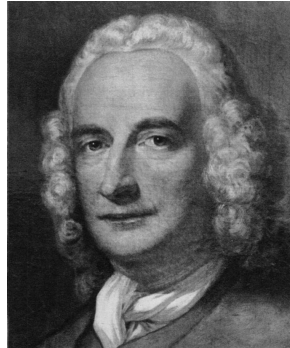


TOM JONES

by Henry Fielding



THE AUTHOR

Henry Fielding (1707-1754), one of the founders of the English novel, was born in Somerset and, after the death of his mother, was raised by his grandmother. He was educated at Eton and attended the University of Leiden for a year before returning to London. His earliest literary efforts were plays, largely of a satirical nature. When Parliament passed a law prohibiting political satire on stage, he turned to the law, though he continued to write satires that were designed for publication rather than performance. These were highly critical of the government of Prime Minister Robert Walpole. His first novel was *Shamela* (1741), a parody of Samuel Richardson's *Pamela*, and the next year he wrote *Joseph Andrews*, supposedly a tale about Pamela's brother. The novel for which he is best known, *Tom Jones* (1749), is a picaresque tale of a foundling who rises to great riches and a happy marriage after many adventures and trials.

Fielding's personal life also had its highs and lows. He contracted two marriages (his first wife, Charlotte Craddock, was the inspiration for Sophia in *Tom Jones*) and fathered ten children. His early married life was one of poverty, but he enjoyed the support of a wealthy patron, Ralph Allen, who was the model for Squire Allworthy. As his writing career prospered, so did his legal status. In 1748 he was appointed Justice of the Peace for Westminster. He was famed as he managed the criminal system for his integrity and sympathy for the poor. In 1749, he and his brother John formed the Bow Street Runners, sometimes identified as London's first police force. His brother John, though blind, succeeded Henry as chief magistrate after the latter died in Portugal in 1754.

Though Fielding in many ways partook of the prevailing worldview of the day, especially in his estimation of human nature as essentially good though subject to flaws and lapses, he rejected both materialism and Deism, arguing in *Examples of the Interposition of Providence in the Detection and Punishment of Murder* (1752) that the rise in the murder rate was due to the fact that society was turning away from Christianity. In *Tom Jones*, the two tutors, Square and Thwackum, personify his dislike for both Calvinism and Deism, which are caricatured in these two bizarre figures. In addition to its concern with morality, the novel also includes the authorial commentary found in the first chapter of each of its eighteen books, which deal largely with the art of writing and what constitutes a good novel.

PLOT SUMMARY

BOOK I - Containing as Much of the Birth of the Foundling as Is Necessary or Proper to Acquaint the Reader with in the Beginning of This History

Chapter 1 - The introduction to the work, or bill of fare to the feast

Fielding here compares his effort as a novelist to that of a pub owner who posts his menu so the customers know what they may encounter within. He proclaims that the subject of his history is nothing more nor less than Human Nature in all its variety.

Chapter 2 - A short description of Squire Allworthy, and a fuller account of Miss Bridget Allworthy, his sister

The author begins by introducing Squire Allworthy, the good-hearted owner of a large estate in Somersetshire. He is a widower whose only three children died in infancy. He lives with his spinster sister Bridget, a woman in her thirties who is no beauty but is known for her prudence.

Chapter 3 - An odd accident which befell Mr. Allworthy at his return home. The decent behaviour of Mrs. Deborah Wilkins, with some proper animadversions on bastards

After spending three months in London on business, Squire Allworthy returns home and goes straight to bed after dinner. After saying his prayers, he is surprised to find between the sheets of his bed an infant peacefully sleeping. He is so taken aback that he forgets that he is in his nightshirt and summons Deborah Wilkins, an elderly servant, who is shocked to find her master *dishabillé*. Once she recovers her composure, she launches into a vigorous condemnation of the child's mother, who surely must be an immoral woman of the neighborhood. The Squire is inclined to care for the child, but she warns him that neighborhood gossips might speculate that he is the father of the baby. She thinks he should put the baby in a basket and leave it on the doorstep of the church, but Allworthy will not hear of it, especially since the baby has grasped his finger and is squeezing it in a most becoming manner.

Chapter 4 - The reader's neck brought into danger by a description; his escape; and the great condescension of Miss Bridget Allworthy

The next morning, Squire Allworthy tells Bridget that he has a surprise for her. She expects a new gown, but he instead gives her the baby, which he has every intention of raising as his own. She submits to him in this, though not without excoriating the mother of the child in much the same manner as Deborah had the night before. Deborah is then given the task of searching for the baby's mother.

Chapter 5 - Containing a few common matters, with a very uncommon observation upon them

Although initially reluctant, Bridget and Deborah soon take to the child and make provision for his care and maintenance.

Chapter 6 - Mrs. Deborah is introduced into the parish with a simile. A short account of Jenny Jones, with the difficulties and discouragements which may attend young women in the pursuit of learning

The next day, Mrs. Wilkins searches the parish in a tyrannical mood, determined to locate the mother of the foundling. She immediately seeks out an elderly woman, explains her mission, and the two mentally survey the girls of the village. Eventually they settle on one Jenny Jones, the servant of the schoolmaster and thus better educated than most, as the most likely culprit. Jenny's learning, the equal of any of the young men of quality in the village, makes her neighbors jealous - a feeling that is only enhanced when she appears one day in a lovely new gown the origin of which no one can explain. The fact that she had spent a lot of time in the Allworthy house nursing Bridget during a sickness didn't help matters at all. When confronted by Mrs. Wilkins, Jenny admits that the baby is hers.

Chapter 7 - Containing such grave matter, that the reader cannot laugh once through the whole chapter, unless peradventure he should laugh at the author

When Jenny is brought before Squire Allworthy, he is very kind to her, praising her for wanting the best for her child but warning her of the wickedness of sex outside of marriage. He has no desire to punish her, knowing that society will do enough harm by excluding her from all decent company and from the possibility of earning an honest living. He encourages her to repent, offers to send her somewhere where her offense is not known and provide for her needs, and promises to raise the child as his own. He only asks that she identify the father of the baby. Jenny thanks him profusely, but begs leave to conceal the father's name, promising that he will one day know the truth.

Chapter 8 - A dialogue between Mesdames Bridget and Deborah; containing more amusement, but less instruction, than the former

While the Squire talks to Jenny, Bridget and Deborah are listening at the keyhole. After Jenny leaves, the two women discuss the situation. Deborah is determined to get the truth of the baby's father from the girl, but Bridget supports her brother's handling of the situation and tells her housekeeper to mind her own business. They then turn their ire against deceitful men who take advantage of plain young girls.

Chapter 9 - Containing matters which will surprise the reader

When Jenny returns to the village, she lets everyone know of Squire Allworthy's kindness, but this does not earn their favor, as she had hoped. Instead, their jealousy is again inflamed against her and they accuse her of being the Squire's personal favorite, either because of her unwomanly learning or for some darker reason. When Jenny is sent away to a safer place, the villagers turn against the Squire himself, blaming him for fathering a child and disposing of its mother in such a shameful fashion.

Chapter 10 - The hospitality of Allworthy; with a short sketch of the characters of two brothers, a doctor and a captain, who were entertained by that gentleman

Though Squire Allworthy had little education himself, he enjoyed the company of accomplished and knowledgeable people. Among his guests was one Dr. Blifil, who had been forced into his profession by his father but seriously loathed it, and thus knew little of medicine and was very unsuccessful in making a living. Allworthy respected him, however, because he convincingly put on a show of religion, and Bridget, who had done some reading in theology, loved to engage in long discussions with him on the subject. The two soon develop feelings for one another, though their ardor is hindered by the fact that Blifil already has a wife from whom he is estranged. Blifil then determines to introduce his brother, a half-pay Captain, into the family, hoping to encourage a relationship between him and Bridget.

Chapter 11 - Containing many rules, and some examples, concerning falling in love: descriptions of beauty, and other more prudential inducements to matrimony

Bridget quickly falls in love with the Captain. Within a month, the two have agreed to marry, each with his or her own motives, while keeping their relationship a secret from the Squire.

Chapter 12 - Containing what the reader may, perhaps, expect to find in it

The two conclude their marriage privately, then give Dr. Blifil the task of breaking the news to Squire Allworthy. When the Doctor approaches the Squire, he feigns anger, but Allworthy quickly lets him know that he is fully aware of what has been going on under his very nose and has no objections to the match. His sister is well over the age of consent, and whatever motives the two may have are their own business, though he deplores matrimony for lust or greed.

Chapter 13 - Which concludes the first book; with an instance of ingratitude, which, we hope, will appear unnatural

Dr. Blifil then tells his brother how he managed the conversation, disparaging the Captain in order to gain Allworthy's approval, but the Captain, far from showing gratitude, treats his brother with increasing coldness. Allworthy attempts to mediate the dispute and succeeds in nothing more than a surface reconciliation. Soon Dr. Blifil, unable to deal any longer with his brother's cruelty, leaves for London, where he dies of a broken heart.

BOOK II - Containing Scenes of Matrimonial Felicity in Different Degrees of Life; and Various Other Transactions During the First Two Years After the Marriage Between Captain Blifil and Miss Bridget Allworthy

Chapter 1 - Showing what kind of history this is: what it is like, and what it is not like

The author informs the reader that he intends to focus his story on the important events while skipping over periods of time when nothing of any significance happens.

Chapter 2 - Religious cautions against showing too much favour to bastards; and a great discovery made by Mrs. Deborah Wilkins

Eight months after her marriage, Bridget gives birth to a boy, who thus becomes the heir of the Allworthy estate and fortune. The Squire continues to treat the young foundling, to whom he has given the name of Tom, with favor despite the fact that Captain Blifil encourages him to turn the boy out. Meanwhile, Mrs. Wilkins discovers the identity of Tom's real father.

Chapter 3 - The description of a domestic government founded upon rules directly contrary to those of Aristotle

The local parish schoolmaster, Mr. Partridge, was a poor man and a worse scholar. He spent far too little time in the classroom and far too much socializing, which did his pupils no good at all. The only pupil who thrived under his tutelage was Jenny Jones. He had married one of the Squire's kitchen maids, but she turned out to be singularly unpleasant as well as infertile, and jealous in the extreme when he would as much as speak to any of the women of the village. She had hired Jenny as a servant because she lacked the sort of beauty that might tempt her husband, but soon her jealousy turned toward the poor girl, who had given her no reason to question her virtue. One night she threw her dinner at Jenny when she and Partridge exchanged words in Latin and promptly threw her out of the house, to which her timid and henpecked husband raised no objections.

Chapter 4 - Containing one of the most bloody battles, or rather duels, that were ever recorded in domestic history

Mrs. Partridge feels guilty about her suspicions and for a number of months goes out of her way to treat her husband kindly. One day she is at the chandler's shop, which is the gathering place for the town gossips. There she hears that Jenny Jones is pregnant with twins. Since she turned the girl out less than nine months previously, her jealousy is again aroused. She rushes home and assaults her poor husband, clawing his face and pummeling him until he finally succeeds in restraining her. When the village women come to her assistance, she accuses her husband of attacking *her*.

Chapter 5 - Containing much matter to exercise the judgment and reflection of the reader

Gossip travels at the speed of sound, and soon poor Mr. Partridge was widely believed to have rendered his wife all sorts of grievous physical injuries, though the cause given for the quarrel varied depending on voice delivering the message. It was by this means that Mrs. Wilkins came to understand the parentage of young Tom, which she quickly communicated to Captain Blifil, knowing that he was ill-disposed toward the child to begin with. Neither one says anything to Squire Allworthy, knowing how fond the old man is of the lad. In fact, Mrs. Wilkins goes out of her way to treat young Tom kindly, which causes a rift between her and Bridget, who in reality should have been the housekeeper's ally in seeking to get rid of the foundling. Finally Blifil becomes impatient and decides to take the bull by the horns. One day he and the Squire are discussing charity, which Blifil claims refers in the Bible to universal love rather than generosity. Allworthy argues that love must certainly manifest itself in generosity, even to those who are unworthy. Blifil then uses Partridge as an example of an unworthy recipient of the Squire's generosity and identifies him as the father of the foundling. The Squire promptly dispatches Mrs. Wilkins to the village to ascertain the truth of the matter.

Chapter 6 - The trial of Partridge, the schoolmaster, for incontinency; the evidence of his wife; a short reflection on the wisdom of our law; with other grave matters, which those will like best who understand them most

Not surprisingly, Mrs. Wilkins returns with confirmation of the schoolmaster's guilt, after which Allworthy summons him for examination in his role as magistrate. Partridge swears his innocence, but both his wife and Mrs. Wilkins testify to his guilt in this matter along with many others. He had previously confessed to his wife, but had done so only because she promised that, if he confessed, she would never speak of the matter again. Mrs. Partridge then swears that she had actually caught the two of them together in bed. Allworthy encourages Partridge to confess all and repent, but the poor man continues to insist on his innocence and begs the magistrate to call on Jenny to confirm his testimony. The Squire then sends for Jenny, intending to continue the trial three days hence. Jenny, however, is nowhere to be found, and Allworthy thus rules against the schoolmaster, depriving him of his living and exhorting him to repentance. Mrs. Partridge then blames her husband for their loss of income, but her anger is short-lived, for she soon contracts smallpox and dies, after which Partridge leaves the vicinity in search of more hospitable climes.

Chapter 7 - A short sketch of that felicity which prudent couples may extract from hatred: with a short apology for those people who overlook imperfections in their friends

None of this in any way diminishes Allworthy's fondness for young Tom, much to the annoyance of Blifil, who sees any act of generosity on the part of the Squire as reducing his own future wealth. Eventually the Captain's hatred of the foundling drives a wedge between him and his wife so that the two soon heartily detest one another. Their main pleasure now is formed in visiting upon each other whatever torments lay at hand. They succeed, however, in hiding their mutual animosity from the Squire.

Chapter 8 - A receipt to regain the lost affections of a wife, which hath never been known to fail in the most desperate cases

Blifil, desirous of avoiding his wife's company as much as possible, devotes his time and energy to calculating the extent of the Squire's wealth and planning what he will do with it when it passes to him. His dreams are exorbitant, both in the amount of money required to bring them to pass and in the time required to accomplish the desired alterations to the house and estate. One day, while calculating how long Squire Allworthy was likely to live, the Captain experiences an apoplectic seizure and dies while on an afternoon walk.

Chapter 9 - A proof of the infallibility of the foregoing receipt, in the lamentations of the widow; with other suitable decorations of death, such as physicians, etc., and an epitaph in the true style

Bridget begins to worry when her husband does not appear for dinner that night. Soon servants arrive bearing the body of the Captain. Two doctors are summoned, who proclaim the patient truly dead, then proceed to argue about the cause of death. By this time Bridget has recovered from her earlier faint, but by the time they leave, both physicians have convinced her that she is in need of their ministrations, and she remains in her sickbed for the next month.

BOOK III - Containing the Most Memorable Transactions Which Passed in the Family of Mr. Allworthy, from the Time When Tommy Jones Arrived at the Age of Fourteen, Till He Attained the Age of Nineteen. In This Book the Reader May Pick Up Some Hints Concerning the Education of Children

Chapter 1 - Containing little or nothing

Twelve years pass during which both Squire Allworthy and his sister Bridget get over their grief at the loss of the Captain, each in his or her own way.

Chapter 2 - The hero of this great history appears with very bad omens. A little tale of so *low* a kind that some may think it not worth their notice. A word or two concerning the squire, and more relating to a gamekeeper and a schoolmaster

By the time the two boys reach the age of fourteen, Tom has earned a reputation for mischievous behavior, largely of the light-fingered variety, while young Blifil is widely admired by all for his serious and virtuous demeanor. At this time Tom's only real friend in the world is Black George, the gamekeeper on the Allworthy estate, whose reputation is no better than that of the boy. In fact, Tom's thievery was generally carried out for the benefit of the man and his family. One day Tom and his friend are shooting near the boundary between the Allworthy estate and that of Squire Western, a neighbor who was very possessive of the game on his property. They scare up a covey of partridges, which fly onto Western's ground. Tom, however, is too anxious to pursue his pleasure to worry about such trivialities and shoots one of the partridges. Western is nearby on horseback, hears the sound of the gun, and quickly catches Tom with the evidence (Black George had wisely hidden himself). He transports Tom immediately to Squire Allworthy and reports his transgression. Tom argues that the partridges had originally been on the Allworthy estate and steadfastly refuses to reveal the identity of his partner in crime. The Squire sends Tom the next morning to be interrogated by his tutor, Rev. Thwackum, who was able to get no more out of him. The result of the incident was that Tom receives a severe thrashing from the tutor. Allworthy feels guilty afterwards, apologizes to Tom for his severity, and gives him a small horse, while Thwackum continues to insist that the boy be beaten until he reveals the truth.

Chapter 3 - The character of Mr. Square the philosopher, and of Mr. Thwackum the divine; with a dispute concerning —

Also living in the Allworthy house is a philosopher named Square. He is well-versed in the writings of Plato and Aristotle, though he is very unclear as to which of the ancients he espouses. He seems to believe mainly that all virtue is a purely theoretical matter. Needless to say, Square and Thwackum could not sit down at the same table without arguing their respective viewpoints, since Square believed in the innate virtue of man and Thwackum, a devout Calvinist, was certain that mankind was totally depraved apart from the intervention of divine grace. The former quoted the philosophers, while the latter relied on the authority of the Bible and the godly scholars who had written commentaries on it. After the incident with the partridge, the two men argued about whether true honor could exist apart from religion, with their respective positions too obvious to bother stating.

Chapter 4 - Containing a necessary apology for the author; and a childish incident, which perhaps requires an apology likewise

The author at this point pauses to assure the reader that he intends to denigrate neither virtue nor religion, but merely to hold up to ridicule two false champions of the same. The issue is not true virtue or true religion, but the lack thereof, especially in the lives of two men who lack all signs of human goodness. One day Tom and Blifil are playing together and the latter calls the former a “beggarly bastard.” Tom responds by giving him a bloody nose, at which point Blifil reports him to the Squire and Thwackum. Tom, of course, receives the blame for the altercation when Blifil denies having spoken the words that initiated the fray. Blifil defends himself by pointing to Tom’s earlier prevarication, revealing in the process that the gamekeeper had been involved in the partridge incident. Tom begs Allworthy to have mercy on the gamekeeper and even offers to give his horse back, but the Squire simply dismisses the two with an admonition to play nicely in the future.

Chapter 5 - The opinions of the divine and the philosopher concerning the two boys; with some reasons for their opinions, and other matters

Both Thwackum and Square agree that Tom was in the wrong and praise Blifil for his truthfulness, and the former insists that Allworthy is mistaken in not punishing the guilty party. The Squire does, however, dismiss the gamekeeper for allowing Tom to bear the brunt of the partridge incident. The servants and neighbors view things differently, convinced that Tom was the hero of the story and Blifil the sneaking villain. Though the Squire forbid Thwackum from punishing Tom, the tutor finds many occasions for treating him harshly while favoring Blifil; Square is similarly well-disposed toward the young master, and Blifil loses no opportunity of flattering the two men, both to their faces and before Squire Allworthy.

Chapter 6 - Containing a better reason still for the before-mentioned opinions

The extent to which Thwackum and Square seek the favor of their patron can also be explained by their mutual desire to gain the affections of the widow Blifil, despite the fact that Bridget is by now in her fifties. Both men seek Bridget’s approval by favoring her son and making life as miserable as possible for Tom. Bridget is fully aware of what they are doing and takes advantage of the situation by alternately playing one off against the other. Both men are mistaken, however, in thinking that their favoritism toward young Blifil is congenial to his mother; in fact, she despises her son as the offspring of a hated husband and is quite willing to see Tom treated as an equal by the Squire. In fact, as he grows older and more charming, Bridget begins to favor Tom over her own son and enjoy his company to such an extent that Thwackum and Square become jealous.

Chapter 7 - In which the author himself makes his appearance on the stage

Squire Allworthy, who always felt compassion for the underdog, begins to pity young Blifil, whose unfortunate standing with his own mother is known to the entire neighborhood. At the same time, he compensates by showing less affection for Tom. The author then inserts himself into the narrative to warn his readers that inner goodness is insufficient unless the outward appearance conforms to it.

Chapter 8 - A childish incident, in which, however, is seen a good-natured disposition in Tom Jones

Six months after he was given the little horse by his protector, Tom sells the horse at the town fair. Thwackum then asks what he did with the money, and when Tom refuses to tell him, he prepares to beat it out of him. Allworthy interrupts the intended thrashing, takes Tom aside, and asks him the same question. Tom confesses that he sold the horse in order to give the money to Black George, the dismissed gamekeeper, whose family was starving. Allworthy is pleased, but both Thwackum and Square remain convinced that Tom deserves a beating.

Chapter 9 - Containing an incident of a more heinous kind, with the comments of Thwackum and Square

Soon the members of the family discover that Tom has also sold a beautiful Bible that the Squire had given him. The money again was given to the gamekeeper. This time, however, the purchaser of the Bible is Master Blifil, who has no desire to see the book leave the family. Blifil slyly sees to it that Thwackum discovers the transaction, and of course the pedagogue promptly thrashes Tom for trafficking in holy objects. Both Square and Bridget, however, refuse to give the incident special significance, and Squire Allworthy takes no further action against Tom. Jones continues to assist Black George's family and almost succeeds in reconciling him to his old master. His plans are upset, however, when George poaches game from Squire Western's estate for a second time.

Chapter 10 - In which Master Blifil and Jones appear in different lights

The fact that George had poached a hare from Squire Western's property is unknown until Master Blifil chooses to reveal it to Squire Allworthy. In the process he exaggerates, claiming that "hares" had been taken by the erstwhile gamekeeper. Tom, meanwhile, has gained the notice of Squire Western by his skill in sportsmanship. He is in such favor that he decides to use his standing to obtain for Black George the position of gamekeeper on Western's estate. The means he chooses for doing so is to propose the matter to Western's beautiful daughter Sophia.

BOOK IV - Containing the Time of a Year

Chapter 1 - Containing five pages of paper

The author discourses on the ways in which poets and playwrights prepare the readers and viewers for the entrances of heroes and heroines, primarily because his heroine is about to appear.

Chapter 2 - A short hint of what we can do in the sublime, and a description of Miss Sophia Western

After a highly poetic and extremely flowery introduction, the author describes Sophia, a raven-haired eighteen-year-old beauty who is the only child of Squire Western. Not only is her appearance equal to the highest efforts of human art, but she is well-bred, well-educated, and of the finest character.

Chapter 3 - Wherein the history goes back to commemorate a trifling incident that happened some years since; but which, trifling as it was, had some future consequences

The author at this point gives the reader a flashback to when the three young people at the center of the story were about thirteen years old. Tom had taken a baby bird from its nest, tamed it, and given it to Sophia. She loved the bird and played with it often, keeping a string on its leg to make sure it didn't fly away. One day Blifil asked to hold the bird and promptly loosened the string, at which point the bird flew away and perched in a nearby tree. Tom sought to recover it and in the process fell into the canal beneath the overhanging branch, while the bird flew away and was immediately seized by a hawk and carried off. Sophia screamed, and when the adults arrived, Blifil justified his actions by arguing that all creatures deserved liberty and that we should treat others as we ourselves would wish to be treated. Western is furious with the boy and all three children are sent home.

Chapter 4 - Containing such very deep and grave matters, that some readers, perhaps, may not relish it

When the men returned to their port and pipes, both Square and Thwackum praised Blifil, though in the one case for his understanding of natural virtue and in the other for his advocacy of the Golden Rule. Western believed the boy should be punished, while Allworthy was willing to excuse him because of his generous motives. A lawyer was then consulted, who insisted that no case could be made against young Blifil. Western was frustrated that no one seemed to care that his daughter had been deprived of her bird, nor was anyone praising Tom for his courageous action in trying to recover it. Western then proposed a toast to Tom Jones.

Chapter 5 - Containing matter accommodated to every taste

The incident just described was the beginning of Sophia's affection for Tom and aversion toward young Blifil. These feelings grew in the years that followed, despite the fact that Sophia spent three of those years with her aunt, and were still in place at the point at which the story has arrived. Tom, now having reached the age of twenty, is developing a reputation among the ladies of the neighborhood, but shows no particular regard for Sophia, who has fallen quite in love with him. When the two are alone one day, Tom asks to speak to her on a matter of some importance. She is needless to say quite disappointed when the matter at hand is the welfare of the gamekeeper Black George. She readily agrees to help, however, then asks a favor of Tom. He swears that he will do anything for her, but she only asks that he be more cautious when he takes her father hunting, to which he gladly agrees. That night Sophia plays all of her father's favorite tunes on the harpsichord, then asks him about Tom's request. He quickly agrees and makes arrangements with his lawyer the next morning. Allworthy, the servants, and the villagers are much pleased with Tom's generosity, though Blifil, Thwackum, and Square are furious that such a rake should find so much favor.

Chapter 6 - An apology for the insensibility of Mr. Jones to all the charms of the lovely Sophia; in which possibly we may, in a considerable degree, lower his character in the estimation of those men of wit and gallantry who approve the heroes in most of our modern comedies

The author attempts to excuse Tom's lack of ardor toward Sophia by explaining that he is a man who, though he is unable to articulate right and wrong, is naturally inclined to do what is right and feels guilty when he does what is wrong. In other words, he lives by instincts rather than precepts, but those instincts are good and sound. In Sophia's case, he endures pangs of conscience about robbing his neighbor, who has been so kind to him, of his fortune and beloved daughter. Furthermore, he does not love her, largely because his affections are directed toward another girl - Molly Seagrim, Black George's second daughter. Molly is not beautiful in the classic sense, but is lively enough to attract Tom's attention. He often thinks of taking advantage of her, but refuses to do so out of regard for her father. She has no such qualms, however, and finally manages to seduce him, though in such a manner as to let him think that he is the aggressor. As a result, he views any feelings for Sophia as betrayal on several fronts and refuses even to consider responding to her subtle hints.

Chapter 7 - Being the shortest chapter in this book

Molly soon discovers that she is pregnant. Her mother, to conceal her condition, clothes her in a hand-me-down dress given to her by Sophia, and she then goes to church, where she is the recipient of sneers and snickers from her betters.

Chapter 8 - A battle sung by the Muse in the Homeric style, and which none but the classical reader can taste

Sophia is in church when this occurs and afterwards summons Black George, offering to take Molly into her house as her maidservant. George, knowing his daughter's condition, is reluctant, but Sophia refuses to take no for an answer. After church, however, the envious among the parishioners, seeing Molly in her fine gown, pelt her with dirt and rubbish. Molly fights back, punching one girl and throwing a skull at another. Finally she grabs a thighbone and attacks the crowd. She eventually winds up in single combat against Goody Brown, and the two do great damage to one another until Tom arrives and breaks up the fight, driving Molly's tormentors away with a horsewhip. He then takes Molly home.

Chapter 9 - Containing matter of no very peaceable colour

Molly mother and sisters blame her for wearing the fancy dress in the first place and for getting herself pregnant and say she got what she deserved. When Black George tells them of Sophia's offer, they become doubly angry, fearing that Molly's behavior will ruin their good fortune. Molly, however, refuses the offered position, considering it beneath her, and Mrs. Seagrim turns her wrath on George, blaming him for shooting the partridge, the fount of all their troubles. He quickly puts an end to the family quarrel by taking a switch to his wife.

Chapter 10 - A story told by Mr. Supple, the curate. The penetration of Squire Western. His great love for his daughter, and the return to it made by her

The next day Tom goes hunting with Squire Western and afterwards is invited to dinner. Sophia is at her most lovely and pays special attention to Tom. Mr. Supple, the parish curate, is also at dinner and tells the company about the disruption at the previous day's service. When Squire

Allworthy looked into it, he discovered that Molly was pregnant, but she refused to name the father of her baby. Tom quickly excuses himself, and his behavior leads Western to conclude that he must be the father of Molly's illegitimate child. He refuses to hold this against him, however, considering that all young gentlemen must have their fun. The only person who seems upset by this is Sophia, who asks to be excused from the table and spends the rest of the day in her room.

Chapter 11 - The narrow escape of Molly Seagrim, with some observations for which we have been forced to dive pretty deep into nature

When Tom gets home, he finds Molly in the custody of the constable, who is preparing to escort her to the House of Correction. Tom immediately intercedes for her, admitting that the child is his and begging the Squire to be merciful. Allworthy gives in, sends Molly home, and Tom gets off with a stern lecture. Thwackum, having been told of the incident by Master Blifil, gives vent to his hatred of Tom, but to no avail. Square, too, criticizes Allworthy for his leniency, suggesting that Tom had been generous to Black George simply in order to corrupt his daughter. For the first time, the Squire begins to take seriously the charges laid at his adopted son's feet.

Chapter 12 - Containing much clearer matters; but which flowed from the same fountain with those in the preceding chapter

Sophia is unable to sleep that night, and when she rises in the morning her maid eagerly shares the latest gossip with her. The maid tends to blame Molly rather than Tom, rightly suspecting that she was an eager participant in the debauchery. Sophia, who by this time is aware of the affection for Tom growing in her heart, determines to put to death all such feelings and replace them with perfect indifference. The next time she sees him, however, the old feelings return with renewed fervor. She then decides that the only way to deal with the problem is to avoid Tom, even to the extent of undertaking a lengthy visit to her aunt.

Chapter 13 - A dreadful accident which befell Sophia. The gallant behaviour of Jones, and the more dreadful consequence of that behaviour to the young lady; with a short digression in favor of the female sex

One day Squire Western invites Sophia to go hunting with him. She agrees to accompany him, not because she enjoys the sport, but in hopes of reining in his impetuosity and tendency to reckless behavior. Near the end of the second day of hunting, Sophia's horse becomes obstreperous and appears ready to throw her off. Tom, who is nearby, sees this and rides to her rescue, catching her when the horse bucks her off but breaking his arm in the process. She is unhurt, but the incident only serves to strengthen her love for Tom. It also begins to work in his own heart, as he realizes a growing affection for her.

Chapter 14 - The arrival of a surgeon. – His operations, and a long dialogue between Sophia and her maid

Tom is taken back to Squire Western's house and a surgeon is summoned to set his broken bone. He first bleeds Sophia, believing this to be an effective cure for all ailments, then turns his attention to Tom. After a long lecture on the setting of bones, the surgeon finally does what he came

to do and Tom is put to bed. Sophia's maid, who is present during the operation, reports to her mistress every detail of the procedure, giving particular attention to the handsomeness of Tom's partially disrobed body. She then tells Sophia about several occasions when Tom behaved strangely, including kissing Sophia's muff when he saw it lying on a chair, praising Sophia's harpsichord music, and referring to her as a goddess. At this Sophia blushes and sees her maid out of the room.

BOOK V - Containing a Portion of Time Somewhat Longer Than Half a Year

Chapter 1 - Of the serious in writing, and for what purpose it is introduced

The author defends his periodic interludes as essentially dull contrasting chapters that allow the reader to appreciate more fully the comic sections of the history at hand. He also ridicules literary critics as clerks who seek to function as legislators of style.

Chapter 2 - In which Mr. Jones receives many friendly visits during his confinement; with some fine touches of the passion of love, scarce visible to the naked eye

Tom is still recuperating from his broken arm at the Western home and is visited daily by Squire Allworthy, who encourages him to learn from his past mistakes. Thwackum sees Tom's injury as divine judgment and warns him that worse will befall him if he fails to repent, while Square insists that the wise man should not be troubled by such a trivial misfortune as a broken bone. Blifil visits rarely, fearful lest time spent with Tom should pollute his own sterling character. Squire Western is his usual boisterous self, while Sophia entertains Tom with her harpsichord music and his admiration for her grows apace.

Chapter 3 - Which all who have no heart will think to contain much ado about nothing

Though he is increasingly aware of Sophia's love for him, Tom knows perfectly well that Squire Western, who wants his only daughter to marry for money, would never consent to her marriage to an impoverished foundling. Furthermore, what was he to do about Molly? He swore to stand by her, and if he refused, she would be forced out in the street and probably wind up as a prostitute. He decides that he must remain faithful to Molly and forget Sophia.

Chapter 4 - A little chapter, in which is contained a little incident

One day Sophia's maid informs Tom that she has taken to wearing the muff that Tom had kissed, taking it with her wherever she goes. She even wore it while playing the harpsichord. When it interfered with her playing, her father seized it and threw it into the fire, from which Sophia quickly retrieved it. Seeing this, Tom's resolve to forget her in favor of Molly is forgotten.

Chapter 5 - A very long chapter, containing a very great incident

He still feels responsible for Molly and knows that her happiness is totally dependent on him. He therefore decides to offer her a sum of money that will allow her to live at a higher station in society. He describes his plan to her, even to the point of hoping that a reasonable amount of financial support would be sufficient to enable her to attract a suitable marriage partner. While

Molly rails against his infidelity, the curtain covering the closet falls, revealing Square among Molly's dresses and other finery. At this point Tom realizes that the philosopher's teachings are far more theoretical than practical in his own life. Square, having observed Molly during the brawl in the churchyard and finding that she had already been corrupted, pursued her and obtained her favors. Tom breaks out laughing and sees the ridiculous situation as the remedy for his dilemma. He promises not to expose Square, gladly turns Molly over to his tender mercies, and walks out of the door a free man.

Chapter 6 - By comparing which with the former, the reader may possibly correct some abuse which he hath formerly been guilty of in the application of the word Love

Tom's guilt with respect to Molly is completely removed when her jealous older sister informs him that he was not Molly's first lover and that the baby in her womb may well not be his at all. Though he is now free in his own mind to love Sophia, he remains convinced that neither her father nor Squire Allworthy could ever be brought to approve the match. He grows melancholy and seeks to avoid Sophia whenever possible, but his involuntary reactions in her presence betray him to his beloved. When she discovers the reason for his behavior, she is so filled with admiration for his disinterestedness that she falls even more deeply in love with him. One day they meet in the garden and confess their love for one another.

Chapter 7 - In which Mr. Allworthy appears on a sick-bed

Tom's arm is by now completely healed, but he continues to stay at the Western home, both because of the Squire's fondness for him and so he can be near Sophia. Meanwhile, Squire Allworthy contracts a cold which, because he ignores it, renders him bedridden. By the time he sends for the doctor, the medical man is convinced that the Squire is on his deathbed. He sends for his family and retainers except for Bridget, who is in London, and they gather around him. He tells them not to grieve at his passing because he is prepared to meet his Maker, then speaks of the provisions of his will. To Tom he gives a thousand pounds in ready money plus five hundred pounds a year, for which Tom is exceedingly grateful. He leaves a thousand pounds each to Thwackum and Square and various memorials to the servants and a few charities. Bridget receives five hundred pounds a year, and the remainder of the estate goes to Blifil. As Allworthy completes his discourse, an attorney arrives, but he insists that he is too sick to receive him and sends Blifil to deal with the man.

Chapter 8 - Containing matter rather natural than pleasing

Mrs. Wilkins is disturbed by the disposition of the Squire's property. She believes she should have received more than the other servants and is scandalized that Tom should get anything at all. Thwackum and Square also are upset, each believing that he should have received more than the other. Meanwhile, the attorney has informed Blifil that his mother has died. When they go upstairs to inform Squire Allworthy, they find him much better, well on the road to recovery. When he learns of his sister's death, he entrusts Blifil with the funeral arrangements.

Chapter 9 - Which, among other things, may serve as a comment on that saying of Aeschines, that "drunkenness shows the mind of a man, as a mirror reflects his person"

While this complaining is going on, Tom continues to sit at the Squire's bedside. When the doctor assures the company that Allworthy is out of danger, Tom is so pleased that he becomes immoderately drunk at dinner that night. Blifil takes offense at this given the recent news of his mother's death and rebukes Tom, reminding him that he doesn't even know his parentage. The two proceed to blows and are separated only through the efforts of Thwackum and the doctor. They reluctantly apologize and peace is restored, though the remainder of the dinner is spent in discourse that is awkward at best. After the rest retire, Square and the physician agree that the young men are a pair of scoundrels.

Chapter 10 - Showing the truth of many observations of Ovid, and of other more grave writers, who have proved beyond contradiction, that wine is often the forerunner of incontinency

After dinner, Tom goes for a walk to clear his head and soon begins to dream of his beloved Sophia. His meditations lead him to affirm that, should he never gain the desire of his heart, he would nonetheless remain faithful to Sophia forever. As these thoughts fill his mind, who should appear but Molly Seagrim, filthy with the residue of her day's labor. Tom is still feeling the effects of alcohol in his system, and before long he and Molly retire into a thicket. Soon Blifil and Thwackum pass by and see the two plunging into the bushes. They make so much noise in pursuing their quarry, however, that Tom is able to take appropriate action.

Chapter 11 - In which a simile in Mr. Pope's period of a mile introduces as bloody a battle as can possibly be fought without the assistance of steel or cold iron

As Blifil and Thwackum approach, Tom leaps from the thicket and confronts them in order to allow Molly to escape. Thwackum demands to know the identity of Tom's companion, which he refuses to reveal. Thwackum then heads for the thicket, accompanied by Blifil. Tom soon knocks Blifil down, but Thwackum, who was a champion boxer in school, is another matter. After some time Tom gains the upper hand, but by then Blifil has recovered and the two gang up on Tom. Defeat seems assured until Squire Western comes on the scene and assists Tom in vanquishing his foes.

Chapter 12 - In which is seen a more moving spectacle than all the blood in the bodies of Thwackum and Blifil, and of twenty other such, is capable of producing

When the fight is concluded, Sophia and her aunt arrive on the scene. The latter attends to Blifil, who is flat on his back, while Sophia, at the sight of the blood-spattered Mr. Jones, faints on the spot. Tom picks up Sophia and carries her bodily to a nearby stream, where he revives her with liberal applications of vivifying water. Tom thus becomes the hero of the day. Western is so gratified that he swears that he is willing to give Tom anything he desires - except for his daughter, his estate, his favorite horses, or his fox hounds. When Tom washes himself off, Sophia sees his bruises and is more concerned for him than for herself. When Western asks the reason for the quarrel, Thwackum immediately affirms that it was over a wench and begs the Squire to seek her out. By this time Molly has gone, however, and Western is quite prepared to excuse Tom's drunken lapse.

BOOK VI - Containing About Three Weeks

Chapter 1 - Of love

The author ridicules philosophers who deny the existence of love and compares them with fools who deny the existence of God. He then carefully defines love as “the benevolent disposition which is gratified by contributing to the happiness of others” and distinguishes it from mere hunger or desire for self-gratification.

Chapter 2 - The character of Mrs. Western. Her great learning and knowledge of the world, and an instance of the deep penetration which she derived from those advantages

Following the incident in the woods, Tom and the Western family have a jolly evening together, though Sophia seems a bit restrained in her manner. Mrs. Western, who considers herself an expert on human nature, is convinced that Sophia is in love. When she reports this to her brother, he is furious that she would contemplate such a thing without telling him. When she assures him that the object of Sophia’s affections is young Blifil, Western is mollified, looking favorably on the possibility of uniting the two adjacent estates in the future. He then goes on to insult his sister’s knowledge of politics, on which she prides herself, causing a temporary rift, which is soon healed by the ministrations of Sophia. Western is now determined to approach Allworthy and propose the match in question.

Chapter 3 - Containing two defiances to the critics

Mrs. Western drops hints to Sophia that she knows of her secret passion, so Sophia is determined to hide her love for Tom as much as possible. She does this by paying a great deal of attention to Blifil and none at all to Tom. She overplays her part to such an extent that her aunt begins to suspect her sincerity, though her father is pleased beyond measure. Soon after Allworthy has dinner with the Westerns, and after dinner Squire Western makes his proposal. Allworthy responds judiciously, speaking of the advantages of the match and agreeing in principle if the two young people are in accord. Western, however, cares nothing for the preferences of the young couple, insisting that they must simply obey their parents. The author concludes the chapter by praising the wisdom of Squire Allworthy, who has mastered the practice of “never buying anything at too dear a price.”

Chapter 4 - Containing sundry curious matters

When they get home, Allworthy communicates Western’s proposal to Blifil. The young man doesn’t love Sophia, but his avarice and ambition enable him to take a favorable position on the match. Allworthy is disappointed by the coldness of Blifil’s response and spends some time singing Sophia’s praises. Blifil launches into a discourse on the virtues of love and marriage, and this satisfies Allworthy, who sends a letter of acceptance to Western the next morning. Western makes plans for the courtship to begin immediately, though he neglects to consult Sophia on the matter. Instead, he entrusts the task to his sister.

Chapter 5 - In which is related what passed between Sophia and her aunt

Mrs. Western goes to Sophia's room and catches her reading a romance, then assures her that she not only knows of her niece's secret love, but wholly approves of it. Not only that, but the Squire approves as well and has arranged for her to meet her lover that very afternoon. Sophia, somewhat flustered, begins to recount Tom's fine qualities and insist that these more than compensate for his lowly birth. When her aunt remarks that Blifil is hardly lowborn, Sophia blanches and admits that the object of her affection is Tom Jones. At this point Mrs. Western explodes in fury at the very thought that her niece would think of allying their family to one born out of wedlock. Sophia insists that she had no intention of revealing her affection for Tom and would not do so in the future, but would be content to die in single misery. She then begs her aunt not to reveal what she has confessed. She agrees on condition that Sophia meet Blifil that afternoon and act toward him as her future husband. Sophia asks that at least she be given time, either to change her father's mind or to condition herself to the inevitable, but her aunt is determined that the marriage be conducted as soon as possible in order to save Sophia from the clutches of young Mr. Jones.

Chapter 6 - Containing a dialogue between Sophia and Mrs. Honour, which may a little relieve those tender affections which the foregoing scene may have raised in the mind of a good-natured reader

During the foregoing conversation, Mrs. Honour, the housekeeper, has been listening at the keyhole. After Mrs. Western leaves, she enters to find Sophia in tears. When she asks what is the matter, Sophia tells her that she is being forced to marry someone she hates. Mrs. Honour then informs her that Tom has been wandering near the canal in obvious distress, but when Sophia goes to meet him, he has already left.

Chapter 7 - A picture of formal courtship in miniature, as it always ought to be drawn, and a scene of a tenderer kind painted at full length

Before Blifil's arrival, Squire Western tells Sophia of his plans for her marriage, but he obviously still thinks that she is in love with Blifil. Sophia has no intention of disillusioning him and determines to receive her intended civilly. The brief time spent by the two lovers in one another's company is very awkward, and conversation is at a minimum. Blifil leaves very pleased with himself and without a clue regarding the relationship between Tom and Sophia. When he gives an account of the visit to the Squire, the latter is inordinately pleased. He rushes in and pours out his affection on his daughter, insisting that nothing means more to him than her happiness. She seizes on the opportunity to confess that she hates Blifil and begs him to spare her the intended marriage. He rapidly changes his tune and demands that she marry the man of his choice or he will cast her out without a farthing. He storms out of the room, leaving Sophia prostrate on the floor, and runs into Tom, to whom he explains the reason for his fury. All this is news to Tom, who offers to go to Sophia and try to convince her to submit to her father's will.

Chapter 8 - The meeting between Jones and Sophia

Tom comforts Sophia, professes his undying love, and makes her promise that she will never give herself to Blifil.

Chapter 9 - Being of a much more tempestuous kind than the former

While this conversation is taking place, Western meets his sister in the hallway and rehearses for her his encounter with Sophia. She then tells him of her meeting with her niece, including her profession of love for Tom. Unsurprisingly, Western loses his temper and charges toward Sophia's room, shouting curses on the way. Upon hearing this, Sophia faints, so that Western bursts through the door to find her in Tom's arms. Finding his daughter in such a condition, he forgets all about his anger and calls for help. Sophia is quickly revived and is taken away by her aunt and the servants. At this point Western is on the verge of attacking Tom, but is restrained by the parson. Western struggles to free himself and challenges Tom to a fight, but the latter insists that he will never raise an angry hand against the father of his beloved. Parson Supple convinces Tom to leave, after which he rebukes Western for his unrestrained anger.

Chapter 10 - In which Mr. Western visits Mr. Allworthy

Western is still furious, and he bursts into Squire Allworthy's house spewing venom against Tom and declaring that his daughter shall have nothing of his fortune if she insists on marrying him. Allworthy, who knows nothing of any of this, is dumbfounded. Western demands that Allworthy keep his ward away from his house and declares that he will keep Sophia under lock and key until she marries Blifil. After Western leaves, Allworthy asks Blifil what he intends to do. Blifil declares that he is reluctant to pursue a woman whose heart inclines elsewhere, but admits that pursuing the marriage would be best for everyone concerned, especially since Tom is such a disreputable character. He claims that Tom engaged in wild revelry while Allworthy was sick, struck Blifil when he tried to intervene, and later had an assignation with Molly in the woods that was interrupted by Thwackum, who was then beaten mercilessly by Tom. The Squire calls Thwackum, who confirms Blifil's story. With these lies and half-truths, Blifil has his revenge.

Chapter 11 - A short chapter; but which contains sufficient matter to affect the good-natured reader

After dinner, Allworthy confronts Tom with the recent revelations and tells him that, unless he can clear himself of these charges, he will be banished forever. Tom struggles to defend himself, not knowing what Blifil has told his benefactor, and is forthwith cast out of the house, though Allworthy does send him away with five hundred pounds. The neighbors, when word of this gets out, uniformly support Tom and criticize Allworthy for his harshness.

Chapter 12 - Containing love-letters, etc.

Tom leaves in despair, collapses by a brook, and when he comes to himself ponders what he should do with regard to Sophia. He considers running away with her, but eventually decides that it would be better for all concerned if he simply forgot about her and moved on with his life. He writes a farewell letter to her, telling her that she must put their love aside and banish him from her mind. After finishing the letter, he returns to the brook to gather his things but is unable to find his pocketbook, which contains the five hundred pounds given him by the Squire. He encounters Black George, who helps him in his search but fails to mention that he has pocketed the money. Tom then asks George to convey his missive to Sophia by way of Mrs. Honour. When George finds her, she passes to him a letter for Tom from Sophia. Tom is gratified to read that his love swears that she will never give her hand or heart to Blifil, whom she despises. Meanwhile, he writes a letter to

Squire Allworthy, promising to abide by his prohibition and giving that name of a town five miles distant where he intends to stay for the present.

Chapter 13 - The behaviour of Sophia on the present occasion; which none of her sex will blame, who are capable of behaving in the same manner. And the discussion of a knotty point in the court of conscience

For most of the next day, Mrs. Western lectures her niece on the follies of love and the importance of using marriage to ensure one's fortune. When Squire Western returns, he locks Sophia in her room and orders Honour to let no one in except himself and his sister and forbids her from giving Sophia writing implements of any kind. When Sophia receives Tom's letter, she is distraught, convinced that no man who truly loved a woman could ever give her up for any reason whatsoever. The housemaid tells Sophia that Tom has been thrown out of his house by Squire Allworthy. Sophia soon realizes the nobility of Tom's motives and orders Honour to take all the money she has on hand and see that Tom gets it. She passes the purse containing sixteen guineas to Black George, who after debating whether he should keep this money as well, finally delivers it to Tom.

Chapter 14 - A short chapter, containing a short dialogue between Squire Western and his sister

When Squire Western tells his sister that he has confined Sophia to her room, Mrs. Western rebukes him for undoing everything she was trying to accomplish with her lectures. She eventually convinces him to place Sophia under her care, and as a result the young lady is released from her imprisonment.

BOOK VII - Containing Three Days

Chapter 1 - A comparison between the world and the stage

The author notes that language associated with the stage is often applied to real life, but that we rarely consider the theater audience in such comparisons. He argues that the readers of the novel constitute such an audience, then discusses the variety of responses that Black George's theft of Tom's five hundred pounds is likely to elicit. He advises patience, maintaining that one action does not a villain make and that the reader should be patient and wait for the story to unfold.

Chapter 2 - Containing a conversation which Mr. Jones had with himself

When Tom receives his possessions from Squire Allworthy, they are accompanied by a letter from Blifil that informs him that he should entertain no hope of any reconciliation in the future and that the best thing he can do is leave the country immediately and seek to amend his life. He is reluctant to leave Sophia, but knows he must do so for her sake. Finally he decides to go to sea and heads for Bristol in order to do so.

Chapter 3 - Containing several dialogues

On the morning of Tom's departure, Mrs. Western holds a long conversation with Sophia on the subject of marriage as a means of assuring a girl's fortune, insisting that it has nothing to do either with romance or religion. She therefore demands that Sophia accede to the planned marriage with Blifil, which the young lady absolutely refuses to do because she can't stand the man. Her aunt argues that this should be no objection, since in most of the couples of whom she has knowledge the partners cordially detest one another. Sophia falls on her knees and begs her aunt with tears not to force her to agree to something that is sure to make her miserable, but Mrs. Western is adamant. At this point the Squire interrupts their conversation, and the two siblings proceed to blame one another for Sophia's obstinacy. Soon she is criticizing his lack of manners, and the two then fall to arguing politics. By the time they are done shouting and cursing at one another, Mrs. Western declares she intends to leave the house that very morning. Sophia, meanwhile, stands by in silence.

Chapter 4 - A picture of a country gentlewoman taken from the life

At this point Sophia's thoughts turn to her deceased mother. Western hardly ever quarreled with his wife, largely because she was completely submissive to him and the two only saw one another at mealtimes. In short, she was more a good servant than a good wife, and she could not be said to have been happy, especially because her husband came to hate her and blamed her for everything that went wrong. Even after her death, he aimed frequent abuse in her direction, especially in the presence of Sophia, whom he feared loved her mother more than her father.

Chapter 5 - The generous behaviour of Sophia towards her aunt

Despite her father's insistence, Sophia refuses to confirm his slanders of either her mother or her aunt. In fact, she hints that Mrs. Western had planned to leave her entire fortune to her brother. He, suddenly fearful of losing a potential inheritance, then blames Sophia for the rift with his sister, but she begs him to attempt to mend their relationship, which he hastens to do. Afterward, Mrs. Honour tries to comfort Sophia by listing all the eligible bachelors in the neighborhood, but for some reason she refuses to be comforted.

Chapter 6 - Containing great variety of matter

Squire Western succeeds in preventing his sister's departure and the two immediately agree that the real problem is Sophia, leading them to plot together as to how she ought to be brought to heel. They decide that the best approach is to arrange for the marriage with Blifil to take place as soon as possible, but without notifying Sophia of their intentions. Blifil soon arrives and the Squire goes upstairs and commands Sophia to receive him, which she does with great reluctance and considerable coldness. Western, overhearing the conference, determines to hold the wedding the following day. Blifil is reluctant to go forward without Sophia's consent, but the Squire convinces him that waiting for a woman is utter folly. The young man is by now convinced that Sophia hates him, but chooses to go forward anyway, motivated by a combination of lust, greed, a desire for conquest, and revenge against Tom. He therefore sets out to convince the two squires that he and Sophia are madly in love and calls on the assistance of Thwackum's philosophy that the end justifies the means when the end is religious for that purpose. Western cares nothing for Sophia's feelings and is quite willing to assist in deceiving Allworthy, which Blifil somehow succeeds in doing

without telling any overt falsehoods. The two squires are thus ready to move forward, but have not accounted for the determination of Sophia.

Chapter 7 - A strange resolution of Sophia, and a more strange stratagem of Mrs. Honour

When Honour hears of the plans of her master, she immediately informs Sophia. The intended bride insists that she would sooner drive a dagger through her heart than marry Blifil and plans, with Honour's assistance, to run away that very night to London, where she hopes to stay with a great lady of her acquaintance. Sophia cares nothing for the possessions she will have to leave behind, but Honour cares very much about her clothes. She decides that the only way she can take them with her is to offend the Squire and force him to dismiss her that very afternoon.

Chapter 8 - Containing scenes of altercation, of no very uncommon kind

Honour is tempted to tell her master everything in hopes of a reward, but finally decides that she cannot pass up the opportunity to see London, and furthermore that Sophia is likely to be much more generous than the Squire despite the fact that her ability to be generous lay in the future, so fidelity wins out over treachery. The verdict is sealed when Mrs. Western's maid, who considers Honour an inferior, starts a quarrel during which Honour compares Mrs. Western's looks unfavorably with those of Sophia. The maid promptly reports her words with some embellishment, and Mrs. Western goes off in search of her brother to demand that the insolent upstart be dismissed forthwith. After she leaves, the two housemaids engage in a violent altercation in which Honour is victorious.

Chapter 9 - The wise demeanour of Mr. Western in the character of a magistrate. A hint to justices of peace concerning the necessary qualifications of a clerk; with extraordinary instances of paternal madness and filial affection

Mrs. Western demands that her brother not only dismiss Honour, but also send her to prison for her grievous offense. The Squire's clerk, however, convinces him that he lacked the authority to commit someone to prison for rudeness. Honour soon packs and leaves, but Sophia is forced to hold uncomfortable conferences with both her father and her aunt. Her aunt reasons with her sternly and her father browbeats her into what he perceives as consent to the marriage. The outpouring of love that follows is almost enough to get Sophia to change her mind, but she soon remembers Tom and steels herself for the planned flight from her home.

Chapter 10 - Containing several matters, natural enough perhaps, but low

The man who is guiding Tom to Bristol has no idea of how to get there and in fact is taking him in the wrong direction. When Tom stops at a village and asks directions, he gets so many contradictory answers that he despairs of reaching his destination. Finally a kindly Quaker advises him to stay the night and resume his journey in the morning. The Quaker, noticing that Tom is depressed, shares his own troubles - his beloved daughter has run off with an impoverished young man because of love while spurning an advantageous match planned by her father. To Tom this sounds all too familiar, and he advises the man to welcome his daughter back with open arms. The Quaker indignantly refuses and Tom escorts him forcibly from the room. Before long, Tom's guide

tells the entire company about Tom's history, after which the landlord refuses Tom a bed, fearing that he might be a thief.

Chapter 11 - The adventure of a company of soldiers

Tom is forced to sleep in a chair while the landlord keeps a sharp eye on him. In the middle of the night, a company of soldiers barge into the public house. After imbibing freely from the landlord's store, the soldiers begin to argue among themselves about the proper distribution of the bill. Tom finally silences them all and offers to pay the entire cost of their revels. The soldiers are mightily pleased by his generosity and invite him to join them as a volunteer as they seek to turn back the Jacobite rebels seeking to overthrow the king, to which Tom readily agrees, though he refuses actually to enlist. [This dates the events of this portion of the novel to 1745.]

Chapter 12 - The adventure of a company of officers

The lieutenant who commanded the band of soldiers had held the same rank for forty years, largely because his beautiful wife had refused her favors to the colonel who was in charge of his advancement. He is a kind and moral man respected by all. One evening, the officers are engaging in their usual banter. As they drink, Tom proposes a toast to Sophia. One of the ensigns, who had been the butt of one of Tom's jests, says that he knows the girl, and that in fact she has slept with half the young population of Bath. He then describes her precisely, along with her father's estate. Tom calls him a liar, after which the ensign throws a bottle at Tom's head, rendering him senseless. The ensign admits that he was lying, but the lieutenant arrests him for assault. The landlady quickly stops the bleeding in Tom's head, and when the doctor arrives, he orders him to bed immediately.

Chapter 13 - Containing the great address of the landlady, the great learning of a surgeon, and the solid skill in casuistry of the worthy lieutenant

While the landlady condemns Tom as a lowlife who has no right to the pretensions of a gentleman, the lieutenant argues that he is more of a gentleman than the officer who attacked him. The doctor then enters on a lengthy and unintelligible discourse about matters medical, leaving the company none the wiser about Tom's condition. The lieutenant goes upstairs to find Tom much better and proposes that he fight a duel with the offending ensign. Tom argues that the Bible says to love one's enemies, and therefore he is disinclined to engage in a duel, but the lieutenant assures him that soldiers are excluded from the cited maxim, which was probably mistranslated anyway.

Chapter 14 - A most dreadful chapter indeed; and which few readers ought to venture upon in an evening, especially when alone

Tom quickly arranges to acquire a sword, though the sergeant from whom he purchases it tries to cheat him, demanding an exorbitant price for vastly inferior merchandise. Tom threatens to report his extortionate asking price and the sergeant relents. Despite his pangs of conscience, Tom determines to go through with the duel. At midnight he goes in search of the ensign. His head is bandaged and he is pale and covered with blood. The sentinel thinks he is a ghost and passes out on the spot. Tom then finds that the ensign has escaped, so he goes quietly back to his room. When the sentinel recovers, he insists that the ensign was spirited away by the devil in the form of Tom

Jones' ghost. The lieutenant refuses to believe his story and places him under guard for allowing his prisoner to escape.

Chapter 15 - The conclusion of the foregoing adventure

The ensign, in fact, had escaped with the connivance of the landlady, who advised him to climb up the chimney of the structure in which he was confined and enter the kitchen in the same way, for which he paid her by entrusting to her hand the company's entire treasury. While the company members are carousing downstairs, Jones rings his bell and finally succeeds in getting the lieutenant to come to his room. He then tells him the truth about what happened that night and the lieutenant agrees to release the sentinel.

BOOK VIII - Containing About Two Days

Chapter 1 - A wonderful long chapter concerning the marvellous; being much the longest of all our introductory chapters

The author argues that introducing the supernatural into tales has a tendency to make the reader question the credibility of the narrative. Homer did so constantly, but he lived in and wrote for a pagan society, which he was probably in any case satirizing. In a Christian environment, one is not free to bring divine intervention into one's plot; about the best an author can hope to do is introduce a ghost or two, while elves and fairies are reserved for fantasy, which no one would ever mistake for historical narrative. Fielding thus intends to stick to what is probable or at least possible. An author may thus make use of the marvelous, but should never stray into the incredible. This is true not only of events, but also of characters, who must remain true to themselves throughout the narrative.

Chapter 2 - In which the landlady pays a visit to Mr. Jones

Tom lies awake all night thinking of Sophia, and in the morning the landlady brings him breakfast. As they converse, she reveals that she knows Sophia and her aunt well because they have often patronized her establishment. She also remembers Tom because she was employed by Squire Allworthy when he was a young child.

Chapter 3 - In which the surgeon makes his second appearance

Soon the doctor returns, announces that Tom is in grave danger, and insists on bleeding him. This Tom adamantly refuses, though the doctor fears for the consequences. When the doctor complains to the landlady, she warns him that Tom has no money. He immediately barges into the sick room, wakes Tom from a sound sleep in which he is dreaming of Sophia, and demands payment, which Tom refuses to give on the grounds that the doctor has left his job half done. The surgeon then storms out of the room, much to Tom's relief.

Chapter 4 - In which is introduced one of the pleasantest barbers that was ever recorded in history, the barber of Bagdad, or he in Don Quixote, not excepted

After waking from a long sleep, Tom goes down to the kitchen to find something to eat. The landlady obliges him, and while he is waiting for his dinner to cook, he calls for a barber, a man known as Little Benjamin, an inveterate jokester. The barber makes jokes in Latin as he shaves Tom, who realizes that he is educated far better than most men of his vocation. Tom invites him to sit down for a drink after dinner, but while Tom is eating, the barber and landlady gossip about Tom's past, of which each knows very little indeed.

Chapter 5 - A dialogue between Mr. Jones and the barber

When Benjamin joins Tom after dinner, he immediately identifies him by name and asks after Squire Allworthy. At first Tom distrusts the man, but after some conversation decides to reveal all and pours out his entire history, leaving out only the false accusations lodged against him by his enemies. Finally he somewhat reluctantly reveals the name of his beloved, swearing the barber to secrecy about all he has heard.

Chapter 6 - In which more of the talents of Mr. Benjamin will appear, as well as who this extraordinary person was

The next morning Tom calls for a doctor and is told that Benjamin is the best man available; he clearly is a man of many talents. When Benjamin examines Tom's wound, he trembles at the damage done by the previous physician and swears that he can cure Tom within a few days. Tom then asks the barber-surgeon to tell his story, which he gladly does. When he begins by announcing that Tom has been his greatest enemy in life, the young man for obvious reasons is startled. The puzzle is solved when the barber reveals that his real name is Partridge - the same man who was thought to be Tom's biological father. Partridge denies the charge and insists that Tom is destined to make amends for all the suffering that has unjustly been visited upon the former teacher. Tom is happy to do anything he can to restore the man's fortunes and reputation but has no idea how this might be accomplished. At this point Partridge asks nothing more than permission to accompany Tom on his journey, to which the latter readily consents.

Chapter 7 - Containing better reasons than any which have yet appeared for the conduct of Partridge; an apology for the weakness of Jones; and some further anecdotes concerning my landlady

Partridge is convinced that Tom has run away from Squire Allworthy for no good reason; he knows nothing of the incident with Thwackum. He therefore believes that, if he can convince Tom to return to his benefactor, Allworthy will be so grateful that he will restore Partridge to his former position. The next morning Tom meets the landlord of the inn, a self-indulgent man who leaves the entire running of the business to his wife. Before Tom and Partridge go on their way, she overcharges them obscenely.

Chapter 8 - Jones arrives at Gloucester and goes to the Bell; the character of that house, and of a petty-fogger which he there meets with

Upon arriving at Gloucester, Tom and Partridge stay at the Bell, an excellent inn run by George Whitefield's brother, who apparently remains untainted by the Methodism of the famous preacher. His wife tried out the sect for three weeks, but finding no moving of the Spirit in her heart,

returned to serving as in her husband's inn. Tom and his companion meet an attorney there who had done business with Allworthy, along with a supposed lawyer whose speech far outran his actual performance. The latter begins to spread gossip about Tom to the landlady, which she believes implicitly. When her behavior toward Tom changes, he decides to leave her house immediately.

Chapter 9 - Containing several dialogues between Jones and Partridge, concerning love, cold, hunger, and other matters; with the lucky and narrow escape of Partridge, as he was on the very brink of making a fatal discovery to his friend

As Tom and Partridge travel, the latter complains about the cold and wonders why they left such a delightful establishment as the Gloucester inn. Tom asks the barber if he was ever in love; Partridge admits that he was, but made the mistake of marrying the woman, which did not turn out well. Tom mourns the loss of Sophia, but Partridge assures him that he can get her back if he simply returns home. This Tom refuses to do. Instead, he is determined to give his life in the service of his country. Partridge tells him that the rebellion is almost over and that the king's men will win, but stops short of telling Tom that he is a Jacobite, while Tom is a supporter of the king.

Chapter 10 - In which our travellers meet with a very extraordinary adventure

Tom and Partridge arrive at the base of a high hill. Tom is determined to climb it, but Partridge prefers to remain below. Before Tom can get started, Partridge sees a light through the trees and the two go toward it, hoping to find a place of shelter. They arrive at a small cottage, where after some discussion and the payment of half a crown they are admitted. They find the house decorated with all sorts of valuable curiosities. The woman who grants them entrance tells them that her master is a recluse who has traveled much; he often walks alone at night, and the neighbors, who are afraid of him, call him the Man of the Hill. She warns them that they must leave before her master returns. They soon hear the sounds of a scuffle outside, and Tom grabs a sword and rushes out to find the master of the house under attack by two ruffians. Tom quickly drives them off and the old man invites him and Partridge inside. Their host is very tall with a long white beard and dressed entirely in animal skins. He thanks Tom for saving his life, but Tom affirms that he risked something on which he places no value. He perceives that the old man also must have had an unhappy life that has led him to separate himself from society and begs him to tell his story.

Chapter 11 - In which the Man of the Hill begins to relate his history

The old man tells Tom that he is 88 years old, the younger son of a gentleman farmer. His older brother was favored by his shrewish mother, cared nothing for education, and became a crack shot. He, on the other hand, was a gifted scholar who ultimately went to Oxford. There he fell into bad company, notably a young profligate named Sir George Gresham who led him astray. He not only fell into all sorts of dissolute behavior, but also fell into debt, which his father finally refused to pay. His debt finally became so burdensome that he stole forty guineas from his roommate, who then reported him to the Vice-Chancellor, forcing him to flee the university with his mistress and set his course for London, where he soon spent his purloined riches. His mistress then promptly betrayed him to the authorities and he was sent to jail, from which he was soon freed when no one appeared to testify against him. At this point Partridge interrupts and insists on telling a story of his

own about a horse thief who was hanged and later came back as a ghost to haunt and in fact beat up the man who had testified against him.

Chapter 12 - In which the Man of the Hill continues his history

Burdened with guilt and with his reputation in tatters, the Man of the Hill considered returning home and seeking his father's forgiveness, but doubted that he could ever make amends for what he had done. Alone in London, without friends or funds, he was near despair when he by chance met a former fellow-student from Oxford, one Watson. He takes his former friend to a pub for a meal, congratulates him on his successful robbery, and suggests that he should learn to support himself through gambling. He promptly initiates him into the secrets of the game.

Chapter 13 - In which the foregoing story is further continued

For two years he lived by taking advantage of the naive and inexperienced, though often he drank away his profits. One night when he had again been reduced to penury he came upon a man who had been beaten and robbed by ruffians. He took him to the nearest tavern and called for a doctor. When the wounded man began to recover, he recognized his rescuer as none other than his son, whom he had not seen in many years. The two are quickly reconciled, and the father upbraided the son for failing to write to him. He then informed him that his wicked mother had died and begged him to return home. At home, his father encouraged him to marry, but he instead turned to a serious study of the classics, seeking the wisdom of such as Plato and Aristotle, but soon found them empty and turned to the study of the Scriptures. Four years later his father died, leaving his estate to the dissolute older brother. He and his sportsmen friends continually ridiculed the younger brother and his scholarly companions. Suffering physical infirmities, he went to Bath to seek a cure. There he encountered a man about to commit suicide and rescued him. The man was none other than his gambler friend Watson.

Chapter 14 - In which the Man of the Hill concludes his history

Watson related his woes to his rescuer, who then tried to convince him never again to seek to take his own life. Watson made no such promises, but insisted that a loan of a hundred pounds would relieve his troubles. His friend provided the money when given the assurance that it would not be squandered in gambling. He gave Watson fifty pounds and promised to return later with the rest, but when he did so, he found that Watson had already gambled most of it away. He nonetheless gave him the rest of the money. Soon an apothecary entered and announced that the Duke of Monmouth was leading a rebellion against James II (the date of this rebellion was 1685). The rebellion failed, but James II was driven out by William of Orange three years later. When Tom informs the old man that two later rebellions sought to return the Stuarts to the throne (1715 and 1745), one of which is raging at the present time, he is incredulous. The old man returns to his story and tells Tom that he and Watson joined the rebellion under Monmouth. The Duke was defeated, but Watson and the narrator escaped and were taken in by an old woman living in an isolated cottage. Watson left the next morning and immediately betrayed his friend to the authorities, who arrested him and conducted him to jail. On the way, however, the soldiers were summoned to battle and the two prisoners escaped. After the Glorious Revolution, he returned home, made peace with his

brother, and found comfort and isolation in the cottage in which he is now living, though he often traveled abroad and accumulated the treasures with which he is now surrounded.

Chapter 15 - A brief history of Europe; and a curious discourse between Mr. Jones and the Man of the Hill

His travels led him to many lands, where he came to appreciate the varied wonders of God's creation while being disillusioned with the only part of that creation he sought to avoid - mankind. When Tom asks him if he perceived any differences, he finally admits that the Turks are the best because they are generally silent and leave people alone, while the French are the worst because they never stop talking and boasting of the superiority of their nation. When Tom asks him how he manages to fill his time, he responds that he is never bored because he gives his life to the contemplation of the glories of God. Tom tries to convince him that not all men are wicked and that his estimate of mankind should be based on the best rather than the worst of the species. He finally despairs of convincing the man, and the two go for a walk while Partridge takes a nap.

BOOK IX - Containing Twelve Hours

Chapter 1 - Of those who lawfully may, and of those who may not, write such histories as this

The author enumerates the abilities that are necessary in order to write effectively in the historical genre. Given that knowledge of Latin is essential, he then adds creative genius, discerning judgment, knowledge of history and letters, experience of human nature in all its variety, and a heart that enables him to identify with the emotions of his subjects.

Chapter 2 - Containing a very surprising adventure indeed, which Mr. Jones met with in his walk with the Man of the Hill

Early one morning, Tom and the Man of the Hill go for a walk to a nearby hilltop. Suddenly they hear a woman screaming. Tom rushes down the hill into a thicket and there finds a woman, half naked, being strung up to a tree by a scoundrel. Tom knocks out the assailant and binds his hands. When he regains consciousness, Tom realizes he is none other than Ensign Northerton, the man who had betrayed Tom earlier. The woman is middle-aged and apparently far from home, so Tom asks the Man of the Hill to provide clothing and temporary shelter for her. The old man instead tells him to take her to Upton, a nearby town. When he returns, the villain has fled, but he successfully escorts the woman to the town in question.

Chapter 3 - The arrival of Mr. Jones with his lady at the inn; with a very full description of the battle of Upton

Tom takes the woman to an inn and asks the landlady to provide her with some clothes, though the landlady is more inclined to attack what she considers to be a woman of ill repute with a broomstick. When Tom asks for her help, she attacks him and is joined in the assault by her husband. Partridge then arrives to assist Tom, soon joined by the naked lady from upstairs, who has now covered herself with a pillowcase. Finally the chambermaid joins in. The battle is only brought

to a close when a coach arrives at the inn, at which point the landlord and landlady leave to attend to their new guests.

Chapter 4 - In which the arrival of a man of war puts a final end to hostilities, and causes the conclusion of a firm and lasting peace between all parties

Soon a sergeant and his soldiers enter with a deserter in tow. He recognizes the unfortunate woman as the wife of Captain Waters and treats her with great respect. Hearing this, the landlady apologizes profusely and offers Mrs. Waters one of her gowns. Tom begs her to accept, and peace thus comes to all. Partridge, who had been soundly thrashed by the chambermaid, is busy washing his cut and bruised face and sees none of this. Drinks are enjoyed by all, and Tom goes upstairs to check on Mrs. Waters.

Chapter 5 - An apology for all heroes who have good stomachs, with a description of a battle of the amorous kind

Tom is starving and promptly manages to consume three pounds of beef. Mrs. Waters, meanwhile, eats very little, but begins to exercise her feminine wiles, determined to seduce her rescuer. He pays little attention to her while he is eating, but once dinner is over, she succeeds in her endeavor.

Chapter 6 - A friendly conversation in the kitchen, had a very common, though not very friendly, conclusion

Meanwhile, down in the kitchen, the landlord and landlady, the sergeant, a coachman, and Partridge continue to imbibe. The sergeant tells those gathered that Captain and Mrs. Waters adhere rather loosely to their marriage vows, and that Mrs. Waters had been intimate with Ensign Northerton. No one is in the mood to condemn the woman for her behavior, but soon the landlord and his wife begin to quarrel over their initial treatment of her and Tom. The sergeant interrupts the argument to ask Partridge where he and Tom are going. Partridge doesn't know, but tells them that Tom is the heir of Squire Allworthy and will one day inherit his estate. Soon talk turns to the Man of the Hill. The landlord and his wife insist that he is the devil in disguise, to which Partridge immediately agrees. The conversation takes many twists and turns with little understanding on all sides until the sergeant is convinced that the landlord has insulted the army. He is itching for a fight, and the coachman takes him up on his challenge and receives a sound drubbing. The young lady and her maid who had been brought to the inn by the coachman desire to leave, but are unable to do so because their driver is not only well pummeled, but also very drunk.

Chapter 7 - Containing a fuller account of Mrs. Waters, and by what means she came into that distressful situation from which she was rescued by Jones

Northerton and Mrs. Waters had for some time been intimate, and when he escaped from his captivity, he hastened to meet her in Worcester, where she had promised to wait for him. They agreed to flee the country - a journey for which Mrs. Waters was to provide the finances. After traveling several hours on foot along the road, they passed into a forest to avoid detection. There

Northerton assaulted his companion with the intention of robbing her and going on alone. His dastardly intentions were foiled by the intervention of Tom, however.

BOOK X - In Which the History Goes Forward About Twelve Hours

Chapter 1 - Containing instructions very necessary to be perused by modern critics

The author warns critics not to be hasty in concluding that an episode in the book is irrelevant, that two characters in the book are too similar to one another, or that a character is a bad person because he or she is not perfectly good. Besides, if the vices of those we admire lead to painful consequences, the reader learns to shun such vices.

Chapter 2 - Containing the arrival of an Irish gentleman, with very extraordinary adventures which ensued at the inn

Late one night, all in the inn are asleep except for the chambermaid, who is cleaning up the kitchen. At midnight a rider arrives and asks her if a lady happens to be in the house. He claims to be seeking his wife and offers her a large reward for information concerning the woman. The chambermaid has no doubt that the late arrival seeks Mrs. Waters and willingly conducts him to her room. He finds the door locked and promptly breaks it down, only to find Tom in his wife's bed. The two immediately engage in fisticuffs, rousing a late-arriving Irishman in the next room. He knows the intruder, whose name is Fitzpatrick, and points out to him that the woman in the bed is in fact not his wife at all. The landlady is distraught at the upheaval, and Mrs. Waters insists that she had been alone in her bed when these ruffians had broken in with undoubtedly dastardly intent. Tom, in order to spare her reputation, claims that he rushed in to rescue her when he heard the door crashing open.

Chapter 3 - A dialogue between the landlady and Susan the chambermaid, proper to be read by all innkeepers and their servants; with the arrival, and affable behaviour of a beautiful young lady; which may teach persons of condition how they may acquire the love of the whole world

After the men leave, the landlady asks Susan about the man who entered her room in so unceremonious a fashion. Susan, neglecting to mention the gratuity she received, told the whole story, including finding Tom in Mrs. Waters' bed. The landlady denies that such a thing is possible in her inn, where no such behavior could be imagined. After being assured that Susan will keep quiet about what she saw, the landlady orders her to see if the two late arrivals would like some supper. Susan finds the two men asleep in the same bed, and when the landlady finds she has been cheated out of the price of a room, she concludes that the men are both scoundrels. Fitzpatrick, in fact, is of gentle birth, but has wasted all his wife's money, then treated her so shamefully that she has run away from him. Partridge, awakened by all the commotion, comes downstairs seeking food. While he is eating, a beautiful and richly-dressed young lady and her maid arrive. The lady refuses food, but asks to be able to lie down for a few hours.

Chapter 4 - Containing infallible nostrums for procuring universal disesteem and hatred

After the lady goes to bed, her maid returns to the kitchen and orders that a chicken be roasted for her immediately. Since all the chickens are at present alive, this is impossible, so she then begins to insult the establishment. She continues to make demands until eggs and bacon are prepared to her satisfaction, spewing insults to everyone in the room, Partridge included. When the landlady insists that her establishment is frequented by people of quality, the maid asks for an example, at which point the landlady tells her about Tom, whom she believes to be the illegitimate son and heir of Squire Allworthy. The maid nearly chokes on her supper; she obviously knows Tom Jones.

Chapter 5 - Showing who the amiable lady, and her unamiable maid, were

The reader by this time will not be at all surprised to discover that the lovely lady and her maid are none other than Sophia and Honour. When the latter hears the name of Tom Jones, she rushes upstairs to awaken her mistress. While Honour is upstairs, the landlady pours out her venom concerning the despicable character of her guest. Partridge joins her, even going so far as to suggest that the lady and her maid are in reality women of ill repute from Bath. When Honour returns and asks the landlady to fetch Tom, Partridge informs her that he is at that moment in bed with Mrs. Waters. Honour reports to her mistress, with considerable elaboration, reminds her of Tom's fling with Molly Seagrim, and advises her to give no further thought to such a scoundrel. Sophia refuses to believe her, but soon Susan arrives to confirm Honour's story. Having no alternative other than to believe the tale, she foreswears any further contact with Tom, then bursts into tears. She then pays her bill, leaves her muff with orders to give it to Tom, and departs.

Chapter 6 - Containing, among other things, the ingenuity of Partridge, the madness of Jones, and the folly of Fitzpatrick

When Tom wakes up the following morning, Partridge again tries to convince him to return home. Tom soon finds the muff and, knowing it to be Sophia's, demands to know where she is. Partridge replies that she is by this time many miles off. Tom rushes down to hire some horses while Fitzpatrick and his Irish friend take the coach to Bath.

Chapter 7 - In which are concluded the adventures that happened at the inn at Upton

Before any of the men can leave, Squire Western arrives in search of his daughter. Ironically, the wife being sought by Fitzpatrick is none other than Western's niece, who had fled the estate in order to escape the tyrannical Mrs. Western and had departed the inn at the same time as Sophia and Honour. When Jones enters the kitchen, Western assaults him, demanding to know the whereabouts of his daughter. Tom, despite the fact that he is holding Sophia's muff, denies all knowledge of her. Fitzpatrick adds to the confusion by swearing that he had seen Tom in Sophia's bed and offers to conduct Squire Western to the woman's room, only to find it occupied by Mrs. Waters. Western demands that Tom be arrested for stealing the muff, but Susan quickly testifies that Sophia had asked her to place it in Tom's room without his knowledge. Squire Western then rushes off in pursuit of his daughter, followed soon thereafter by Tom and Partridge. Mrs. Waters then joins Fitzpatrick and his companion in the coach to Bath.

Chapter 8 - In which the history goes backward

The author now inserts a flashback describing Sophia's flight from her home. After forcing what he thought was Sophia's consent to the marriage with Blifil, Western got thoroughly drunk. When he invited Blifil for breakfast the next morning, he was shocked to find that his daughter and her maid were gone. Mrs. Western blames her brother for everything, arguing that he not only threatened his daughter with violence and spoke harshly to her, but later always gave in and let her have her own way. She asserted that, had he left the girl entirely in her hands, such a thing never would have occurred.

Chapter 9 - The escape of Sophia

Sophia and Honour had escaped from her home at midnight, when the whole house was asleep except for Mrs. Western. Sophia then hired horses to take the London road, but after a few miles convinced the guide to turn aside for Bristol, hoping thereby to deceive her father as to her direction. In order to do so, she promised him to fulfill his wildest dreams. The guide is skeptical, having earlier led Tom and Partridge and received little for his troubles. Sophia gave him two guineas to lead them to the same place where Tom and Partridge had gone. Following a rather circuitous route, the two women eventually trace the journey of Tom and Partridge, first to Gloucester and then to Upton.

BOOK XI - Containing About Three Days

Chapter 1 - A crust for the critics

The author clearly does not like critics. Here he accuses them of seeking to do nothing but condemn and slander; he especially deplures those who criticize a book without having read it and those who condemn an entire work because they dislike a small part of it. Nonetheless, he admits that some good critics do exist.

Chapter 2 - The adventures which Sophia met with after her leaving Upton

Sophia and Honour travel no more than a mile before they see horses rapidly pursuing them. They ride faster, but soon the pursuers catch up to them. Sophia is relieved to see that the pursuing party consists, like themselves, of two women and a guide, all unknown to her. The women ride with them through all their winding turns along back roads, never once initiating conversation. When the sun rises, the two women recognize each other, for the stranger is none other than Harriet Fitzpatrick, Sophia's cousin. They eventually reach an inn, where the ladies quickly seek a bed, not having slept for two days. While they sleep, the landlord and his wife pump the guides for information but gain very little. They speculate, however, that the two ladies must be highborn members of the rebel band, followers of Bonny Prince Charlie, traveling incognito. A Jacobite messenger arrives and tells the landlord that the rebels have escaped from the king's forces and are on their way toward London, and that furthermore ten thousand Frenchmen have landed to support the rebels. The landlord now comes to the conclusion that Sophia must be Jenny Cameron, a Jacobite noblewoman falsely thought to be the mistress of the Young Pretender, and determines to win her favor [the landlord's knowledge of matters surrounding the rebellion may be discerned when one discovers that Jenny Cameron was more than twenty-five years older than Sophia].

Chapter 3 - A very short chapter, in which , however, is a sun. a moon, a star, and an angel

Sophia and Harriet wake from their slumber several hours after sunset, get dressed, and decide to travel to London. Sophia wants to leave immediately, but her cousin fears to travel in the dark, so the two agree to wait until morning.

Chapter 4 - The history of Mrs. Fitzpatrick

While they enjoy a meal together, Mrs. Fitzpatrick tells her story. She begins by reminiscing about the jolly times she and Sophia had enjoyed as children under the care of Mrs. Western. She then narrates the circumstances under which she met her husband. While she was on holiday in Bath, Fitzpatrick's regiment arrived there. He was a ladies' man extraordinaire and arranged invitations to all the parties despite the fact that he was not of noble birth. Mrs. Western in particular was drawn to the young man. Harriet discerned that he was largely interested in marrying a wife of good fortune, but still enjoyed the special favor with which he treated her. Gossips soon began to spread the word that the dashing young soldier was courting both the aunt and the niece at the same time, but Mrs. Western was so flattered by his attentions to her that she never noticed that he was seeking to get close to Harriet. Despite being warned against Fitzpatrick by a close friend, Harriet yielded to his charms in order to triumph over her aunt and the other young women of Bath. Eventually they married, much to the consternation of Mrs. Western, who left Bath in a great fury and refused to speak to Harriet thenceforth.

Chapter 5 - In which the history of Mrs. Fitzpatrick is continued

Less than two weeks later, Fitzpatrick insisted on sailing to Ireland. Harriet objected strongly, and in the midst of their preparations discovered a letter indicating that Fitzpatrick was in debt to the tune of more than £150 and had promised his creditor that he would pay what he owed as soon as he could manage to obtain a rich wife. Sadly for him, Harriet would not have access to her inheritance for another two years. When she showed him the letter, he claimed he had been misrepresented and she forgave him. They then set off for Ireland and the Fitzpatrick estate. The house was old, decrepit, and sparsely furnished, and Fitzpatrick soon revealed his disagreeable character. Not only did Harriet discover that her husband was an "arrant blockhead" and come to despise him, but she then found that she was pregnant with his child.

Chapter 6 - In which the mistake of the landlord throws Sophia into a dreadful consternation

Harriet's narrative is interrupted by the landlord bringing them dinner. He tells them that a man arrived recently with good news that bodes well for their safe escape from their pursuers. Sophia assumes that the gentleman in question was her father and begs the landlord not to betray them, an assurance that he readily gives. He insists that he knew Sophia as soon as she arrived and would never betray her because she will before long be in a position to reward his discretion. Honour then bursts in with the news of the arrival of the French troops, convinced that they will be murdered in their beds. Sophia, however, is gratified to find that her father has not after all come to the inn. She then orders Honour to find out how the landlord knows her identity and who bribed him to betray her.

Chapter 7 - In which Mrs. Fitzpatrick concludes her history

The Fitzpatrick house was a frequent gathering place for the soldiers of the regiment, and Harriet soon made friends with a lieutenant's wife who often kept her company during her confinement. The lieutenant, too, enjoyed Harriet's company, far more than that of her husband, and Fitzpatrick soon became jealous. Her husband was away in Dublin or London for weeks or even months at a time, and Harriet became lonely, lost her child, and spent most of her time reading. One time when Fitzpatrick was in London, a young woman came to visit. While she was there she informed Harriet that her husband had taken a mistress. She was understandably furious, but when her husband returned, he treated her as lovingly as he had done when they were courting. She soon discovered the reason - he had spent all his money and wanted her permission to sell one of her small estates in order to replenish his resources. She flatly refused, and during the argument that followed she mentioned his mistress, but he justified himself by accusing her of having an affair with the lieutenant. He then locked her in her bedroom for three weeks and threatened never to allow her to leave until she signed over her estate. Finally she received some money with which she bribed her way to freedom and fled to England with Fitzpatrick in hot pursuit. He finally caught up with her at the inn at Upton, from which she fled in the company of Sophia.

Chapter 8 - A dreadful alarm in the inn, with the arrival of an unexpected friend of Mrs. Fitzpatrick

Sophia then tells Harriet her story, though omitting any mention of Tom Jones. As she completes her tale, they hear a horrible caterwauling in the room below. Soon Honour, the source of the racket, bursts into their room and exclaims that the landlord had the temerity to identify Sophia as Jenny Cameron, the disreputable supposed mistress of Bonny Prince Charlie. She had nearly scratched his eyes out before telling the wretch who Sophia really was. Sophia worries that her identity is now known, but soon realizes that Honour is thoroughly drunk and seeks to pacify her. While those downstairs are in turmoil, a gentleman arrives and asks to speak to Sophia, who is afraid the new arrival might be her father. The gentleman, however, turns out to be the Irish nobleman who freed Harriet from her husband by the payment of gold and had recognized her maid; she is the one he seeks rather than Sophia. He then offers his coach to transport the women to London.

Chapter 9 - The morning introduced in some pretty writing. A stage-coach. The civility of chambermaids. The heroic temper of Sophia. Her generosity. The return to it. The departure of the company, and their arrival at London; with some remarks for the use of travellers

In the morning they pile into the coach, though the maids have to take turns riding a horse alongside. The only cause for distress is that Sophia is unable to find the hundred-pound note her father had given her; she assumes she lost it in her fall from her horse. She did leave a present for the landlord with regard to his injuries. Two days later they arrive at London.

Chapter 10 - Containing a hint or two concerning virtue, and a few more concerning suspicion

When they reach London, the nobleman offers to let them sleep in his house, but they refuse because his wife is not at home. Lodging is found for Sophia and Harriet, but Sophia intends as soon as possible to seek out the relation she originally intended to visit. Sophia had by this time become suspicious of her cousin's relationship with the Irish peer and had discovered that the two intended

to meet secretly in Bath. She warns her cousin against such an entanglement, but Harriet laughs her off. Meanwhile, Sophia is warmly welcomed in the house of Lady Bellaston.

BOOK XII - Containing the Same Individual Time with the Former

Chapter 1 - Showing what is to be deemed plagiarism in a modern author, and what is to be considered as lawful prize

The author argues that quoting the classics without attribution is acceptable while quoting one's contemporaries in similar fashion is unjust.

Chapter 2 - In which, though the squire doth not find his daughter, something is found which puts an end to his pursuit

Squire Western leaves the inn at Upton in furious pursuit of his daughter but soon loses her trail. He then hears a hunting party in the distance and, giving up all thought of catching Sophia, joins in the hunt. After a dinner during which he becomes thoroughly drunk, Squire Western returns home.

Chapter 3 - The departure of Jones from Upton, with what passed between him and Partridge on the road

Shortly after the departure of Western and his retinue, Tom and Partridge leave the inn on foot. Partridge continues to try to convince Tom to return home, but Tom soon gets so fed up with his importunity that he attacks him, after which he profusely apologizes. Tom, convinced that Sophia is lost to him forever, determines to join the army, caring not whether he lives or dies. By chance, however, he chooses to follow the same road as that taken by his love and her cousin. As they travel they talk of the Man of the Hill and the probability of dying in the war. Partridge has no desire to court immediate demise and tries to convince Tom to turn his thoughts in another direction.

Chapter 4 - The adventure of a beggar-man

When Tom and Partridge reach a crossroads, they encounter a lame beggar to whom Tom gives a shilling. The beggar then offers to sell him a small book that he found on the road. When Tom opens it, he discovers that it belongs to Sophia and contains the hundred pounds given her by her father. Tom buys the book from the beggar for a guinea and tells him that he knows the owner and intends to return it to her as soon as possible. The beggar leads them to the place where he found the book, then asks Tom for fifty pounds as his rightful finder's fee. Tom is unable to fulfill his request, but takes his name and address and promises to do him some good in the future.

Chapter 5 - Containing more adventures which Mr. Jones and his companion met on the road

Tom follows the hoofprints of the horses as far as he can. When they arrive at a crossroads, they hear drums in the distance. Partridge is afraid of encountering soldiers, but Tom perceives that they must be near a town and heads in the direction of the drumbeats. They arrive at an inn and discover that the noise they heard is coming from a puppet show. They eat a hearty meal, but hear

no news of Sophia. After dinner they watch the puppet show, which is a solemn affair without a hint of comedy, much to Tom's disappointment.

Chapter 6 - From which it may be inferred that the best things are liable to be misunderstood and misinterpreted

Soon a great ruckus breaks out; the landlady is beating her maid, whom she caught *in flagrante* with one of the puppeteers. The landlady orders the puppeteers to leave her establishment by morning. Partridge convinces Tom to stay the night, but while Tom rests, Partridge, who had napped already, remains in the kitchen with others of the company eating and drinking.

Chapter 7 - Containing a remark or two of our own, and many more of the good company assembled in the kitchen

As the members of the company sit around the fire, Partridge boasts about the wealth of his master but also communicates his belief that Tom has lost his wits. Based on their brief observations, the others agree; one even suggests that Tom should be restrained and sent home for his own safety. As they plot to do just that, the landlady interrupts and informs them that no such attempt would be permitted in her establishment. In the middle of their deliberations, a messenger arrives to tell them that the rebels are on their way to London. Most care little which side wins in the conflict, though the puppet-master insists fears that, if the Presbyterians win, they will shut down his puppet show.

Chapter 8 - In which Fortune seems to have been in a better humour with Jones than we have hitherto seen her

Tom is awakened by fisticuffs between the puppet-master and his erring puppeteer. He breaks up the fight, but in the process discovers that the puppet-master had on the previous day sought to rob a fine lady riding in the woods. Had not the puppeteer prevented him, he would have done far worse to her. Tom soon asks the puppeteer if he has seen Sophia, and when the response is affirmative, he and Partridge waste no time in departing from the inn. They soon encounter a heavy thunderstorm and duck quickly into an alehouse, where they encounter the two guides who had earlier provided assistance to Sophia and Harriet. From them they learn much of the history of the women's travels and travails.

Chapter 9 - Containing little more than a few odd observations

Tom and Partridge arrange to take the horses earlier used by Sophia, Harriet, and their maids and return them to the inn from which they had been rented, thus putting themselves on the track of the women. When they arrive at the inn, Tom tries to procure fresh horses but is told that none are available due to the rebellion. While there, he encounters Mr. Dowling, a lawyer acquainted with the family. Tom wants to go on his way immediately, but Dowling convinces him to wait at least until the horses have been rested and fed.

Chapter 10 - In which Mr. Jones and Mr. Dowling drink a bottle together

Tom and Dowling enjoy a drink together, and the lawyer proposes a toast to Squire Allworthy and his heir, Mr. Blifil. Tom readily drinks to the health of the former, but informs Dowling that the latter is a scoundrel of the worst sort. Dowling asks Tom how people came to believe that he was Allworthy's son, so Tom narrates the entire history of his childhood and youth to the lawyer. Dowling discerns what Tom does not yet know - that someone had poisoned his relationship to his benefactor. Tom swears that he has no designs on the Allworthy fortune and estate, to which he has no legitimate claim, and the lawyer secretly respects him for his integrity. Soon the horses are ready, and Tom and Partridge depart for Coventry.

Chapter 11 - The disasters which befell Jones on his departure for Coventry; with the sage remarks of Partridge

Between the unfamiliarity of their guide with the way to Coventry, the darkness, and the return of the storm, they soon get lost. When Partridge and the guide both suffer harmless falls from their horses, the former blames their misfortune on witchcraft because Tom had failed to grease the palm of an old woman at the inn.

Chapter 12 - Relates that Mr. Jones continued his journey, contrary to the advice of Partridge, with what happened on that occasion

Tom sees lights in the distance and rides toward them, despite the fears of ghosts and hobgoblins voiced by Partridge and by now seconded by their young guide. They soon reach a barn where a large number of people are making merry. The partiers invite them in out of the rain; they are not evil spirits, but a band of gypsies celebrating a wedding. The king of the gypsies welcomes them and orders that the best food be set before them. He speaks to them about how the gypsies are governed - with stern justice that depends more on shame than physical punishment. While this conversation is going on, Partridge gets drunk. Soon a lively gypsy girl offers to tell his fortune, then tries to seduce him, but when her husband finds her in the arms of this stranger, he is justifiably incensed. Partridge is brought before the king and can say little to defend himself. Tom negotiates a payment of two guineas to the offended husband, but the king, upon further questioning, realizes that the man had been watching his wife the entire time and had not prevented the encounter. He thereupon declares Partridge to be faultless and condemns the husband to wear horns for a month and be subject to insults as a cuckold. This piece of justice greatly impresses Tom, who had always thought that gypsies were nothing but a band of thieves. The king tells him that the real difference between gypsies and Englishmen is that gypsies steal from Englishmen while Englishmen rob one another. The author then launches into a tangential encomium on the virtues of absolute monarchy, but only if the monarch is a good man. Since such is rare among the human species, absolute monarchs in reality are much more like the devil than like God, so the inconveniences of rule by law must be endured rather than subject oneself to tyranny.

Chapter 13 - A dialogue between Jones and Partridge

Tom and Partridge continue their journey when the storm ends, traveling to Coventry and beyond without incident. They arrive at Dunstable only a few hours after Sophia leaves and hope, after replacing a shoe on one of their horses, to catch up to her at St. Albans. Alas, they arrive again two hours too late. As they eat dinner, Partridge tells Tom that he is astounded that he has not spent

any of Sophia's hundred pounds; after all, he can always pay her back later. Tom, of course, will hear of no such blasphemy and accuses Partridge of being both a conceited old fool and a rogue. Partridge quickly apologizes and Tom forgives him. After dinner, they set out for London.

Chapter 14 - What happened to Mr. Jones in his journey from St. Albans

As they ride, a stranger asks if he can join them. He gives as a reason his fear of robbers, but Tom says he has no such fear because he has little for a thief to steal. When Partridge reminds him of his hundred-pound note, the stranger immediately pulls a pistol and demands that Tom turn it over to him. Tom wrests the pistol from his grasp and pins him to the ground, after which the supposed highwayman begs for mercy, claiming that this was his first attempt at armed robbery, that the pistol was not even loaded, and that his wife and five children were starving. Tom gives him two guineas upon his promise to seek more honest means of supporting his family. They then arrive in London without further incident.

BOOK XIII - Containing the Space of Twelve Days

Chapter 1 - An invocation

This chapter is a parody of a classical invocation of the gods.

Chapter 2 - What befell Mr. Jones on his arrival in London

When Tom arrives in London, he immediately begins searching for Sophia. After a full day of wandering about the city, he finally locates the residence of the Irish peer who gave her a ride in his carriage. The porter denies him entrance, but when he offers a bribe, he is taken by the footman to Mrs. Fitzpatrick, only to find that Sophia had departed ten minutes earlier. Harriet, thinking that Tom had been sent by Squire Western, refuses to tell him where Sophia has gone. Tom tries again that evening, but Harriet, now thinking him to be Blifil, again refuses to reveal Sophia's whereabouts. When her maid finally convinces her that her visitor was Sophia's beau, she still refuses to unite the two because of the scandals associated with young Jones.

Chapter 3 - A project of Mrs. Fitzpatrick, and her visit to Lady Bellaston

Harriet now begins to plot to separate Sophia from Tom and reunite her with her father. The next morning she visits Lady Bellaston before Sophia is up and around and shares the whole story as she understands it, hoping to recruit Lady Bellaston as a co-conspirator. Lady Bellaston agrees, but insists that she must know the man from whom she is to protect Sophia, so Harriet invites her to her home that evening, when Tom plans again to call.

Chapter 4 - Which consists of visiting

That night Tom returns to call on Mrs. Fitzpatrick. She asks him what business he has with Sophia, and he responds that he has a sum of money that he wishes to return to her. Before they can talk further, Lady Bellaston arrives, followed shortly thereafter by the Irish peer in whose house they

were conversing. Before Tom leaves, Harriet promises to get word to him the next day, after which the three who remain share gossip about poor Tom.

Chapter 5 - An adventure which happened to Mr. Jones at his lodgings, with some account of a young gentleman who lodged there, and of the mistress of the house, and her two daughters

Tom calls for Mrs. Fitzpatrick five times on the following day, but is turned away each time because the Irish peer has decided that Harriet should not be exposed to such a creature as young Jones. Tom and Partridge have taken up residence at the home of Mrs. Miller, a clergyman's widow known to Squire Allworthy. She has two daughters, Nancy and Betty, and another lodger, a wealthy young man-about-town. After returning from his fruitless attempts to gain knowledge of Sophia, Tom, while in his room, hears Nancy scream. He rushes downstairs to find the young gentleman being strangled by his footman. He soon lays the footman out and rescues his master. The young man, whose name is Nightingale, discharges his footman and offers Tom a drink. Nightingale tells Tom that the fight broke out when the footman made some unpleasant insinuations concerning Nancy and his master.

Chapter 6 - What arrived while the company were at breakfast, with some hints concerning the government of daughters

Before breakfast the next morning, Partridge informs Tom that Mrs. Fitzpatrick has left the peer's house and departed for an unknown destination. Tom is saddened to lost his only link with Sophia, but nonetheless enjoys the company of his newfound friends. The conversation at breakfast turn to love, and Tom has little to say, being preoccupied with thoughts of Sophia. Nancy notices this and asks him if he is in love, and he responds that she, too, has been quiet, and asks if she is in love as well. Their conversation is interrupted by the arrival of a mysterious parcel addressed to Tom, containing a domino, a mask, and a masquerade ticket. Nancy assures him that this must have come from some lady who intends to meet him at the masquerade. Nightingale offers to accompany him and invites Mrs. Miller and Nancy as well, but they decline the honor. Sadly, Tom is out of funds, having not even sufficient to afford a morsel of food. Partridge again presses him to use Sophia's hundred pounds or to return to Squire Allworthy, both of which suggestions Tom firmly rejects.

Chapter 7 - Containing the whole humours of a masquerade

At the masquerade, Tom approaches every woman whose size and shape approximate those of Sophia and engages them in conversation, hoping to recognize Sophia's voice. Soon a lady with a domino approaches him and tells him to follow her if he wishes to see Miss Western. He gladly does so, but when they are alone, the woman tells him flatly that Sophia is not at the ball. He recognizes her as Mrs. Fitzpatrick. He assures her that he wants only the best for Sophia and that, after seeing her one more time, will leave her forever. The masked woman leaves the ball and Tom follows her home, only to find that she is not Mrs. Fitzpatrick at all, but Lady Bellaston. After hours of conversation and other activities that last throughout the night, she promises to arrange for a final meeting between Tom and Sophia a few days hence.

Chapter 8 - Containing a scene of distress, which will appear very extraordinary to most of our readers

Lady Bellaston had presented Tom with a fifty-pound note, which he asks Partridge to take to the bank and change. Dinner at the boardinghouse is late that night because Mrs. Miller has been visiting a distant relative, a poor family that is sick, cold, and starving. Upon hearing the story, Tom fetches his purse and offers it to Mrs. Miller, who refuses to take more than ten guineas.

Chapter 9 - Which treats of matters of a very different kind from those in the preceding chapter

That evening Tom meets again with Lady Bellaston, but quickly discovers that she has no intention of telling him where to find Sophia. He therefore asks Partridge to attempt to gain the information from her servants. Lady Bellaston, however, is becoming increasingly fond of Tom and showers him with presents of money and clothing, so now, instead of being impoverished, he has more wealth than he has ever known in his life. Tom feels that he must give her some return beyond mere gratitude, as much as he desires not to do so. That night she invites him to her own house - the very house in which Sophia is staying. Tom accepts reluctantly because Nightingale had invited him to see a play to which he was looking forward. He would have been sadder still had he realized that Mrs. Bellaston had cleared her house so she could be alone with Tom by sending Sophia and Honour to the very same play.

Chapter 10 - A chapter which, though short, may draw tears from some eyes

Before he leaves to see Lady Bellaston, Mrs. Miller calls Tom downstairs and introduces him to the cousin who was the benefactor of his benevolence. The two recognize one another; the man was the robber who had assaulted Tom on the highway, but against whom Tom had refused to level charges. The money Tom had contributed had been sufficient to spare the lives of his wife and children, and the man was eternally grateful.

Chapter 11 - In which the reader will be surprised

When Tom arrives at the home of Lady Bellaston, he finds that the mistress of the house has not yet arrived. Sophia, however, having left the play early because of commotion among the members of the audience, is actually there. She nearly passes out, and Tom rushes to support her. He then gives her the pocketbook containing her hundred pounds, then falls on his knees and begs her forgiveness. He thinks she is angry for his affair with the landlady at Upton, but she is really furious that he has been spreading her name all over the countryside as he sought for her. The gossip that so angered her not only was completely false, but had not been spread by Tom at all. Partridge was the real culprit, gossiping wherever they went, especially among the servants. At this point he is ready to kill Partridge, but Sophia dissuades him from so rash an act. They are immediately reconciled and soon he is proposing marriage. She insists that she would accept happily if not for her father's prohibition; she would rather live in ruin with Tom than in plenty without him. He then swears that he would give her up rather than ruin her. Their tender dialogue is interrupted by the arrival of Lady Bellaston. She and Tom have the presence of mind to pretend that they do not know one another, and Tom and Sophia pretend that the only reason for his visit was to return her pocketbook. Lady Bellaston believes not a word of it, though Tom relieves the tension somewhat

by explaining that a woman at the masquerade had told him that he could find Sophia at Lady Bellaston's house. Tom asks as a reward that he be permitted to visit the house again in the future, to which Lady Bellaston agrees. On the way out, he encounters Honour, to whom he gives his present address to be conveyed to Sophia.

Chapter 12 - In which the thirteenth book is concluded

After Tom leaves, both Lady Bellaston and Sophia insist that they had never seen him before. After speaking ill of Tom and indicating that she almost thought their young visitor was he, Lady Bellaston reminds Sophia of her promise never to marry without her father's consent. Sophia then goes to bed and is unable to sleep all night because she feels so guilty about having lied to her benefactress.

BOOK XIV - Containing Two Days

Chapter 1 - An essay to prove that the author will write the better for having some knowledge of the subject on which he writes

The author argues that a writer should have some knowledge of that about which he writes, though few in his day could boast of such knowledge. This is especially true of those who write about the upper classes. Such people are generally quite frivolous; the reader is not to assume that Lady Bellaston is typical of her class.

Chapter 2 - Containing letters and other matters which attend amours

Shortly after Tom arrives at his place of residence from Lady Bellaston's house, he receives a letter from her. She is furious that he is enamored of such a fool as Sophia and warns that she can hate as violently as she can love. A few minutes later another letter arrives from the same source, inviting Tom to return to her house as soon as possible. While Tom debates what he should do, the lady herself appears at his door. Her main concern is that Tom may have told Sophia about their affair. Their conversation is interrupted by the arrival of Honour, which forces Tom to hide Lady Bellaston behind the curtain. Despite Tom's efforts to keep her quiet, Honour insists on sharing gossip about Lady Bellaston's notorious extracurricular activities. She then gives Tom a letter from Sophia before leaving. When Lady Bellaston emerges, she is furious and demands that Tom, in a show of good faith, give her Sophia's letter. He refuses, but he finally succeeds in calming her down. They arrange for Tom to make frequent visits to her house under the guise of seeing Sophia, but in reality to spend time with Lady Bellaston. Needless to say, the two are certain to place differing interpretations on these visits.

Chapter 3 - Containing various matters

Sophia's letter begs Tom not to return to Lady Bellaston's home lest their relationship be discovered. Tom decides that the only way out of his dilemma is to feign illness and make excuses to Lady Bellaston. He quickly writes letters to both women. Lady Bellaston writes back, indicating that she intends to visit Tom that very night. Soon Mrs. Miller communicates to Tom that she knows much of his story and that, for the reputation of her house, he is not permitted to entertain women

in his room at night. When he insists on entertaining whatever guests he chooses in his room, she advises him to find new lodgings. He immediately summons Partridge, suspecting that the landlady's knowledge of his background and adventures came from his lips. Partridge tries to defend himself, but Tom soon forgives him and asks him to search out new lodgings for them.

Chapter 4 - Which we hope will be very attentively perused by young people of both sexes

Nightingale soon enters and tells Tom that he, too, will be seeking new lodgings. Tom knows that his flirtations with Nancy have led the young girl to fall in love with him, and he chides Nightingale for his callous treatment of the poor innocent. Nightingale admits that he is actually quite fond of Nancy, but that his father has espoused him to a woman he has never met; she is the one he is really trying to avoid. He intends to leave quietly so as not to make matters more difficult for Nancy. In the end, he and Tom decide to share the same lodgings, which Nightingale agrees to arrange.

Chapter 5 - A short account of the history of Mrs. Miller

Mrs. Miller invites Tom to have tea with her and tells him her story. She is the daughter of an army officer who died young, leaving his family penniless. She then married a clergyman, who died five years later, leaving her in an impoverished state with two small children. Squire Allworthy heard of her plight, gave her twenty guineas to meet her immediate needs, then set her up in her present establishment, furnished it, and provided an annuity of fifty pounds per year. Allworthy also told her all about Tom and his connection with the family. Tom then responds by telling her his story, only omitting any mention of Sophia. She warns him to have nothing to do with disreputable women like Lady Bellaston, but Tom assures her that the visit planned for that evening will be the last and promises that nothing untoward will occur. Lady Bellaston, however, fails to appear.

Chapter 6 - Containing a scene which we doubt not will affect all our readers

Tom is awakened late the following morning by a loud commotion downstairs that seems to center around Nancy. When he dresses and descends, he discovers the household in an uproar. Mrs. Miller informs him that the departed Nightingale has left Nancy with child. Worse yet, he left a letter in which he indicates that he intends to fulfill his father's wishes and marry an heiress, though he does promise to provide for Nancy and her baby. Nancy has already attempted to kill herself, but once her mother calms her down, Tom promises to find Nightingale and bring him to his senses.

Chapter 7 - The interview between Mr. Jones and Mr. Nightingale

Tom easily finds Nightingale and attempts to convince him to fulfill his promise to Nancy. He paints a vivid picture of the happiness such an action would produce and the misery that would follow should Nightingale refuse to do his duty. The latter insists that he would like nothing better than to marry Nancy, but regrets that his father would never consent to such a match. Tom offers to speak to the old man, and Nightingale suggests that he tell his father that he has already married the girl.

Chapter 8 - What passed between Jones and old Mr. Nightingale; with the arrival of a person not yet mentioned in this history

Old Mr. Nightingale cares for nothing but money. He has just completed spirited negotiations with the father of Jack's future bride and when Tom approaches, he thinks he is asking him to pay off some of his son's debts. This does not put him in an encouraging frame of mind. Tom begins by praising the girl Jack is to marry, speaking of all her charms and abilities, all of which are unknown to the old man, since he has never met the young lady he intends his son to marry. Tom then indicates that her fortune is quite small, to which the old man objects, just having finished negotiations with her father. Tom concludes his argument by telling old Nightingale that his son is already married to Nancy Miller, the girl he has been describing. Their conversation is providentially interrupted by Nightingale's brother, who had married a poor girl for love and was very happy in his family life. He had come to try to talk Nightingale out of the proposed marriage, insisting that the girl in question, though rich, was of a notoriously unpleasant demeanor and would certainly make anyone who married her completely miserable. When he hears of his nephew's love match with Nancy, he heartily approves and urges his brother to do the same. The father remains reluctant, and Tom offers to take the uncle to see his nephew and Nancy at the inn.

Chapter 9 - Containing strange matters

By the time they return to the inn, all is changed. The marriage between Nightingale and Nancy is to take place the following morning, and Mrs. Miller falls all over herself in gratitude to Tom for his service to her family. Jack then takes his uncle up to his room and confesses the whole story, admitting that he and Nancy are not yet married. Strangely enough, the uncle then attempts to convince him not to go through with the marriage because of its financial disadvantages. Jack refuses to obey his uncle, but agrees to accompany him to his home for further conversation on the subject.

Chapter 10 - A short chapter, which concludes the book

After Jack and his uncle leave, Honour arrives with dreadful news concerning Sophia.

BOOK XV - In Which the History Advances About Two Days

Chapter 1 - Too short to need a preface

The author argues that virtue does not always lead to happiness, especially when one spends one's time seeking the good of others. All too often the wicked prosper while the righteous suffer.

Chapter 2 - In which is opened a very black design against Sophia

Lady Bellaston, horribly jealous of Sophia, is plotting her destruction. Lord Fellamar, the young man who rescued Sophia from the uproar at the theater, has fallen in love with her. He pays her a visit on the following day and stays longer than might be considered proper. Lady Bellaston draws him aside and encourages him to pursue the relationship. He even goes so far as to ask her to intercede with Squire Western so he can ask for her hand in marriage. She warns him that he has

a rival, a lowborn, worthless fellow, from whom she must be delivered at all costs. Fellamar readily agrees to do whatever is necessary to gain his fair maiden, and she invites him to dinner that night.

Chapter 3 - A further explanation of the foregoing design

Lady Bellaston arranges for a friend of hers, after dinner when only Fellamar and Sophia remain, to tell them that he had received news that Tom had been killed in a duel. Sophia promptly faints and is carried to her room, where Lady Bellaston assures her that the rumor is false. The result is that Fellamar is now convinced that Sophia is in love with Tom. Lady Bellaston invites Fellamar to return the following day, but he has second thoughts about pursuing someone who obviously is in love with another, and in any case Sophia refuses to see him.

Chapter 4 - By which it will appear how dangerous an advocate a lady is when she applies her eloquence to an ill purpose

Lady Bellaston convinces Fellamar that he should take Sophia by force; after all, didn't Helen of Troy fall in love with Paris after he ravished her?

Chapter 5 - Containing some matters which may affect, and others which may surprise, the reader

While Sophia is reading, Lord Fellamar enters her bedroom and affirms his love for her in a long and flowery speech, which she rejects with disdain. He refuses to be deterred and seizes her in his arms. She is saved from a fate worse than death by the unexpected entrance of her father, who bursts into her room and finds both the perpetrator and the victim in a disheveled state. Sophia has never been so glad to see her father in her life. Western, however, rushes over to his daughter and pours out his venom at her ungrateful disobedience. He then throws Fellamar out of the room, insists that Sophia return home with him and submit to his will, and dismisses Honour from his service.

Chapter 6 - By what means the squire came to discover his daughter

Harriet Fitzpatrick, who was anxious to return to the good graces of Squire Western and his sister, had written a letter in which she revealed the whereabouts of Sophia. Mrs. Western advises her brother to be calm and courteous, but as soon as he leaves the house, he forgets his promise to her and bursts into Lady Bellaston's house like the proverbial bull in a china shop.

Chapter 7 - In which various misfortunes befell poor Jones

As soon as she is dismissed by her employer, Honour goes to Mrs. Miller's boardinghouse and pours out her news to Tom. She is mostly concerned with her dismissal, and Tom promises to do everything in his power to see her restored. While she is going on interminably, Lady Bellaston arrives and Tom hides Honour behind the bed curtains. Lady Bellaston begins to make amorous remarks to which Tom is unable to respond, knowing that Honour hears every word that passes between them. He is rescued from his dilemma when Nightingale stumbles into the room, dead drunk. While Tom steers Nightingale into his own bedroom, a startled Lady Bellaston hides behind the bed curtain, only to find that the space is already occupied. The two women nearly come to

blows, but soon cool down. Lady Bellaston leaves with her head held high, while Honour remains and rebukes Tom for his infidelity to Sophia, about which he swears her to secrecy.

Chapter 8 - Short and sweet

The next morning Mrs. Miller gently rebukes Tom for the ruckus in his room the night before, after which Nightingale and Nancy are married with Tom playing the part of Nancy's father. Nightingale had managed to escape from his uncle when the latter received a letter indicating that his daughter had eloped with a penniless clergyman. He departed immediately, leaving Nightingale free to travel with all haste to Mrs. Miller's establishment.

Chapter 9 - Containing love-letters of various sorts

By the next morning, Tom has received three letters from Lady Bellaston begging him to return to her and promising forgiveness. Nightingale, however, gives Tom a full account of her sordid reputation in the town and advises him that the best way to put a stop to her attentions once and for all is to propose marriage to her. Tom is reluctant to pursue such a course in case she might accept his proposal, but Nightingale assures him that he has access to love letters that she had written to another young man whom she had earlier entrapped; these can be used to break her hold if need be. He accordingly writes a letter proposing marriage, which she rejects, claiming that he is after her money, but because she is unwilling to lose her hold over him, she invites him to dinner. Tom responds by offering to pay her back all the money she has given him, to which she answers that he is a villain upon whom she never wishes to set eyes again. The two men then go down to dinner to celebrate the wedding just completed.

Chapter 10 - Consisting partly of facts, and partly of observations upon them

After dinner, Mrs. Miller receives a letter from Squire Allworthy, who intends to come to London with Blifil and asks for his usual accommodations. This necessitates the removal of Tom and Mr. and Mrs. Nightingale to the new residence the latter has arranged. All is now well in the Miller household except that Tom, who had told Honour to find news of Sophia, has as yet heard nothing. When a letter finally arrives, Tom is not surprised to find that Honour is now in the employ of Lady Bellaston, who not only is able to keep her from gaining news of Sophia, but is now in control of the secret she possesses.

Chapter 11 - Containing curious, but not unprecedented matter

Tom faces an unexpected complication when he receives a letter from Arabella Hunt, a rich widow, proposing marriage. Tom, who by now is almost out of money and has no source of revenue, is sorely tempted, especially since the chances of marrying Sophia appear to be extremely slim. In the end, however, he cannot forsake his true love and responds to Lady Hunt's letter with a kindly-worded refusal.

Chapter 12 - A discovery made by Partridge

Partridge rushes in with news of Sophia. He has met Black George, who has accompanied Squire Western to London. After a long-drawn-out description of their time imbibing at an alehouse, Partridge indicates that Squire Allworthy has brought Blifil to London so he and Sophia may be married, but that Black George, who thinks little of Blifil, is willing to carry a letter from Tom to Sophia.

BOOK XVI - Containing the Space of Five Days

Chapter 1 - Of prologues

The author dislikes prologues because they all tend to sound the same. Their only advantages are for the critic to whet his knife for the material that follows and for the reader to skip a few pages with no great loss.

Chapter 2 - A whimsical adventure which befell the squire, with the distressed situation of Sophia

When Western arrives at the inn where they intend to stay with Sophia, he immediately begins to pressure her to get her consent to marrying Blifil, which she resolutely refuses to give. He then curses at her and locks her in her room. Two days later a gentleman arrives at the inn, asking to speak to Squire Western. He represents Lord Fellamar and asks the Squire's permission for him to court Sophia, which Western quickly refuses on the ground that she is already promised to another. The gentleman then conveys Fellamar's challenge to a duel, which Western totally misunderstands. After the man leaves, Sophia and her father profess their undying love for one another, each professing that they would endure anything to make the other happy - except, of course, for Sophia marrying Blifil or Western allowing her to marry Tom Jones.

Chapter 3 - What happened to Sophia during her confinement

In her grief, Sophia often refuses to eat, but one day Black George, of whom she was inordinately fond, convinces her to eat a pullet he brings to her. When she begins to cut it up, she discovers that it contains a letter from Tom by way of Partridge. Needless to say, the letter is full of professions of love, though Tom swears that, if her happiness can be assured by such a step, he is willing to have her cast him aside forever. She has no intention of doing any such thing, but is unable to express her faithful intentions because she has no paper, pen, or ink. As she rereads the letter, she hears shouting downstairs; her aunt has arrived, and brother and sister are both in full voice.

Chapter 4 - In which Sophia is delivered from her confinement

Mrs. Western, after complaining bitterly about the uncomfortable journey and the undesirable lodgings, lets her brother know what a fool he has been to use harsh measures against his daughter. She demands that Sophia be liberated immediately; furthermore, she insists that the care of her niece be entrusted entirely to her, or else she will cut all ties with the family. The Squire reluctantly yields and gives her the key to Sophia's room. She forthwith removes Sophia to her lodgings while Western seeks comfort in the bottle.

Chapter 5 - In which Jones receives a letter from Sophia, and goes to a play with Mrs. Miller and Partridge

Now free from her father's overbearing treatment, Sophia that evening writes a letter to Tom. She warns him that her aunt will not allow her to see or communicate with anyone without her consent, so no more letters should be exchanged. Furthermore, she cannot bring herself to marry without her father's consent, though she has no intention of marrying Blifil with it. She also sends him back the hundred-pound note that he had restored to her, begging him to keep it. Tom then arranges to go to the theater with Partridge, Mrs. Miller, and her remaining daughter. The play is *Hamlet*, and the company is entertained by a constant stream of absurd comments about the ghost from the lips of Partridge. When the play is over, Harriet Fitzpatrick approaches Tom and invites him to visit her the following afternoon. Partridge, meanwhile, has trouble sleeping for many nights thereafter.

Chapter 6 - In which the history is obliged to look back

When Squire Western heard that Sophia had been found, he rushed to locate her, only later remembering to inform Blifil of his discovery. Blifil, interested only in Sophia's inheritance, was not deterred in his desire to marry her by the fact that she had fled from his presence, deciding that marriage was a suitable environment for enacting hatred as well as love. Squire Allworthy proves to be a barrier, however, since he will by no means give his consent to a loveless marriage. Blifil is thus faced with the task of convincing Allworthy of his affection. He finally gets the Squire to agree to give him another chance to win Sophia's heart, though Allworthy insists that he will not give final consent unless she freely agrees to the marriage. As soon as they arrive in London, Blifil calls on Squire Western, and the two of them go to visit Mrs. Western and Sophia.

Chapter 7 - In which Mr. Western pays a visit to his sister, in company with Mr. Blifil

The two burst in on Mrs. Western and her niece, and poor Sophia becomes faint when she sees Blifil. Mrs. Western criticizes her brother for his rudeness and sends Sophia out of the room to recover her composure. She refuses to allow Blifil to see her, but invites them back that afternoon, giving no promise regarding Sophia's availability. Blifil, however, strongly suspects that Tom Jones might have something to do with Sophia's attitude.

Chapter 8 - Schemes of Lady Bellaston for the ruin of Jones

Lord Fellamar, after having been rudely ignored by Squire Western, goes to Lady Bellaston and seeks her help. She assures him that Western will look favorably on his suit when he is sober, but points out that one obstacle still stands in his way - the vagabond Jones. She suggests that arranging to have him pressed onto a ship would be an act of kindness to Sophia and even to Tom, who would otherwise surely be destined for the gallows. Lady Bellaston soon convinces Mrs. Western to join in her plot. Lady Bellaston strengthens Mrs. Western's animosity toward Tom by showing her the letter from him proposing marriage, which he had written with the certainty of being rejected. She gives the letter to Sophia's aunt with the understanding that she will share it with her niece. In fact, she was about to do so when Western and Blifil broke in on them.

Chapter 9 - In which Jones pays a visit to Mrs. Fitzpatrick

Harriet Fitzpatrick had been no friend to Tom and Sophia, but when she sought reconciliation with Squire Western and his sister, she was treated with exceeding rudeness by both and determined to have her revenge by facilitating the union of the young lovers. When Tom visits her, she suggests that he should make professions of love to Mrs. Western in order to get close to Sophia. Tom has no interest in such subterfuge. As Tom overflows with praise of Sophia, Harriet begins to fancy that he might turn his heart to her if Sophia is unattainable. She invites him to return the next day, which he has absolutely no intention of doing.

Chapter 10 - The consequence of the preceding visit

At just this time, Fitzpatrick arrives in London, full of jealousy because of what he has been told about his wife's behavior. He gets to her lodging just as Tom emerges. He slaps Tom across the face and draws his sword. Tom does the same, and makes up in energy what he lacks in skill driving his weapon into the body of his attacker. As Fitzpatrick falls to the ground with what appears to be a mortal wound, Tom is seized by a gang sent by Lord Fellamar - men who are intent on pressing him aboard the nearest ship. They take him instead to the magistrate, who sends him to the justice, who remands him to prison after hearing of the death of Fitzpatrick. Partridge visits him in prison, bringing a letter from Sophia. She has read his proposal of marriage to Lady Bellaston and desires never to see his face again.

BOOK XVII - Containing Three Days

Chapter 1 - Containing a portion of introductory writing

Fielding notes that, had he intended to write a tragedy, his work would now be nearly done. A comedy is much more difficult, for how can his hero and heroine be extracted from the situations in which they are now placed? Sophia could always get married, of course, but what about Tom? All the author can promise is that he will shun the use of any *deus ex machina*.

Chapter 2 - The generous and grateful behaviour of Mrs. Miller

As Mrs. Miller, Squire Allworthy, and Blifil sit down to breakfast, Blifil remarks about the villainy of Tom Jones. Mrs. Miller immediately leaps to his defense, telling the Squire that not only has Tom been the savior of her family, but that he also constantly speaks of Allworthy with the greatest respect and veneration. She insists that Allworthy has been deceived by Blifil, but the latter reports that Tom is guilty of killing a man.

Chapter 3 - The arrival of Mr. Western, with some matters concerning the paternal authority

After Mrs. Miller leaves, Western arrives, furious as usual. He is angry that, having delivered his daughter from the clutches of Tom Jones, his female relatives now want him to hand her over to Lord Fellamar, which he has no intention of doing. His only desire is to fulfill his previous compact with Allworthy to marry his daughter to Blifil, which he is willing to do by force if necessary. Allworthy praises Sophia at some length, then promises that he will never be a party to

forcing her into a marriage against her will. Western replies that he knows what is best for his own daughter, especially since he has promised to give her half his estate when she marries and the rest when he dies. Blifil then interjects that he would never take Sophia by violence, but hopes that perseverance will win her over, especially if her true love, Tom Jones, winds up being hanged for murder - a thought that absolutely delights Western. After Western leaves, Allworthy warns Blifil that perseverance rarely alters fixed dislike and exhorts him to examine his motives for desiring Sophia.

Chapter 4 - An extraordinary scene between Sophia and her aunt

Mrs. Western, meanwhile, informs Sophia that Lord Fellamar will be calling on her that very afternoon. Sophia proclaims that she can tolerate Fellamar even less than she can Blifil and refuses to stay in a room alone with him. Her aunt castigates her for her lack of ambition and threatens to have nothing more to do with her if she refuses to see the gentleman. Sophia finally tells her aunt everything - that Fellamar had sexually assaulted her and that she had been rescued in the nick of time by her father. Mrs. Western has trouble believing her, but nonetheless remains in the room throughout Fellamar's visit, leaving the young man completely frustrated.

Chapter 5 - Mrs. Miller and Mr. Nightingale visit Jones in the prison

Tom receives a visit from his friends, Partridge, Nightingale, and Mrs. Miller. They report that Fitzpatrick is still alive, though with little hope of survival, and all assure him that he acted in self-defense and is in no real danger from the law. They tell him that Sophia has rejected Blifil again, but Tom is more concerned about the impact of his letter of proposal to Lady Bellaston. Mrs. Miller agrees to take a letter from him to Sophia.

Chapter 6 - In which Mrs. Miller pays a visit to Sophia

When Mrs. Miller arrives at Mrs. Western's residence, Sophia receives her readily, but when she hands her Tom's letter, she refuses to open it. Finally Mrs. Miller pours out the many reasons for her gratitude to Tom and Sophia agrees that she at least may leave the letter. No sooner does Mrs. Miller depart than Sophia tears open the missive, in which Tom swears that he never had any intention of marrying Lady Bellaston and begs the chance to meet Sophia and explain the situation in person. Still without an explanation, Sophia hardly knows how to feel or think. Sadly, the rest of the afternoon and evening are spent in the company of Lady Bellaston at the opera, where she encounters Lord Fellamar, and is thus of all young women most miserable.

Chapter 7 - A pathetic scene between Mr. Allworthy and Mrs. Miller

That evening Mrs. Miller tries to defend Tom before Squire Allworthy, but he refuses to change his mind, insisting that Tom is an undeserving ingrate and Blifil is the best of all youths. Though he insists that she speak no more of Tom or Blifil, he does agree to intercede with Mr. Nightingale for his son's marriage to Nancy. Their conversation ends when Blifil arrives with Dowling, the lawyer.

Chapter 8 - Containing various matters

Lady Bellaston continues to press the cause of Lord Fellamar, urging both him and Mrs. Western to bring about the proposed wedding before Sophia has a chance to do anything about it. Under great duress, Sophia agrees to meet Fellamar the following day. He professes his love in flowery language, but she flatly refuses him and tells him that if he cares for her at all, he will cease his overtures. At this point Mrs. Western interrupts, tells Sophia she has shamed the family, and assures Fellamar that she will soon be brought to her senses. Mrs. Western's fury resulted from the fact that Sophia's maid reported to her both the conversation between Sophia and Mrs. Miller and the letter from Tom that had been given to Sophia. Mrs. Western told Mrs. Miller to leave immediately and not to expect any answer to the letter, then she burst into her niece's room. After Fellamar's departure, she browbeats Sophia, both for refusing the young lord and for continuing contact with Tom. She demands to see the letter, but Sophia insists that she doesn't have it with her, and when her aunt requires a straight answer regarding Lord Fellamar, Sophia responds with a straightforward denial. Mrs. Western thereupon washes her hands of her and tells her that she will be taken to her father's residence on the following morning.

Chapter 9 - What happened to Mr. Jones in the prison

Nightingale spends the next twenty-four hours trying to track down witnesses to the fight between Tom and Fitzpatrick. He finally finds two of them, but they say they were too far away to hear the words that were spoken and insist that Tom had struck the first blow. Tom swears to the truth of his account, but realizes he is unlikely to be believed in court. Mrs. Miller then arrives and tells him of the failure of her embassy. At this point Tom sees no reason to continue living and is willing to accept whatever fate may befall him. The jailer then tells Tom that a lady has come to visit him; he is astounded to see that the woman in question is Mrs. Waters. She had left the inn at Upton in the company of Fitzpatrick, and by the time they arrived in Bath, the two decided to marry; he had not bothered to tell her that he already had a wife. After Fitzpatrick was wounded by Tom, he told his new spouse all. She quickly went to see Tom. In the prison, she tells him that Fitzpatrick is in no danger of dying, and in fact admitted that he was the aggressor in the duel. He is thus soon to be set at liberty, but this does nothing to calm his fears concerning Sophia.

BOOK XVIII - Containing About Six Days

Chapter 1 - A farewell to the reader

The author gives his final greetings to his readers and promises them that the closing section of the novel will contain narrative only, with no jesting tangents.

Chapter 2 - Containing a very tragical incident

After Mrs. Waters leaves, Partridge comes rushing into Tom's cell in a state of great agitation. He explains that Mrs. Waters, with whom Tom had slept in Upton, was in reality that same Jenny Jones who was thought to be Tom's mother. Tom is horrified and sends Partridge to retrieve the lady forthwith. He is unsuccessful, though Ms. Waters promises to visit as soon as she is able. Black George then arrives and tells Tom that Sophia has been returned to her father's residence and that the two have been wholly reconciled.

Chapter 3 - Allworthy visits old Nightingale; with a strange discovery that he made on that occasion

Allworthy visits old Nightingale as he promised and finally convinces the old man to receive his son. While he is there, he spots Black George and asks Nightingale how he knows him. The two have had business dealings, and as a result of their conversation Allworthy discovers that Black George was the thief who stole the five hundred pounds he gave to Tom. After Allworthy consults with Dowling about how to handle the situation with Black George, young Nightingale enters and reports that Tom has been completely vindicated and shown to be innocent of all charges against him. Nightingale also relates the kind and respectful words Tom had so often used to describe his benefactor in their conversation.

Chapter 4 - Containing two letters in very different styles

Allworthy at this point receives two letters, one from Square and the other from Thwackum. Square informs him that he is dying, and that being brought face to face with his own mortality has caused him to turn from philosophy to Christianity. He confesses that the charges that caused Tom to be cast off by the Squire were completely false. Thwackum's letter is quite different. He declares that Tom's impending execution for murder is no surprise to him and that the tragedy could have been avoided had Allworthy allowed the tutor to beat the devil out of his recalcitrant pupil. He then hints that Allworthy should reward him with a second living should such become available in the future.

Chapter 5 - In which the history is continued

Mrs. Miller then tells Allworthy that the fight in which Tom was involved had been initiated by a group of ruffians who had been hired by Lord Fellamar to press Tom onto a ship. She insists that Dowling was involved in all of this, but she assumed he had been sent by the Squire. Allworthy declares that such is not the case and calls immediately for Blifil, who is forced to admit that he sent the lawyer to locate the witnesses to the brawl; he says he did so in order to soften their testimony, but his real intention had been to silence them. Allworthy accepts his explanation, forgetting the implication of Square's letter that pointed to Blifil's perfidy. The Squire suggests that they all pay a visit to Tom in prison, but they are stopped by Partridge, who wants to avoid the meeting at all costs because Mrs. Waters has just arrived to converse with Tom. The Squire then questions Partridge at some length about Tom.

Chapter 6 - In which the history is further continued

Partridge begins by insisting that he is in fact not Tom's father, despite the fact that he had been recognized as such many years previously. He then narrates his travels and travails since he was dismissed from his tutorial position, including his meeting with Tom and their adventures since that time. Squire Allworthy has trouble believing all of this, but then Mrs. Waters, whom Partridge had identified as Tom's mother, enters and asks to speak to the Squire privately.

Chapter 7 - Continuation of the history

Mrs. Waters tells Allworthy that Mr. Summer, a young scholar who had spent a year in the Squire's house before dying of smallpox, was really Tom's father, but that she was not his mother. She had been ordered by the child's mother to claim him as her own and was rewarded handsomely for doing so. Tom's real mother was Squire Allworthy's sister Bridget, thus making Tom Blifil's older brother. Mrs. Waters then said that Dowling had come to her with an offer of money to pursue the prosecution of Tom for murder, to be provided by a gentleman whose name could not be revealed.

Chapter 8 - Further continuation

At this point Western storms into the room, swearing up and down that Tom has been carrying on secret correspondence with Sophia. He has again locked Sophia in her room and threatened to take her home and feed her on bread and water for the rest of her life unless she agrees to marry Blifil. Allworthy then requests permission to try to convince her. After Western leaves, Mrs. Waters narrates her life after leaving his estate and claims that she is truly repentant for her past faults. Allworthy forgives her and says that, if she follows through on her resolution to live a better life, he will see that she wants for nothing. At this point Dowling enters and the Squire locks the door and confronts him, insisting that he tell the whole truth or be dismissed from his post. Dowling then admits that Blifil had not only hired him to offer money to Mrs. Waters to prosecute Tom, but had also ordered him to pay the eyewitnesses to swear that Tom had started the fight in the tavern. Worse yet, Dowling had attended Bridget on her deathbed, where she admitted that she was Tom's mother and had entrusted him with a letter to give to her brother. Unfortunately, Dowling had then given the letter to Blifil to pass on to his uncle, which he had clearly neglected to do. After Dowling leaves, Allworthy encounters Mrs. Miller, who is still worried about Tom. He gives Mrs. Waters permission to tell her the whole story and, hearing that Tom is soon to be released, announces that he intends to go on a short journey. As he prepares to leave, Blifil wishes him farewell and tries to find out where he is going, but the Squire says nothing to him other than that he expects to see the letter from Blifil's mother when he returns. Blifil now knows that his years of successful deceit are coming to an end.

Chapter 9 - A further continuation

Allworthy's journey involves a visit to Sophia. He apologizes to her for the pain and persecution to which she has been subjected. She apologizes for her stubborn refusal of Blifil but insists that she never could love him. Allworthy is completely sympathetic and congratulates her for her justifiable resistance to one he has only recently discovered to be a villain. He then proposes that Sophia entertain a visit from another near relative, one who is truly worthy and who will inherit the family fortune. She responds honestly - she has no intention of receiving another suitor and wishes only to become the mistress of her father's household. The Squire then breaks the suspense by telling her that the nephew he has in mind is none other than Tom Jones, who is clearly in love with her and she with him. Sophia surprisingly rejects Allworthy's offer because she has vowed never to marry without her father's consent, and for another reason that she declines to disclose. At this point Western bursts into the room and accuses his daughter of a barefaced lie, since she obviously loves Tom and would take him at the first opportunity. He then sends her to her room and tells Allworthy that Tom has been released from prison. Allworthy then tells Western what he has discovered about Tom and Blifil and his determination regarding them, and Western immediately

decides that Tom would make an excellent match for Sophia. When Allworthy tells him that Sophia had rejected Tom anyway, Western is convinced that she is now sweet on Fellamar. Allworthy then returns to Mrs. Miller's inn after promising to bring Tom back to see the Westerns that evening.

Chapter 10 - Wherein the history begins to draw towards a conclusion

When Allworthy arrives at the inn, he and Tom have a joyous reunion. They apologize to one another, and Allworthy readily forgives Tom for his youthful indiscretions. He then explains the difference between imprudence, which may be forgiven and amended, and villainy, for which no remedy may be found. Tom is now completely happy except for the fact that he doubts that he can ever be reconciled with Sophia. Allworthy agrees that this may indeed be the case and warns him to leave the matter entirely in her hands without any attempts to alter her resolution. When he leaves the room, Mrs. Miller rushes in and tells Tom that she has spent time with Sophia, assuring her that Tom's letter to Lady Bellaston had been misinterpreted. Sophia, though glad to hear it, nonetheless still refused to have anything to do with a libertine such as Tom had proved himself to be. Mrs. Miller then hoped to help Tom's cause by telling Sophia that he had received a proposal of marriage from another young woman, but had refused it. This gives Sophia greater insight into the strength of Tom's love for her. At this point Western interrupts the conversation between Mrs. Miller and Tom, embraces Tom, suggesting that bygones should be allowed to be bygones, and wants to take him immediately to see Sophia, which both Tom and Allworthy steadfastly refuse.

Chapter 11 - The history draws nearer to a conclusion

When Lord Fellamar hears the truth about the duel and realizes that he has been manipulated by falsehoods, he wants to do anything he can to make up for his errors. As a result, he would up playing a significant role in gaining Tom's release from prison. Back at the inn, Blifil asks to see Squire Allworthy, but he refuses, insisting that he will never speak to him again. Tom persuades him to act with greater gentleness to the man who is after all his half-brother. Mrs. Miller then asks what is to be done about Blifil, and Tom volunteers to speak to him for his uncle. Tom finds Blifil in tears, sorry because of the consequences of his actions more than for the behavior that led to those consequences. Tom conveys Allworthy's message, but then freely forgives Blifil, offers to treat him as a brother in the future, and promises to attempt a reconciliation with his uncle. Blifil then pours out his confession and begs forgiveness before leaving the inn. When Tom returns to the Squire, he learns that Black George has confessed to stealing the five hundred pounds given to Tom by Allworthy, but again Tom argues that he should be forgiven because of his other good deeds and because the temptation was simply too strong for him to resist. Allworthy refuses to give any reprieve, however, because of George's ingratitude.

Chapter 12 - Approaching still nearer to the end

Allworthy and Tom then go to dine with Western and Sophia. Western soon drags Allworthy from the room, leaving the lovers alone in an embarrassed silence. When Sophia finally breaks the silence, she insists that Tom decree the justice that should deservedly be meted out to him, but he begs for mercy and forgiveness. Her main complaint is about his affair with Mrs. Waters. He argues that he had lost all hope of obtaining his true love at that point, but she insists that only proof of his fidelity over time will bring her to forgive him. She tells him that he must demonstrate his fidelity

by being often in her company, and when he demands that she set a definite time limit, she tells him that he must prove himself for a year, though she gives hope that the time may be reduced. He takes her in his arms and kisses her passionately, at which point Western, having listened at the door, bursts in as is his wont. He cheers them on in their show of affection, accuses Sophia of playing silly games for the sake of being contrary, and tells her that the wedding should be held the next day. She, always eager to obey her father, agrees instantly.

Chapter 13 - In which the history is concluded

The four then go to Mrs. Miller's for dinner, where they find that all have been happily reconciled. Sophia has asked that nothing be said about the impending marriage, so Tom and Sophia are quieter than the rest despite her father's raucous and obscene exhortations to merriment. The next day, after a quiet wedding of which no one had been told, the same group gathers at the Westerns' place of residence. Word of the marriage soon spreads, especially when Western, in his cups, proposes a toast to the bride. Soon Tom and Sophia retire to their bridal chamber.

The author then tells the history of the central characters. Allworthy still refuses to see Blifil, but sends him a regular allowance; he lives in the north country, converts to Methodism in order to marry a rich widow, and intends to run for Parliament. Square soon dies, and Thwackum is never able to regain Allworthy's confidence. Mrs. Western and Lady Bellaston are on civil terms with the principals. Old Nightingale has bought an estate for his son near where Tom and Sophia live, and Nightingale, Nancy, Mrs. Miller, and her daughter have become great friends. Mrs. Waters marries Parson Supple, the clergyman on Western's estate. Black George runs away and is never heard from again. Partridge has again opened a school and is well on the way to marrying Molly Seagrim. Western retires to a small estate where the hunting is good and turns his lands over to Tom and Sophia, whom he often visits. The happy couple have two children, a boy and a girl, whom they and their parents love to distraction, and Tom does indeed mend his ways, learning discretion and prudence at last.

MAJOR CHARACTERS

- Tom Jones - The title character is a foundling whose adventures form the substance of the novel. He is a good-hearted young man who causes trouble for himself by his lack of prudence and chastity, both of which he learns over the course of the novel.
- Squire Thomas Allworthy - The good-hearted owner of a large estate in Somersetshire, he raises Tom as his own after finding him between his sheets one night. He is so kind and generous that he is often unable to discern the evil intentions and deceit of others.
- Bridget Allworthy - Squire Allworthy's sister, she is a spinster in her late thirties who is known for her prudence. She avoids becoming an old maid by marrying Captain Blifil, to whom she bears a son. At the end of the novel, the reader discovers that she is also Tom's mother as the result of an affair with a young scholar.
- Jenny Jones - A well-educated servant girl who admits falsely to being the mother of the baby found in Squire Allworthy's bed. She later reappears as Mrs. Waters, who has an affair with Tom and later reveals his true identity.

- Mr. Partridge - A poor schoolmaster who allegedly gets Jenny Jones pregnant out of wedlock. He is thus believed to be Tom's father. He appears later in the story as an itinerant barber and serves as Tom's companion on his journeys.
- Dr. Blifil - A physician of forty who hates his job and therefore is unable to make a decent living while pursuing it. He arranges the marriage of his brother to Bridget Allworthy, after which his brother rejects him and treats him so badly that he leaves for London and dies shortly thereafter.
- Captain John Blifil - The doctor's younger brother likes the military no more than the elder likes medicine and therefore seeks marriage with Bridget Allworthy, largely because of her fortune. He dies of an apoplexy before he is able to gain the benefit of his vows.
- Young Blifil - The son of Captain Blifil and Bridget, he is greedy, sneaky and hypocritical and an inveterate enemy of the title character. He serves as the villain of the novel.
- Rev. Roger Thwackum - Tutor to Tom and young Blifil, he is a caricature of a harsh Calvinist.
- Thomas Square - A philosopher who is a caricature of eighteenth-century Deism, he converts to Christianity on his deathbed at the end of the novel.
- George Seagrim (Black George) - The gamekeeper on the Allworthy estate, he is dismissed for poaching game from their neighbor and hiding his role in the incident. Later Tom sells his own possessions to support George's starving family. George ungratefully steals five hundred pounds from Tom, and later serves as a messenger conveying letters between Tom and Sophia.
- Molly Seagrim - George's lively second daughter and Tom's first love, she becomes pregnant after their lovemaking with a child that Tom originally thinks is his, though he later is disabused of the notion.
- Squire Western - Squire Allworthy's neighbor, he is a harsh, profane, and mercenary man with a beautiful daughter, with whom Tom falls in love.
- Sophia Western - Squire Western's daughter, she is the beautiful and generous heroine of the story. She and Tom are in love, but her father and aunt insist that she marry Blifil, who she despises.
- Mrs. Western - The Squire's sister who works with him to move forward the marriage between Sophia and Blifil, and later Sophia and Lord Fellamar. She considers herself sophisticated, but she is really quite ignorant. She believes that she is more suited than her brother to raise Sophia, and her only desire is to see her niece married off to a wealthy gentleman.

- Abigail Honour - Sophia's maid who assists her in her escape from her father's house, but later betrays her while serving as housemaid to Lady Bellaston.
- Parson Supple - The clergyman on the Western estate.
- Man of the Hill - An old man encountered by Tom and Partridge who relates to them his life story at great length.
- Harriet Fitzpatrick - Sophia's cousin and the wife of Sergeant Fitzpatrick.
- Mrs. Miller - The landlady of a London inn whose family benefits from Tom's generosity, she becomes his staunch friend and defender. She has two daughters, one of whom becomes pregnant by Jack Nightingale.
- Lady Bellaston - A relative of Sophia at whose house she stays in London. She seeks to keep Sophia and Tom apart because she wants Tom for herself, then tries to destroy her rival. She is completely hedonistic and self-centered.
- Lord Fellamar - A young nobleman who seeks Sophia's hand and is manipulated by Lady Bellaston to play a role in a plot against Tom.
- Mr. Dowling - Squire Allworthy's lawyer, he cooperates with Blifil's machinations but eventually reveals what he knows about Tom's true origins.
- Jack Nightingale - A young ladies' man Tom meets in London; the two share the same lodgings. He eventually makes an honest woman out of Nancy Miller.

NOTABLE QUOTATIONS

"I declare that to recommend goodness and innocence hath been my sincere endeavour in this history." (Dedication)

"I have endeavoured strongly to inculcate that virtue and innocence can scarce ever be injured but by indiscretion; and that it is this alone which often betrays them into the snares that deceit and villainy spread for them." (Dedication)

"I believe it is much easier to make good men wise than to make bad men good." (Dedication)

"The provision, then, which we have here made is no other than *Human Nature*." (I,1)

"Mr. Allworthy . . . a human being replete with benevolence, meditating in what manner he might render himself most acceptable to his Creator, by doing most good to his creatures." (I,4)

"There is, perhaps, no surer mark of folly than an attempt to correct the natural infirmities of those we love." (II,7)

“It was the universal opinion of all Mr. Allworthy’s family that [Tom] was certainly born to be hanged.” (III,2)

“Both religion and virtue have received more real discredit from hypocrites than the wittiest profligates or infidels could ever cast upon them.” (III,4)

“Let this, my young readers, be your constant maxim, that no man can be good enough to enable him to neglect the rules of prudence; nor will Virtue herself look beautiful unless she be bedecked with the outward ornaments of decency and decorum.” (Author, III,7)

“Though [Tom] did not always act rightly, yet he never did otherwise without feeling and suffering for it.” (IV,6)

“I am convinced, my child, that you have much goodness, generosity, and honour, in your temper: if you will add prudence and religion to these, you must be happy; for the three former qualities, I admit, make you worthy of happiness, but they are the latter only which will put you in possession of it.” (Allworthy, V,7)

“In doing this [Blifil] availed himself of the piety of Thwackum, who held, that if the end proposed was religious (as surely matrimony is), it matter not how wicked were the means.” (VII,6)

“It is as possible for a man to know something without having been at school, as it is to have been at school and to know nothing.” (Tom, VII,12)

“True it is, that philosophy makes us wiser, but Christianity makes us better men. Philosophy elevates and steels the mind, Christianity softens and sweetens it. The former makes us the objects of human admiration, the latter of Divine love. That ensures us a temporal, but this an eternal happiness.” (Man of the Hill, VIII,13)

“Human nature is everywhere the same, everywhere the object of detestation and scorn.” (Man of the Hill, VIII,15)

“In truth, none seem to have any title to assert human nature to be necessarily and universally evil, but those whose own minds afford them one instance of this natural depravity.” (Tom, VIII,15)

“In reality, I know but of one solid objection to absolute monarchy. The only defect in which excellent constitution seems to be, the difficulty of finding any man adequate to the office of an absolute monarch; for this indispensably requires three qualities very difficult, as it appears from history, to be found in princely natures: first, a sufficient quantity of moderation in the prince, to be contented with all the power which is possible for him to have; secondly, enough of wisdom to know his own happiness; and, thirdly, goodness sufficient to support the happiness of others, when not only compatible with, but instrumental to his own.” (Gypsy King, XII,12)

“Fill my pages with humor; till mankind learn the good-nature to laugh only at the follies of others, and the humility to grieve at their own.” (Author, XIII,1)

“I have been guilty with women, I own it; but am not conscious that I have injured any. Nor would I, to procure pleasure to myself, be knowingly the cause of misery to any human being.” (Tom,XIV,4)

“There are a set of religious, or rather moral writers, who teach that virtue is the certain road to happiness, and vice to misery, in this world. A very wholesome and comfortable doctrine, and to which we have but one objection, namely, that it is not true.” (Author,XV,1)

“In this the ancients had a great advantage over the moderns. Their mythology, which was at that time more firmly believed by the vulgar than any religion is at present, gave them always an opportunity of delivering a favourite hero.” (Author,XVII,1)

“I am myself the cause of all my misery. All the dreadful mischiefs which have befallen me are the consequences only of my own folly and vice.” (Tom,XVIII,2)

“Though I have been a great, I am not a hardened sinner; I thank Heaven, I have had time to reflect on my past life, where, though I cannot charge myself with any gross villainy, yet I can discern follies and vices more than enough to repent and to be ashamed of; follies which have been attended with dreadful consequences to myself, and have brought me to the brink of destruction.” (Tom,XVIII,10)

“Prudence is indeed the duty which we owe to ourselves; and if we will be so much our own enemies as to neglect it, we are not to wonder if the world is deficient in discharging their duty to us; for when a man lays the foundation of his own ruin, others will, I am afraid, be too apt to build upon it.” (Allworthy,XVIII,10)

“I shall never forgive villainy further than my religion obliges me, and that extends not either to our bounty or our conversation.” (Allworthy,XVIII,11)

“Child, you carry this forgiving temper too far. Such mistaken mercy is not only weakness, but borders on injustice, and is very pernicious to society, as it encourages vice.” (Allworthy,XVIII,11)

ESSAY QUESTIONS

Discuss the following in a five-paragraph essay:

1. The Enlightenment was an era where people were convinced of the innate goodness of human nature. Henry Fielding, the author of *Tom Jones*, declared his belief in human goodness and innocence and sought to illustrate it by means of his novel, though by no means are all the characters in the story good people. Discuss the ways in which Fielding argues for the Enlightenment’s optimistic view of man in the plot and characters of the book. Focus particularly on Squire Allworthy and the title character in your analysis.

2. In Henry Fielding's *Tom Jones*, the author insists that his theme is nothing less than "human nature." In laying out his understanding of what constitutes the essence of man, he often contrasts instinct and reason. Which does he consider more important, and why? Support your conclusion with specifics from the novel. Be sure to consider the differences between characters who operate largely by instinct and those who champion reason.
3. Some critics have suggested that Henry Fielding's *Tom Jones* is in some ways an allegory, where the title character - the Common Man, as identified by his name - seeks and finally obtains Wisdom - the meaning of Sophia. Does this explanation appeal to you? Why or why not? Support your arguments with specifics from the novel.
4. In any work of literature, the author is in reality creating his own world. Consider the world created by Henry Fielding in his novel *Tom Jones*. Does the author picture the human existence as predetermined, arbitrary, random, or subject to the decisions and actions of individuals? How does your answer correspond to the thought of the Enlightenment period during which Fielding was writing?
5. Many critics over the years have considered Henry Fielding's *Tom Jones* an immoral novel, while others have argued that it is moral because Tom overcomes his early wildness and reforms to the extent that his behavior matches the goodness of his heart. What is your opinion on this issue? Do you consider the novel moral or immoral? Support your conclusion with details from the book.
6. Henry Fielding, the author of *Tom Jones*, despised hypocrisy in all of its forms. How does he display this in the course of the novel? Be sure to support your answer by giving examples of characters who are hypocrites and those who are straightforward and honest no matter the consequences.
7. In Henry Fielding's *Tom Jones*, the author portrays jealousy as the root of much evil. Choose three characters who are driven by jealousy and discuss how it drives their actions and ultimately destroys their lives. Be specific.
8. In Henry Fielding's *Tom Jones*, the author insists repeatedly that his title character is a good person at heart despite his forays into foolish behavior. What qualities most define Tom Jones as a man who is good at heart? Choose three characteristics Tom consistently displays throughout the book and discuss why they show him to be an essentially good person.
9. In Henry Fielding's *Tom Jones*, the author argues that his title character is a fundamentally good person, even going so far as to suggest that his indiscretions result, not from any evil desires on his part, but from his very innate goodness. Do you agree? Analyze Tom's indiscretions and evaluate what in his personality caused him to act as he did in each of those situations.

10. In Book II, chapter 8 of Henry Fielding's *Tom Jones*, Captain Blifil spends his time imagining what he will do when he inherits Squire Allworthy's estate and wealth. In what ways do this character and the fate that befalls him illustrate the parable told by Jesus in Luke 12:13-21? Does the author apply the story in the same way that Jesus does? Why or why not?
11. In Book IV, chapter 6 of Henry Fielding's *Tom Jones*, the author describes the guiding principle of the protagonist's character. Evaluate this description on the basis of Scripture. Does such an innate guiding principle exist? If not, how would you explain the essence of Tom Jones' character and the source of his behavior?
12. In Henry Fielding's *Tom Jones*, the author takes the unusual step of including a chapter consisting of personal commentary at the beginning of each of the novel's eighteen books. These chapters deal largely with discussions of what constitutes good writing. What, according to Fielding, are the most important characteristics of a good novel? Do you agree with him? Why or why not?
13. In Henry Fielding's *Tom Jones*, the author takes the unusual step of including a chapter consisting of personal commentary at the beginning of each of the novel's eighteen books. These chapters deal largely with discussions of what constitutes good writing. Evaluate these chapters. Do you find them helpful, or are they a distraction from the story that would best be omitted?
14. In Henry Fielding's *Tom Jones*, the title character grows and matures over the course of the novel. In what ways does he change? Do these changes involve fundamental aspects of his character or do they instead involve the rejection of practices that are contrary to who he essentially is? Defend your analysis with specifics from the novel.
15. Discuss the significance of the names given by the author to the characters in Henry Fielding's *Tom Jones*. Giving characters names that indicated their most prominent personal qualities was common practice in the eighteenth century. For what characters in the novel is this true, and how do their names indicate their salient qualities?
16. Henry Fielding's *Tom Jones* is a picaresque novel, a genre the hero of which is a roguish, lowborn character who experiences a variety of adventures on the way to final success. These adventures are often of a sexual nature. Discuss the Fielding's view of sexual morality as portrayed in the novel. Does he consider sex outside marriage to be a serious sin or a minor peccadillo? Consider not only his attitude toward instances of extramarital sex in the story, but also the consequences of those actions.
17. Henry Fielding's *Tom Jones* contains a number of incidents of a sexual nature. Discuss Fielding's treatment of these incidents. Does he have a double standard, upholding different expectations for men and women, or does he evaluate their sexual behavior equally? Support your conclusion with specifics from the novel.

18. Many readers and critics in the years since it was first published in 1749 have considered Henry Fielding's *Tom Jones* to be scandalous, yet in comparison to modern novels, it is remarkably tame, both in the way in which the author handles his characters' sexual escapades and in his treatment of inappropriate language, particularly the speech of Squire Western. Do you consider *Tom Jones* to be an immoral book? Why or why not?
19. In Henry Fielding's *Tom Jones*, the author makes use of many pairs of characters who serve as foils for one another. Choose three such pairs and analyze how their differences serve to bring into bold relief the salient characteristics of each one.
20. Henry Fielding's *Tom Jones* is a carefully structured novel - eighteen books, with six in the country, six on the road, and six in London, and each book opening with a chapter of authorial commentary. In what ways does the structure contribute to the author's message? Cite specific examples.
21. In both Henry Fielding's *Tom Jones* and Sophocles' *Oedipus Rex*, the title characters are noble and courageous young men who are unaware of their true parentage. Both eventually discover who their parents are, but in the first case, the discovery makes his fortune, while in the second it ruins his life. Discuss the differences in worldview that lead to these contrasting denouements.
22. Both Henry Fielding's *Tom Jones* and Robert Louis Stevenson's *Kidnapped* take place during the 1745 Jacobite Rebellion led by Bonnie Prince Charlie. Compare and contrast the ways in which the rebellion affects the plots of the two novels, along with the political views of the novelists this reveals.
23. Both Henry Fielding's *Tom Jones* and Jonathan Swift's *Gulliver's Travels* are travelogues of one kind or another that contain a significant amount of social criticism. Compare and contrast the two works in terms of the aspects of British society that the authors find most objectionable.
24. Henry Fielding's *Tom Jones* and Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* are both novels in which the heroine is being pressured to marry for money while she desires to marry for love instead. Compare and contrast the ways in which the two authors treat this dilemma. Be sure to give attention to their use of humor, the character qualities of the heroines, and the ultimate conclusions of their quests to marry for love.
25. Henry Fielding's *Tom Jones* and Miguel de Cervantes' *Don Quixote* both involve lengthy sections during which the title character travels and encounters many adventures in the company of a sidekick who is very different from himself, both in personality and in values. Compare and contrast Partridge and Sancho Panza. Be sure to consider, not only their personalities and their values, but also the ways in which they contrast with their masters and the roles they play in forwarding the plots of their respective novels.

26. In Henry Fielding's *Tom Jones*, the author distinguishes his narrative from other works of literature by his refusal to make use of the *deus ex machina* - the intervention of supernatural figures to resolve conflicts faced by the protagonist. Nonetheless, critics have rightly noted that Fielding depends frequently on coincidences to drive the plot forward. Choose three such coincidences and discuss how they play an essential role in the plot of the novel.
27. In Henry Fielding's *Tom Jones*, many of the characters, both from the upper and lower classes, are driven by mercenary motives. Discuss how the author demonstrates that "the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil." Be sure to use specific examples in your analysis.
28. Henry Fielding's *Tom Jones* is a comic novel, not only in the sense that "the good end happily and the bad unhappily," but also in the author's use of language and the way he obviously intends the conflicts within the book to be a source of laughter rather than real concern on the part of the reader. Discuss how Fielding succeeds in blunting the sharp edges of the numerous conflicts that occur in the course of the novel by the use of comedy.
29. In Henry Fielding's *Tom Jones*, the author openly states that, since he has never met a perfect person, he intends that the characters in his "history" will not be perfect as well. Certainly this is true of the title character, to whose flaws the author often brings attention. The flaws of other characters may not be quite so obvious, however. Choose either Squire Allworthy or Sophia Western and discuss what character flaws keep him or her from being unreasonably perfect.
30. In Henry Fielding's *Tom Jones*, Tom and Blifil's tutors, Thwackum and Square, are caricatures of worldviews that the author dislikes. Discuss the alleged philosophies of the two men, how they are inconsistent with their own professed ideals, and how Fielding manages to make them, and their worldviews in the process, look foolish.
31. In Henry Fielding's *Tom Jones*, the author demonstrates that power can be used for both good and evil purposes. Choose three characters in the story whose behavior illustrates how power may be used or abused for the good or harm of others and show how they convey the author's view of the benefits and dangers of power.
32. The Fifth Commandment says "Honor your father and mother." This commandment plays a significant role in the plot of Henry Fielding's *Tom Jones*. What characters are especially committed to keeping this commandment and how are they affected by that commitment?
33. In Ephesians 6:4, Paul writes, "Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord." Discuss how the importance of this instruction plays a role in Henry Fielding's *Tom Jones*. Illustrate your conclusions by reference to three fathers or father-figures in the novel - Squire Allworthy, Squire Western, and old Mr. Nightingale.

34. In Henry Fielding's *Tom Jones*, the author often contrasts the virtue of loyalty with the vice of betrayal and often couples loyalty with selflessness. Choose three characters who demonstrate their loyalty by acting in ways that may be detrimental to their own interests yet are beneficial to others and indicate specifically how they show this quality.
35. In Henry Fielding's *Tom Jones*, the author considers disloyalty and betrayal to be serious character flaws. Choose three characters in the story who engage in betrayal and show how seriously Fielding takes this behavior by discussing the consequences of their disloyalty.
36. In some ways, Henry Fielding's *Tom Jones* is a coming-of-age novel. Discuss the process by which the title character gains maturity and sets aside his youthful impulsiveness over the course of the story. What events at the end of the book show that Tom is a better man than he was in its early stages? Be specific.
37. Discuss the title character's treatment of the various women in his life in Henry Fielding's *Tom Jones*. Would you consider his behavior to be generally honorable? Why or why not? Give specific examples to support your arguments.
38. Critics have often remarked that the heroine of Henry Fielding's *Tom Jones*, Sophia Western, is a largely passive character, one who is acted upon more often than she acts. Is this a legitimate criticism? What does this tell us about the author's view of how the ideal woman ought to behave herself? When she does act, what positive qualities does she display?
39. Henry Fielding's *Tom Jones* often contrasts the country and the city. What values does Fielding associate with each? Does he consider one more valuable than the other? Which does he favor, and why? Support your conclusions with specifics from the novel.
40. In Henry Fielding's *Tom Jones*, Jenny Jones, who supposedly is the title character's mother, appears later as Mrs. Waters, who seduces Tom at the inn in Upton. We don't find out that the two are one and the same until late in the story. Discuss the credibility of this subterfuge on the part of the author. If you examine the description and behavior of Jenny Jones at the beginning of the novel and that of Mrs. Waters later, can you believe that the two are the same person? Support your conclusion with specifics involving both manifestations of the character.
41. In much English literature, the figure of the Clown serves not only to provide comic relief, but also to inject unexpected wisdom into the proceedings. In Henry Fielding's *Tom Jones*, the role of the Clown is filled by Partridge, the schoolmaster and barber who becomes Tom's servant and traveling companion. Discuss the ways in which he both provides comic relief and contributes to the development of the plot of the novel.
42. Henry Fielding, the author of *Tom Jones*, considered charity the greatest of the Christian virtues. How does he demonstrate this conviction through the characters of his great novel? Consider not only the charitable actions of characters like Squire Allworthy and Tom Jones himself, but also the extent to which they observe Jesus' instructions in Matthew 6:1-4 about the importance of giving in secret.

43. Henry Fielding's *Tom Jones* is a long novel, but many of its fans have argued that it can only be fully appreciated through a second reading. Why might someone say this? Choose three scenes that take on completely different meanings when the reader knows the secrets that are revealed at the end of the story and explain why a second reading gives the reader greater appreciation for the author's artistry.
44. Henry Fielding, the author of *Tom Jones*, spent many years writing for the theater before he turned to penning novels. Discuss the extent to which that theatrical experience helps to shape the structure and scenes of his most famous novel. Be sure to choose specific incidents to support your argument.
45. In the Dedication to Henry Fielding's *Tom Jones*, the author states, "I believe it is much easier to make good men wise than to make bad men good." To what extent is this a major theme of the novel? Does the reader observe good men becoming wise? Do we ever see bad men becoming good? Be specific.
46. In Book I, chapter 4 of Henry Fielding's *Tom Jones*, Tom's benefactor is described in these words: "Mr. Allworthy . . . a human being replete with benevolence, meditating in what manner he might render himself most acceptable to his Creator, by doing most good to his creatures." He is undoubtedly benevolent, but what evidence does the novel provide of Christian motivation on the part of Squire Allworthy?
47. In Henry Fielding's *Tom Jones*, the episode of the Man of the Hill is clearly a digression, yet serves in some ways to enunciate important themes the author wishes to bring out. What major themes of the novel may be seen in this tangent and how do they appear later on in the story?
48. In Henry Fielding's *Tom Jones*, the episode of the Gypsy King is clearly a digression, yet serves in some ways to enunciate important themes the author wishes to bring out. What major themes of the novel may be seen in this tangent and how do they appear later on in the story?
49. In Book XV, chapter 1 of Henry Fielding's *Tom Jones*, the narrator states, "There are a set of religious, or rather moral writers, who teach that virtue is the certain road to happiness, and vice to misery, in this world. A very wholesome and comfortable doctrine, and to which we have but one objection, namely, that it is not true." Do you agree with his conclusion? Why or why not? Be sure to use passages of Scripture to support your analysis.
50. In Book XVIII, chapter 2 of Henry Fielding's *Tom Jones*, the title character says, "I am myself the cause of all my misery. All the dreadful mischiefs which have befallen me are the consequences only of my own folly and vice." Do you agree? Is Tom being too hard on himself? What about all the other characters who contributed to his misery?

51. In Book XVIII, chapter 11 of Henry Fielding's *Tom Jones*, Squire Allworthy refuses to forgive Blifil and criticizes Tom for doing so. Evaluate his attitude and action on the basis of the teachings of Scripture on forgiveness. Who, at the end of the novel, is acting in a more Christian fashion, Tom or his benefactor?
52. Robert Louis Stevenson's *The Master of Ballantrae* and Henry Fielding's *Tom Jones* both tell stories of brothers (or half-brothers) who are at odds with one another to the extent that one consistently plots against and seeks the ruination of the other. Compare and contrast the two examples of sibling rivalry. Be sure to consider personalities, motives, and the tactics used in the course of the conflicts.
53. Sibling rivalry is a theme that appears in many works of literature. Compare and contrast the roles of conflict between brothers in John Steinbeck's *East of Eden* and Henry Fielding's *Tom Jones*. Consider the ways in which the brothers portray the conflict of good versus evil and how they demonstrate the respective authors' views of that conflict and its role in human life.