

# The Red and the Black

Stendhal

## A Before Reading

- 1 There were three main social classes in France in Stendhal's time. Complete the table with the information below. Then check your answers on pages 4–5 in the book.

Important members of the church: bishops, archbishops and cardinals.

Poor, low-class people called peasants and middle-class people like businessmen and professionals.

The highest class of society – aristocrats.

They became government ministers and soldiers.

They didn't have to fight for their country.

They didn't have to pay much tax.

They had to pay a lot of money to the government, the church and the landowners.

They owned about 33% of the land.

Very few of them owned the land where they worked.

Class	First Estate	Second Estate	Third Estate
Who were they?			
Did they pay taxes?		They didn't have to pay much tax to the government.	
Were they soldiers?			They had to fight in wars.
Did they own land?	They owned 20% of the land.		

- 2 Were you surprised by the answers? How many different social classes are there in your society? Are they very different to those in Stendhal's time? Create a table to represent them.
- 3 This novel is set in France just after the French Revolution. Answer the questions.
- Why did the French Revolution start?
  - When did it start?
  - How did it start?
  - Which king was executed on 21st January 1793?
  - What was the name of the group of people that controlled France during the Revolution?
  - How many French aristocrats were killed?
  - Who was the famous French soldier who became Emperor of France in 1804?
  - Where did he fight his last battle and lose?

Now read pages 6–8 of the book to check your answers.

## B While Reading

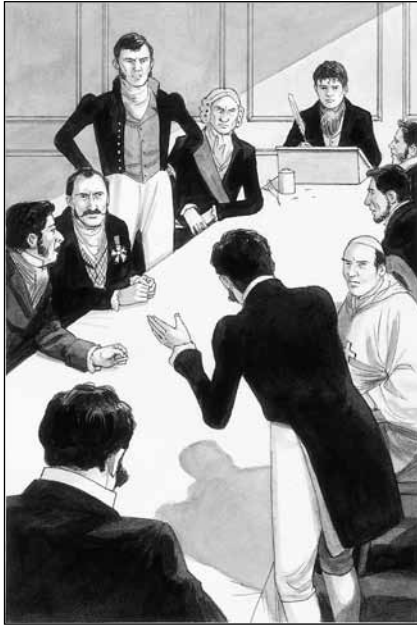
- 4 Here are some pictures from the story. As you read, identify who the people in the pictures are, where they are and what they are doing.



a



b



c

---

---



d

---

---

- 5 Put in the correct order these events that shape Julien's life.
- He became private secretary to the Marquis de La Mole.
  - He got a job as tutor in the de Rênal house.
  - He met a doctor who taught him Latin and French history.
  - He started an affair with Mathilde de La Mole.
  - He started an affair with Mme de Rênal.
  - He tried to murder Louise de Rênal.
  - He was executed.
  - He went on an important secret mission to Strasbourg.
  - He went to live in a seminary.
  - He was betrayed in a letter from Mme de Rênal to the Marquis de La Mole.

- 6 Find in this grid twelve different jobs all mentioned in the novel.

S	Q	M	A	Y	O	R	E	N	M	D	R
Y	B	R	E	L	O	A	G	S	G	T	O
R	O	T	E	R	L	E	U	H	P	I	N
A	B	R	O	M	C	D	E	N	R	K	T
T	K	I	N	G	R	H	M	A	I	D	U
E	W	S	S	I	O	N	A	V	E	I	T
R	U	P	A	H	F	O	G	N	S	P	O
C	W	E	M	S	O	T	T	V	T	L	R
E	N	Z	E	P	I	P	R	O	A	O	N
S	O	L	D	I	E	R	S	E	A	M	G
C	U	J	L	A	W	Y	E	R	L	A	N
D	W	L	C	A	E	I	T	O	R	T	M

7 Complete this short Curriculum Vitae for Julien Sorel.

Curriculum Vitae	
<b>Name:</b>	_____
<b>Place of birth:</b>	_____
<b>Age:</b>	_____
<b>Education:</b>	in a _____
<b>Subjects studied:</b>	_____, _____, _____, _____ and _____ literature
<b>Employment:</b>	_____ to the de Rênal family _____ at the Besançon _____ _____ to Marquis de La Mole _____ for Marquis de La Mole
<b>Special skills:</b>	excellent _____.

## C After Reading

- 8 Imagine you are writing a character reference for Julien Sorel. You can either write it in his favour or against him. Think of all the characteristics which make him a good or a bad person and give examples to support this.

*I am writing this character reference for Julien Sorel ...*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

- 9 Role-play Julien Sorel's trial in class. You will need a judge; a lawyer for the defence; a lawyer for the prosecution; members of the jury; and all the characters from the novel you decide to call as witnesses for both sides. At the end of the trial, the jury should vote on whether Julien is guilty or not guilty and the judge should decide on his punishment.