Vanity Fair

Book key

1. In *Vanity Fair*, Thackeray suggests what he does not like about people. He took the title from John Bunyan's book *The Pilgrim's Progress*. Vanity Fair is a market where people sell unimportant things. People really want these things. They will do anything to get them.

2. Open answers

3. a. army, battle, captain, colonel, general, lieutenant, major, regiment (and possibly revolution)
   b. baronet, carriage, fashionable, gentleman, governess, vanity (and other words, with good reasons)

4. a. ✓
   b. ✓
   c. ✓
   d. ✗
   e. ✗
   f. ✓
   g. ✗
   h. ✗
   i. ✓
   j. ✓

5. a. Amelia Sedley
   d. Joseph Sedley
   e. William Dobbin
   f. Sir Pitt Crawley
   g. Mr Pitt Crawley
   h. Miss Crawley
   j. Rawdon Crawley

6. a. At Miss Pinkerton's school, Amelia is a student and Becky helps the students with French lessons. Joseph is Amelia's brother. Becky meets him at the Sedleys' house in London, in Russell Square. George Osborne goes to the Royal Gardens in Vauxhall with Becky and Amelia. He is a friend and neighbour of the Sedley family. Amelia is in love with him. Becky meets Sir Pitt Crawley at his home, Queen's Crawley. Becky thinks that he works there. She meets Sir Pitt's daughters at Queen's Crawley. She is their governess. She meets Miss Crawley at Queen's Crawley when she visits her brother and his family. She meets Rawdon Crawley at Queen's Crawley. He comes for a visit because he is Miss Crawley's favourite relative.

   b. Becky and Amelia are good friends. In fact, kind Amelia is the only person that Becky likes at Miss Pinkerton's school. Becky thinks that Joseph is rich. So she tries to make friends with him. He likes her because she is kind to him. She listens to his stories. Becky understands George. She knows that he loves himself.

   We don't know what he thinks of her yet. Becky is happy to work for Sir Pitt. She does a good job in his house. Becky is useful to Sir Pitt and he gives her important jobs. Becky doesn't spend much time with Sir Pitt's daughters. They like her because they don't have to study much. Becky likes Miss Crawley because she has a lot of money. She wins the old woman's heart. Miss Crawley enjoys talking to Becky. They become friends. Becky thinks that Rawdon is fashionable. She sees that everyone loves him. She thinks he will be very rich after Miss Crawley dies. So she tries to be very nice to him.

   Rawdon enjoys Becky's company.

7–9. Open answers

10. a. Amelia Sedley to Captain William Dobbin
    b. old Mr Osborne to George Osborne
    c. Miss Crawley to Rawdon Crawley
    d. Becky Sharp to Sir Pitt Crawley
    e. Rawdon Crawley to Becky Sharp
    f. William Dobbin to George Osborne
    g. Rawdon Crawley to Becky Sharp (now his wife)
    h. Becky Sharp to George Osborne
    i. Captain William Dobbin to Joseph Sedley
    j. Becky Sharp to Joseph Sedley

11. a. Amelia Sedley wants to see George, but he has forgotten about her and is playing cards.

    b. Mr Osborne doesn't want his son to marry Amelia because her father's business has gone bad. Mr Sedley has lost a lot of money.

    c. Miss Crawley has a high opinion of Becky Sharp. Perhaps Rawdon has a good opinion of her now.

    d. Becky Sharp can't marry Sir Pitt Crawley and become rich. Now we find out that she is married to Rawdon.

    e. Rawdon knows that his wife is cleverer than he is. She looks after both of them.

    f. With this news about Amelia, George Osborne decides to marry her.

    g. Rawdon Crawley loves his wife because she is strong. She is not weak like Amelia.

    h. George Osborne wants to dance with Becky more than with his wife.

    i. Captain William Dobbin shows his love for Amelia again. He is worried about her and wants her brother to look after her.

    j. Becky knows how to look after herself. She finds ways to make money.
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12 a Amelia is at home there. William Dobbin comes to look for George Osborne. Then he goes out to look for him. Amelia waits for George but he does not come to her house.

b The Sedley family have to move into this house after Mr Sedley loses most of his money.

c George Osborne and Amelia go to Brighton for a few days after their marriage, and they are happy there. Then Joseph and other friends join them. Soon Becky and Rawdon Crawley are there because they have no money. William Dobbin brings news about the war, and Miss Crawley is there because she has been ill.

d George Osborne, Rawdon Crawley and William Dobbin go to Brussels because they are in the army. Becky, Amelia and Joseph go too. They want to be with the men and it is exciting to be in Brussels during the war. Becky is very popular with all the men.

13 a George Osborne has a very high opinion of himself.

b They really discussed more interesting subjects.

c Rawdon doesn’t have any love for his brother, Mr Pitt Crawley.

d Everyone in Vanity Fair spends a lot of money. But how do they get it?

e Amelia is already worried about her husband. Does he really love her? Will he prefer to be with other people?

14 Open answers

15 George Osborne dies in the Battle of Waterloo. The other people are still alive. + Open answers

16 a X b √ c √ d X e √ f √ g X h X i X j √ k X

17 a Becky and Rawdon have some money from Rawdon’s two horses. Becky speaks French very well. She has a stupid husband. She always looks pretty on her horse in the Bois de Boulogne. She gives good parties and dinners and she is amusing.

b Miss Crawley orders Mr Pitt Crawley to marry Lady Jane. She is angry that Rawdon has a son with his wife, Becky Sharp.

c Rawdon has big debts in London.

d Becky does not pay her bill when she leaves his hotel.

e He ordered his son not to marry her. He stops seeing his son after his marriage.

f Major Dobbin loves Amelia. He is worried about her because she has very little money. She is also ill and she is going to have a baby.

g In the past Mr and Mrs Raggles worked in Miss Crawley’s house. They were happy and successful there. They like people from the Crawley family.

h After Waterloo, he returns to Bengal and talks about Waterloo and Napoleon all the time.

i Old Mr Osborne still loves his dead son, but he also hates him. The baby is beautiful and looks like George.

18–20 Open answers

21 a a lot of b happy c expensive d a very friendly e very angry f money g excited

22 a prison b Lady Jane c money d Governor e child f Joseph g George h Georgy i Becky j Dobbin

23 a They go to Queen’s Crawley.

b Lady Jane and Becky spend half an hour together. They become the best of friends.

c Amelia sends Georgy to live with his grandfather, old Mr Osborne.

d Rawdon catches Becky with Lord Steyne. Rawdon and Becky’s marriage comes to an end.

e He leaves most of his money to Georgy and five hundred pounds a year to Amelia.

f Rebecca offers to go with him, and he pays for her move.

g Amelia cries and changes her opinion about both George and William Dobbin.

h He leaves half his money to Amelia and half to Becky.

24–34 Open answers

Discussion activities key

1 People can be vain about the following: looks, clothes, cars, intelligence, physical abilities.

2 1811, India, a collector and governor of a part of India, Cambridge University, Isabella Shawe, Punch magazine, 1847.

3–5 Open answers

6 Mr Osborne gave George a cheque. Sir Pitt wanted to marry Becky and make her Lady Crawley. Amelia sent George a silver knife and other things. The men went to fight a war in Belgium. George gave Becky a note at the dance. Becky sold Joseph Sedley some horses. George was shot through his heart.
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7 Open answers

8 Give the students the following options, the underlined one is correct: 1 hour, 2 hours, 3 hours. 250 kms, 350 kms, 450 kms. 5 million, 7 million, 10 million. 1789, 1889, 1929. Pounds, Euros, Kroner. Seine, Rhine, Danube. Tube, Drain, Pipe. Paris, London, another city.

9–12 Open answers

Activity worksheets key

1 a Rebecca Sharp
   b Amelia Sedley
   c Joseph Sedley
   d George Osborne
   e William Dobbin
   f Sir Pitt Crawley
   g Miss Crawley
   h Rawdon Crawley

2 a downstairs – upstairs
   b interesting – boring
   c dangerous – safe
   d pushed – pulled
   e forgotten – remembered
   f dirty – clean
   g unpleasant – nice
   h silent – loud
   i pale – dark
   j large – small

3 a signature
   b drawing
   c seventeen
   d young
   e drank
   f thin
   g rich
   h garden

4 a × b ✓ c × d ✓ e ✓ f ✓ g × h X

5 a countryside
   b square
   c cheque
   d amusing
   e knees
   f mystery
   g shawl
   h debts
   i penny
   j expensive

6 a 3 b 6 c 4 d 1 e 5 f 2

7 a colonel
   b forgiven
   c battlefield
   d destroyed
   e sheepdog
   f perfect
   g eldest

8 a bought
   b tried
   c receive
   d felt
   e spent
   f saved
   g knew
   h looked

9 a Becky wrote the letter to Miss Crawley.
   b All the French ladies liked Becky.
   c Mr Osborne decided that George was not his son.
   d The doctors were very worried about Amelia.
   e Dobbin brought Amelia and her son to England.
   f Rawdon and Becky could not buy a house in London.
   g Mr Raggles was a cook in the same house.
   h Mr Raggles went to prison for debt.

10 a seat – in Parliament
    b debt – collector
    c bad – luck
    d food – and wine
    e evening – dress
    f card – player
    g love – letter
    h newspaper – story
    i half – asleep
    j soft – hearted

11 a 200
    b 100
    c 150
    d 1000
    e 3000
    f 4
    g 500
    h 15

Progress test key

1 a 4 b 8 c 10 d 2 e 9 f 5 g 1 h 6
   i 7 j 3

2 a 5 b 7 c 1 d 4 e 3 f 8 g 6 h 10
   i 2 j 9

3 a Pinkerton’s School
   b Vauxhall
   c Queen’s Crawley
   d Miss Crawley’s House
   e Brighton
   f Brussels
   g Paris
   h Mr Raggles’s house
   i Pumpernickel
   j India

4 a ✓ b ✓ c ✓ d ✗ e ✓ f ✗ g ✓ h ✗
   i ✓ j ✗ k ✓ l ✓ m ✗

5 a most beautiful
   b bad
   c surprised
   d excited
   e Belgium
   f clever