CHAPTER 1

Sara Crewe was a little girl. She lived in India. Her father was Captain Crewe.

"We need to go to England. You need to go to school," Captain Crewe said.

Captain Crewe and Sara went to England. They went to Miss Minchin's Seminary for Young Ladies. It was a school. It was for rich girls. Miss Minchin was **in charge of** the school.

Captain Crewe was very rich. Mrs. Crewe was dead. She died when Sara was born. The school was a big house. The girls lived at the house.

"Hello, Captain Crewe. Hello, Sara. Welcome to my school," Miss Minchin said. Sara did not like Miss Minchin.

"She does not like me. She is nice to us because we are rich," Sara thought.

Captain Crewe went shopping. He bought Sara lots of things. He bought her nice clothes. He bought her nice toys. He bought her a **doll**.

"I will call her Emily," Sara said.

in charge of (idiom) responsible for something or somebody
doll (n) a child's toy in the shape of a small person

He bought her nice toys. He bought her a doll.

"I will come back. Be good," Captain Crewe said.

"I will be good. I love you," Sara said.

"The lawyers will pay the bills," Captain Crewe said.

"Thank you, Captain Crewe," Miss Minchin said.

Captain Crewe went to India. Sara stayed in England. She was very sad.

"I will not cry. I am **brave**. I am like a soldier," Sara thought.

Miss Minchin had a sister. Her name was Amelia. She worked at the school.

"Sara is a very strange girl," Amelia said.

"Her clothes are too nice. It is a waste," Miss Minchin said.

They did not like Sara. They were **jealous**. They wanted to be rich.

There were lots of girls at the school. Lavinia Herbert was the oldest. She was 13. Lottie Leigh was the youngest. She was 4. The girls had lessons in the same room. Sara was very clever.

The other girls talked about Sara.

"She has a maid," one girl said.

"She has lots of frilly clothes!" another girl said.

"She thinks 'dolls can talk'," another girl said.

brave (adj) not scared, having courage
jealous (adj) feeling angry toward someone because they are more successful

Miss Minchin took Sara to the classroom.

"Girls, this is Sara. She is new," Miss Minchin said.

"Hello Sara," the girls said.

"Hello," said Sara.

"You will learn French," Miss Minchin said.

"Please, Miss Minchin. Can I learn something else?" Sara asked.

"No. You will learn French," Miss Minchin said.

Monsieur Dufarge was the French teacher.

"Monsieur Dufarge, Sara does not want to learn French," said Miss Minchin.

"S'il vous plaît, Monsieur. Je peux parler français," Sara said. Miss Minchin was angry. Sara spoke French, but Miss Minchin did not. She felt **embarrassed**.

"She does not need to learn French. She speaks it already," Monsieur Dufarge said.

Monsieur Dufarge was very happy. He talked to Sara in French. They were happy. Miss Minchin left the room. She went to her room. She did not want to see Sara.

"She is too clever," Miss Minchin thought. She hated Sara.

embarrassed (adj) feeling ashamed or shy about something

VOCABULARY CHECK

Fill in the blanks with the words below.

school	impressed	rich	monkey	horrible
mine	stories	beggar	attic	maid

1. A .... cleans a house. They are always female.

2. Diamonds are expensive stones. They come from a ....

3. Children go to .... to learn.

4. This coffee tastes .... I cannot drink it.

5. Sara felt sorry for the .... and gave him her buns.

6. I was .... by her success in a very short time.

7. I like her .... They are full of adventures.

8. A .... is an animal. It can climb trees.

9. The .... is at the top of a house.

10. You are .... when you have a lot of money.

Fill in the blanks with the words below.

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jealous	pets	bothers	loud	asleep
brave	scared	pretty	mean	upset

1. Maria's success made all her friends ....
2. Don't speak in a very .... voice. The baby is sleeping.
3. This dress is so .... Where did you buy it?
4. Miss Minchin was .... to Sara and Becky. She didn't give them enough food.
5. Be ....! You can win.
6. Everybody is .... We should be quiet.
7. He never travels by aeroplane because he is .... of flying.
8. You look so .... What happened?
9. She talks too much and it really .... me.
10. I have two .... - a cat and a rabbit.