

0. ILLUSTRATIONS in VANITY FAIR - Story Preface

1. NAPOLEONIC WARS

2. NAPOLEON ABDICATES

3. WATERLOO OVERVIEW

4. WATERLOO ILLUSTRATED

5. WATERLOO HIGHLIGHTS

6. A CLOSED SOCIETY

7. BECKY SHARP

8. ILLUSTRATIONS in VANITY FAIR

9. EAST INDIA COMPANY

10. BRITAIN AND INDIA



William Thackeray's character, Becky Sharp, wants to have a great life and a great position. She cares about appearances and what others think of her. She doesn't want to be a governess, teaching someone else's children, but her opportunities are limited by her own social standing. She desperately wants to change her social standing, but there is little she can do. She was not, after all, "into the manor born." This image appears in the 10th chapter, of the 1848 edition of *Vanity Fair*, with the following caption: "Miss Sharp in her School-room."

William Makepeace Thackeray illustrated his own book. Universities have made those 150-year-old *Vanity Fair* pictures [freely available](#) on-line. A representative sampling will help to clarify scenes in the movie which may otherwise seem confusing.

- Joseph ("Jos") Sedley, Amelia's heavysset brother, works for the East India Company. Smitten with Becky Sharp, he would marry her save for concerns about her social standing.
- Becky's trunk, filled with her belongings, is one of the constants on her life's journey.
- As a governess, "Miss Sharp" employs rather unconventional teaching habits.
- Engaged to Lt. George Osborne, Amelia Sedley does not realize her fiancé is a cad. Unknown to Amelia, George pays scant attention to her love letters.
- Thackeray depicts class distinctions in the clothing of his characters.
- Becky Sharp marries Rawdon Crawley whose family lives at "Queen's Crawley." Sir Pitt, Becky's father-in-law, once courted her and wills his entire inheritance to his son, Pitt (depicted as standing "aloof" in Thackeray's drawing).
- Rawdon Crawley, like so many others in the 19th century, is temporarily locked up in a debtor's prison. One such place - Fleet Prison - is depicted in Rudolf Ackermann's *Microcosm of London* (1808).

London, at the time of 19th century novelists like Thackeray and Charles Dickens, was a great city. It was also home base for one of the most influential businesses which ever existed: The East India Company.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/ILLUSTRATIONS-in-VANITY-FAIR-Vanity-Fair>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/ILLUSTRATIONS-in-VANITY-FAIR-Vanity-Fair>

Media Stream



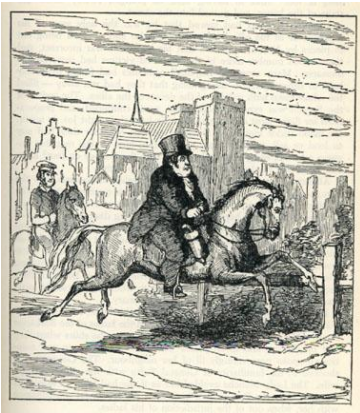
Vanity Fair - Mr. Joseph Sedley

Image online, courtesy Archive.org.

PD

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Vanity-Fair-Mr.-Joseph-Sedley>



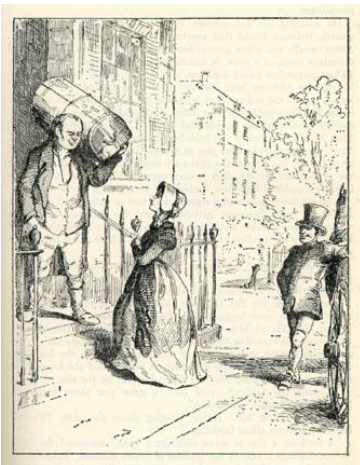
Vanity Fair - Drawing of Mr. Sedley on Horseback

Image, described above, online courtesy Archive.org

PD

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Vanity-Fair-Drawing-of-Mr.-Sedley-on-Horseback>



Becky Sharp and Her Trunk

Image, described above, online courtesy Archive.org

PD

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Becky-Sharp-and-Her-Trunk>

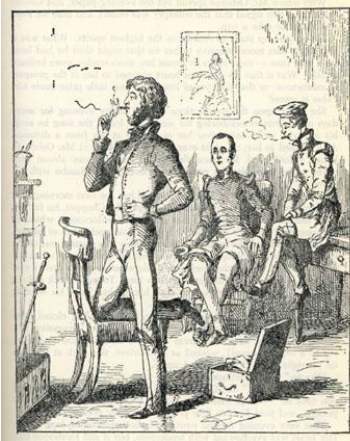


Becky Sharp: The Governess

Image, described above, online courtesy Archive.org

PD

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Becky-Sharp-The-Governess>



Lt. George Osborne - Full of Himself

Image, described above, online courtesy Archive.org

PD

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Lt.-George-Osborne-Full-of-Himself>



Vanity Fair - Sir Pitt

Image, described above, online courtesy Archive.org

PD

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Vanity-Fair-Sir-Pitt>



Rawdon Crawley - Arrested for Unpaid Debts

Image, described above, online courtesy Archive.org

PD

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Rawdon-Crawley-Arrested-for-Unpaid-Debts>



A Debtor's Prison: Fleet Prison

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

PD

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/A-Debtor-s-Prison-Fleet-Prison>