

The Prisoner of Zenda by Anthony Hope

Retold by Kieran McGovern: English language level - low intermediate

Before Reading

The Prisoner of Zenda is an adventure story set in the 1890s. It is set in Ruritania, an imaginary country in central Europe.

1. Which of these words do you not expect to read in the story:

swords * a gate * a king * secret messages * a princess * a ghost * a mobile phone * a moat * a rescue * a train * a car * a drawbridge

2. Which three words describe parts of a castle

True or False?

- Zenda is a town in Ruritania. It has a castle.
- The story is about two cousins: Rudolf Rassendyll of England and Rudolf Elphberg of Ruritania.
- Rudolf Elphberg is about to become King of Ruritania.

Quick Check - Chapter One

1. Rudolf Rassendyll's sister-in-law asks him:

“When are you going to do something with your life, Rudolf?”

What do you think she wants Rudolf to do?

- Get a good job in a bank
 - Travel and have an adventure
 - Become King of Ruritania
2. “He has the same hair and the same face. He is the King!”
The two Rudolfs have never met but are ‘doubles’. What do you think this means?
- They think the same way
 - They are identical twins
 - They look like identical twins



The Prisoner of Zenda by Anthony Hope

Retold by Kieran McGovern: English language level - low intermediate