clusters of canvas sharply peaked, with gleams of varnished sprits. A haze rested on the low shores that ran out to sea in vanishing flatness. The air was dark above Gravesend, and farther back still seemed condensed into a mournful gloom, brooding motionless over the biggest, and the greatest, town on earth.*****

**Colonial and Postcolonial Rewritings of "Heart of Darkness"**

**Big Ideas Simply Explained**

**A Guide to Reading and Reflecting**

**Joseph Conrad's Heart of Darkness**

"It was written I should be loyal to the nightmare of my choice." Conrad's masterful novella, narrated by Charles Marlow, describes the search for ivory trader Mr Kurtz, the doomed voyage into the depths of the Congo, and the heart of darkness that awaits those who venture there. A dark and troubling narrative, *Heart of Darkness* stands capably in the canon of English literature, and serves as a testament to Conrad's remarkable gifting. Cover Illustration by Henri Rousseau.

The classic novel by Joseph Conrad

For one hundred years, *Heart of Darkness* has been among the most widely read and taught novels in the English language. Hailed as an incisive indictment of European imperialism in Africa upon its publication in 1899, more recently it has been repeatedly denounced as racist and imperialist. Peter Firchow counters these claims, and his carefully argued response allows the charges of Conrad's alleged bias to be evaluated as objectively as possible. He begins by contrasting the meanings of race, racism, and imperialism in Conrad's day to those of our own time. Firchow then argues that *Heart of Darkness* is a novel rather than a sociological treatise; only in relation to its aesthetic significance can real social and intellectual-historical meaning be established. Envisioning Africa responds in detail to negative interpretations of the novel by revealing what they distort, misconstrue, or fail to take into account. Firchow uses a framework of imagology to examine how national, ethnic, and racial images are portrayed in the text, differentiating the idea of a national stereotype from that of national character. He believes that what Conrad saw personally in Africa should not be confused with the Africa he describes in the novel; *Heart of Darkness* is instead an envisioning and a revisioning of Conrad's experiences in the medium of fiction.

Marlow sits on the deck of the *Nellie*, a ship anchored in the Thames, with the Director of Companies, the Accountant, and the unnamed narrator. Marlow begins telling the men the story of his journey up the Congo River. Marlow had secured work as a ship's commander for a trading company in Africa. He sailed from France to the trading company's Inner Station. On his journey, Marlow was appalled by the living conditions for black slaves.

*Heart of Darkness* and Other Stories

A Casebook

Racism and Imperialism in Conrad's *Heart of Darkness*

The *Heart of Darkness*

**HEART OF DARKNESS** Joseph Conrad (1857 - 1924) *Heart of Darkness* (1899) is a novella by Polish-British novelist Joseph Conrad, about a voyage up the Congo River into the Congo Free State, in the heart of Africa, by the story's narrator Marlow. Marlow tells his story to friends aboard a boat anchored on the River Thames, London, England. This setting provides the frame for Marlow's story of his obsession with the ivory trader Kurtz, which enables Conrad to create a parallel between London and Africa as places of darkness. Central to Conrad's work is the idea that there is little difference between so-called civilized people and those described as savages; *Heart of Darkness* raises important questions about imperialism and racism. Originally published as a three-part serial story in *Blackwood's Magazine*, the novella *Heart of Darkness* has been variously published and translated into many languages. In 1998, the Modern Library ranked *Heart of Darkness* as the sixty-seventh of the hundred best novels in English of the twentieth century. In a novella which remains highly controversial to this day, Conrad explores the relations between Africa and Europe. On the surface, this is a horrifying tale of colonial exploitation. The narrator, Marlowe journeys on business deep into the heart of Africa. But there he encounters Kurtz, an idealist apparently crazed and depraved by his power over the natives, and the meeting prompts Marlowe to reflect on the darkness at the heart of all men. This short but complex and often ambiguous story, which has been the basis of several films and plays, continues to provoke interpretation and discussion. *Heart of Darkness* grew out of a journey Joseph Conrad took up the Congo River; the verisimilitude that the great novelist thereby brought to his most famous tale everywhere enhances its dense and shattering power. Apparently a sailor's yarn, it is in fact a grim parody of the adventure story, in which the narrator, Marlow, travels deep into the heart of the Congo where he encounters the crazed idealist Kurtz and discovers that the relative values of the civilized and the primitive are not what they seem. *Heart of Darkness* is a model of economic storytelling, an indictment of the inner and outer turmoil caused by the European imperial misadventure, and a piercing account of the fragility of the human soul.

(Penguin Classics Deluxe Edition)

*Heart Of Darkness* (Annotated Classic Edition)

New Edition - *Heart of Darkness* by Joseph Conrad

*Search for the Unconscious*