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Jules Verne

Jules Verne, a French novelist, was born in France is 1828. He studied law but instead became one of the very first science fiction writers.

The popular interest in science in the 1800s led Verne to write very realistic and detailed stories that used science and technology. In these stories he wrote about such modern things as airplanes, submarines, television, guided missiles, and space satellites before they were even invented. His detailed descriptions of these items even accurately predicted their real uses. The *Nautilus*, the submarine that he wrote about in *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea* and which also appears in *The Mysterious Island*, was written about twenty-five years before the first successful power submarine was invented.

Verne also knew a great deal about geography and used this knowledge to make his stories of travel and adventure seem quite real. In *Around the World in 80 Days*, the main character Phileas Fogg, on a bet, makes a trip around the world in the then unheard of time of eighty days. The realistic geographical descriptions of this daring feat made the book one of Verne's most popular works.

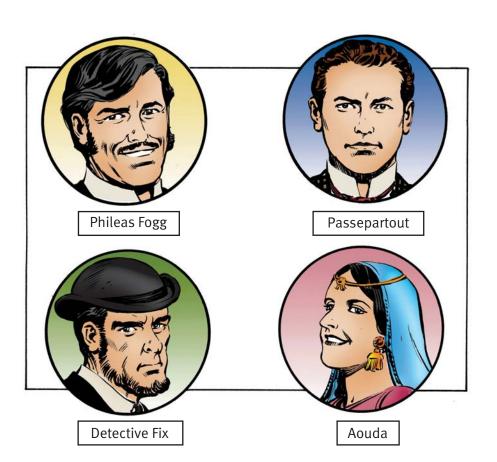
Jules Verne died in 1905.

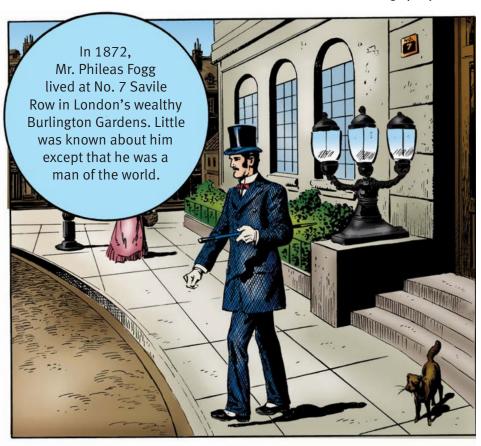




Jules Verne

Around the World in Eighty Days





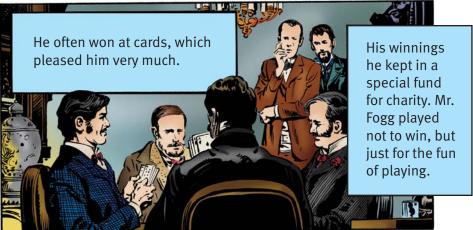
He was one of the most noted members of the Reform Club, though he did not work for a living and always tried to avoid calling attention to himself.





Was Phileas Fogg rich? He must have been! But those who knew him best could not imagine how he had made his fortune. For years he had passed every single day from 11:30 A.M. to exactly 12:00 midnight at the club. He talked very little, and all he ever did there was read the paper and play cards.





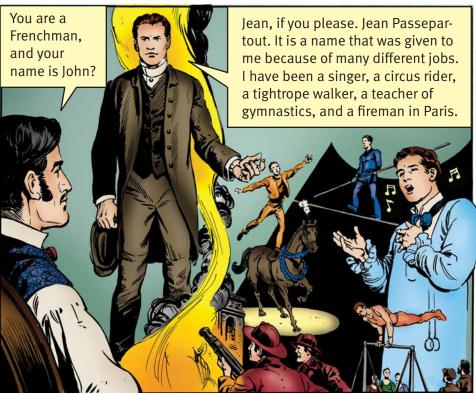
He always ate breakfast and dinner at the club and always used the same room. He ate at the same times every day, always alone.



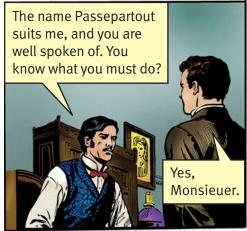
When he dined, all the cooks of the club's kitchen worked together to crowd his table with their finest food and drink.

If to live in this style seems strange to others, then there certainly must be some good in being strange. Though at home only a few hours each day, Mr. Fogg wanted his only servant to be perfect. On the second of October, for example, he had fired one man for bringing his shaving water at eighty-four degrees instead of eighty-six. Then he looked about for someone else.





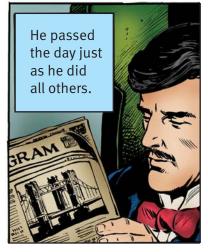


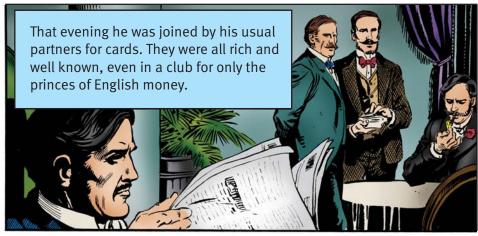


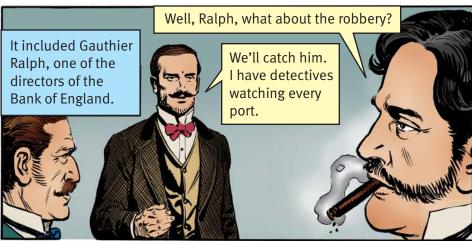


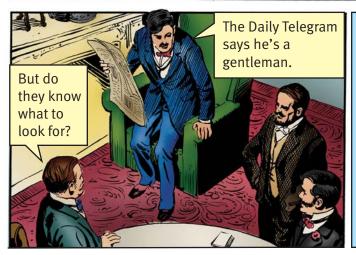
That morning, as on every other, Mr. Phileas Fogg placed his right foot in front of his left foot 575 times and reached the Reform Club at the usual hour.







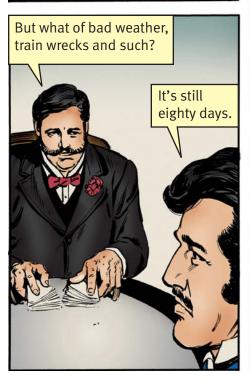




The robbery was the talk of the town. A package of notes worth 55,000 pounds had been taken from the Bank of England. The daring thief had simply picked them up from a table and walked off.













After talking together, his partners answered.





And so, twenty minutes later, having won twenty guineas at cards, Mr. Fogg left the Reform Club to travel around the world.

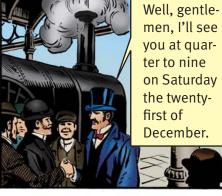






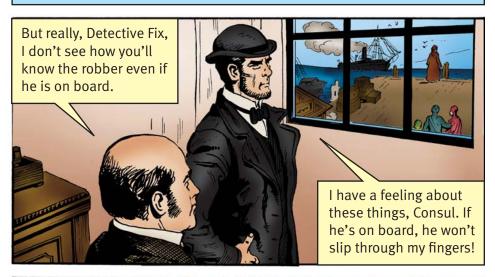
They got to the station at twenty past eight, and Phileas Fogg reached for the twenty guineas he had just won at cards.





Then Phileas Fogg and his servant boarded the train. Moments later it glided from the station.

Six days later, two men waited at the Suez Canal for the ship Mongolia. It had come from Italy and was on its way to India.

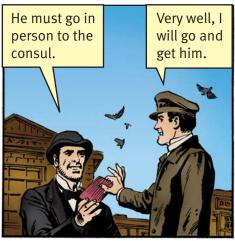






Fix was quite surprised. The wording on this man's passport was the same as that sent to him by Scotland Yard for the bank robber.





I must keep him here until I get a warrant from London. I hope you will not let him go.



Ah, that's your problem. If it is a good passport, I have no right to refuse.

But as he spoke, a knock was heard at the door.

