

Henry Fielding

# Tom Jones



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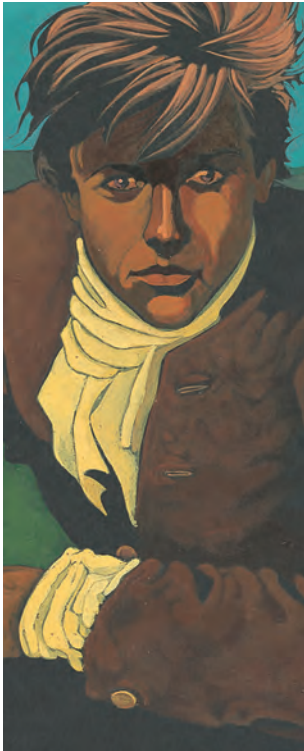


Vicens Vives - Tom Jones (Blackcat. Reading & Training)  
- ISBN: 9788431672621

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Henry Fielding



Retold by James Butler  
Activities by Justin Rainey

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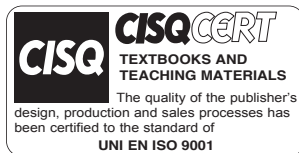
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**FCE** First Certificate in English  
examination-style exercises

**T: GRADE 7** Trinity-style exercises (Grade 7)

This story is recorded in full.



These symbols indicate the beginning  
and end of the extracts linked to the  
listening activities.







*Henry Fielding*  
by Samuel Freeman.

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Henry Fielding was the son of an army officer, and was born in Somerset in 1707. He was educated at Eton,<sup>1</sup> where he made many friends who later became influential in public life. At the age of nineteen he caused a scandal when he tried to elope<sup>2</sup> with a beautiful heiress,<sup>3</sup> but the attempt failed and he eventually settled in London.

Fielding was determined to make money as a dramatist, and he wrote more than twenty-five plays that were successfully performed between 1728 and 1737. Most of his plays consisted of farce and satire.

He married Charlotte Cradock in 1734, and she became the model for Sophia in *Tom Jones*. The marriage was a happy one.

1. **Eton** : expensive and prestigious boarding school for boys near London.
2. **elope** : run away to get married.
3. **heiress** : woman who has inherited a lot of money.



## CHAPTER ONE

# Mr Allworthy Finds a Baby



**M**r Allworthy lived in Somerset. He was a gentleman, and a good, intelligent and kind man. He had married a very beautiful woman when he was young, and they had had three children, all of whom had died. His wife had also died. Mr Allworthy sometimes said that he still thought of himself as married – but that his wife had begun a journey without him.

Mr Allworthy lived with his sister Bridget. She was not beautiful or particularly good-natured, and she was over thirty years old. She often said that beauty was dangerous for a woman.

One night Mr Allworthy returned from London, where he had spent three months on business. He arrived very late and went straight to his bedroom after eating supper with Bridget. He was

# Tom Jones



just about to climb into bed when he saw a small baby sleeping between the sheets. He was astonished at the sight, and rang the bell for his servant.

Mrs Deborah Wilkins was surprised to be called at such a late hour, and hurried to her master's room. When she saw the baby asleep on the bed, she too was astonished.

'What shall we do, sir?' she asked.

'Take care of the child this evening, Mrs Wilkins, and we'll find a nurse for it tomorrow morning,' Mr Allworthy ordered.

'I hope you'll find out who the mother is!' Mrs Wilkins said angrily. 'She should be punished for leaving a baby in someone else's house like that. It's as if she wanted people to believe you were the father, sir!'

'I'm sure she doesn't want to give that impression,' Mr Allworthy replied. 'I'm sure she just wants to make sure the child will be looked after properly.'

The next morning Mr Allworthy and Bridget were having breakfast together. Mr Allworthy asked Mrs Wilkins to bring in the child to show his sister. Bridget had very strong moral views, but she seemed sorry for the child. When her brother said that he had decided to adopt it, she agreed with him immediately that this was a good idea. She then spoke very bitterly against the wretched <sup>1</sup> mother, who she said deserved to be punished for her wickedness. <sup>2</sup>

Mrs Wilkins now tried to find out who the mother of the child was. She went into the village, where she knew all the families who had young daughters. There was one girl in particular, Jenny

1. **wretched** : unfortunate.
2. **wickedness** : bad behaviour.



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Jones, whom she thought might be the mother of the child. Jenny Jones was not a very pretty girl, but she was very intelligent. She had lived for some years with the schoolmaster, Mr Partridge, and his wife. She got along very well <sup>1</sup> with Mr Partridge, who taught her Latin. She was so clever that she soon knew more than the schoolmaster himself. Mrs Partridge saw the friendship between her husband and the servant girl, and she was jealous of it. She made Jenny Jones leave the house. Her husband agreed to this, because the girl's cleverness humiliated him.

Mrs Wilkins was almost sure that Jenny Jones was the mother. Then she remembered that Jenny Jones had been to Mr Allworthy's house quite often recently, to look after Bridget when she was ill with a fever. She knew her way about <sup>2</sup> the house. She knew where the master's bedroom was!

Mrs Wilkins now hurried to Mr Allworthy to tell him her theory. He called Jenny Jones to the house, and spoke kindly to her. She admitted that she was the mother of the child, but she refused to say who the father was. Mr Allworthy admired her loyalty to the man who had seduced her. He promised to send her away from the village where she could begin a new life without dishonour to her name.

The mysterious baby was one delicate matter <sup>3</sup> in Mr Allworthy's house. There was another delicate matter as well. He had two friends who were brothers staying with him, one of whom was a doctor and the other a captain. Captain Blifil was about 35 years old, and he was a polite and educated man. He

1. **she ... well** : she had a good relationship.
2. **knew her way about** : was familiar with.
3. **delicate matter** : difficult situation.

- 1 Look at these pictures. They illustrate domestic situations at the very beginning of the chapter.

## The Allworthy House



Mr Allworthy



Mrs Deborah Wilkins



Miss Bridget Allworthy

## The Partridge House



Mr Partridge



Mrs Partridge



Jenny Jones

- a. In pairs, ask and answer questions about the people in the two houses. For example:

*Who is Mr Allworthy? He's a gentleman from Somerset.*

*He is Bridget Allworthy's brother.*

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