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Three Men in a Boat: To Say Nothing of the Dog

An extract from the book
by Jerome K. Jerome

PART I

There were four of us — George, and William Samuel Harris, and myself, and my dog Montmorency. We were sitting in my room, smoking, and talking about how bad off we were¹ — bad from a medical point of view, of course.

We sat there for half an hour and described our diseases to each other. I explained to George and William Harris how I felt when I got up in the morning; and William Harris told us how he felt when he went to bed; and George gave us a clever piece of acting which illustrated how he felt in the night.

George IMAGINES he is ill, but there's never anything really wrong with him, you know. However, I have really suffered from bad health since childhood. When I was a boy, the disease hardly ever left me for a day. My parents did not know then that it was my liver, and so they used to think it was laziness. "You lazy little devil," they would say, "get up and do something for your living!" since they didn't know that I was ill.

And they didn't give me pills; they gave me clumps² on the side of the head. And strangely, those clumps on the head often cured me ... for a while³. Those clumps had an amazing effect on my liver, and made me

¹ как плох каждый из нас

² они давали мне подзатыльники

³ на время

go straight away then and there, and do what was wanted to be done, without further loss of time. Maybe there was something to those simple, old-fashioned remedies after all.⁴

At this point Mrs Poppets knocked at the door to know if we were ready for supper. We smiled sadly at one another and said we supposed we could try to swallow a bit.

- **Read Part II of the extract from the book by Jerome K. Jerome “Three Men in a Boat: To Say Nothing of the Dog” and answer the questions.**
 1. Who went on a sea trip to improve his health?
 2. What did the man want to do when he got to Liverpool?
 3. Who bought the return ticket? What for?
 4. Is it possible to enjoy a sea trip? How?
 5. Why did a person on board a ship feel like Captain Cook, Sir Francis Drake and Christopher Columbus?
 6. Have you ever done a sea trip? Did it do you any good?

PART II

“**W**hat we want is rest,” said Harris.

“Rest and a complete change,” said George.

“Well, if you want rest and change, you can’t beat a sea trip,”⁵ said Harris.

I objected to the sea trip strongly. A sea trip does you good when you are going to have a couple of months of it, but for a week it is a waste of time.

You start on Monday with the idea that you are going to enjoy yourself. You wave a casual goodbye to the boys on shore, light your biggest pipe, and walk about the deck as if you were Captain Cook, Sir Francis Drake, and Christopher Columbus all rolled into one. On Tuesday, you wish you hadn’t come.⁶ On Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, you wish you were dead.⁷ On Saturday, you are able to swallow a little tea, and to sit up

⁴ В конце концов, может быть, что-то было в этих простых старомодных средствах.

⁵ Если уж нам нужен отдых и перемена обстановки, то лучше всего морское путешествие.

⁶ Во вторник вы жалеете, что отправились в плавание.

⁷ В среду, четверг и пятницу вы жалеете, что не умерли.