
REVISION QUESTIONS

1. 'There is really no plot to speak of in *Joseph Andrews*; one thing leads to another, that is all.' Do you agree?
2. By discussing two or three brief episodes attempt to show how each contributes something to the themes Fielding is treating in the book as a whole.
3. Fielding said it was his intention to expose 'affectation'. Illustrate some of the varying methods he employs for this purpose.
4. *Joseph Andrews* is, according to E. M. Forster, 'interesting as an example of a false start'. How far do you agree, if at all?
5. What do you understand by the phrase 'Fielding's moral vision' as applied to *Joseph Andrews*?
6. How far can the term 'picaresque' be usefully applied to *Joseph Andrews*?
7. Fielding intended to write *Joseph Andrews* 'in the manner of Cervantes'. Discuss the importance of *Don Quixote* and other literary influences upon *Joseph Andrews*.
8. '*Joseph Andrews* would have been a better book without the recurrent mockery of Richardson's *Pamela*. It gets in the way of what Fielding wanted to say.' Discuss.
9. 'Parson Adams is to *Joseph Andrews* as the sun is to the solar system. Without him, everything is cold and lifeless.' Discuss.
10. 'By making fun of Adams Fielding calls in question his own seriousness about the things Adams stands for.' Do you agree?
11. 'The hero and heroine are failures; Joseph is too good to be true, Fanny a pretty face and an empty head.' Discuss.
12. Discuss Fielding's treatment of any *three* of the following: Lady Booby, Mrs Slipslop, Peter Pounce, Justice Frolick, the Tow-wouses, Mr Wilson.

13. Discuss some of the methods Fielding employs to move us to 'exquisite mirth and laughter'.
14. 'Irony is the predominant technique by which Fielding exposes hypocrisy'. Discuss with examples.
15. 'The taste for horse-play is immature and tiresome'. Is it?

FURTHER READING

(PB = available in paperback, * = strongly recommended)

Texts

The PB editions of *Joseph Andrews* published by Penguin, Dent (Everyman) and Signet (USA) are all sensibly introduced and annotated. However, M. C. Battestin's edition (Methuen, 1961) is by far the best text for study because (a) it has a very full and thorough introduction, (b) it includes the whole of *Shamela*, (c) it is comprehensively annotated. It should at least be consulted. The new Wesleyan edition (OUP) has only textual notes.

Biography

- J. Butt, *Fielding** (Writers and their Work) (Longman, 1954) PB is a brilliant sketch.
- E. Jenkins, *Henry Fielding** (Home and Van Thal, 1947) is a brief, lively biography.

Criticism

Books

- H. Macallister, *Fielding** (Literature in Perspective) (Evans, 1967) PB is an excellent, succinct critical biography. Two good chapters on *Joseph Andrews*.
- M. C. Battestin, *The Moral Basis of Fielding's Art* (Connecticut, USA) is a very full and detailed study, concentrating on *Joseph Andrews*. (For selective study.)
- A. Wright, *Henry Fielding, Mask and Feast** (Longman, 1965). Two probing chapters.
- R. Paulson (ed.), *Fielding. A Collection of Critical Essays* (Prentice-Hall, 1962) PB. contains essays on *Joseph Andrews* by M. Mack* and M. Spilka.*

Essays and articles

For early views see Paulson and Lockwood (eds), *Fielding, The Critical Heritage* (Routledge, 1969). See also the following:

- W. Allen, *The English Novel* (Penguin, 1958) PB.
 S. T. Coleridge, *Essays and Lectures on Shakespeare, etc.* (Dent: Everyman).
 A. E. Dyson, *The Crazy Fabric** (Macmillan, 1966) PB.
 W. C. Hazlitt, *Lectures on the English Comic Writers* (Dent: Everyman).
 A. Kettle, *An Introduction to the English Novel* (Hutchinson, 1951) PB.
 M. Murray, *Unprofessional Essays** (Cape, 1963).
 V. S. Pritchett, *The Living Novel** (Chatto, 1946).
 Sir Walter Scott, *Lives of the Novelists* (Dent: Everyman).
 I. Watt, *The Rise of the Novel* (Penguin, 1963) PB.

Background

- D. Taylor, *Fielding's England* (Dobson, 1966).
 P. Rogers (ed.), *The Eighteenth Century* (Contexts of English Literature) (Methuen, 1978).
 B. Willey, *The Eighteenth Century Background* (Chatto, 1965).

Fielding's other novels are readily available in similar editions to *Joseph Andrews*. Richardson's *Pamela* is available in Dent's (Everyman) edition, in two volumes.

Note. Works not in print should be available in public/academic libraries.