

1. home reading

Jamaica Inn
by Daphne du Maurier

Summary

Mary Yellen, a young woman of twenty-three has lived all her life in the tranquil village of Helford, but when her mother dies she sets off to live with her mother's sister, Patience, a pretty, lively woman who Mary has not seen for many years. Aunt Patience lives with her landlord husband Joss Merlyn at Jamaica Inn on Bodmin Moor where strange, things happen. But Mary was not easily frightened, and she decided to find out what is going on and what her uncle hide. She found out terrible things like stealing, murders and other bad things. At last Mary rescued the situation and helped her uncle to start a new life.

New words

Villages were **scattered** now, and there were few smiling faces at the doors of the small houses.

Scattered

Adj. Spread far apart over a wide area or over a long period of time:

- ❑ *a few scattered settlements*
 - ❑ *sunshine with scattered showers*
 - ❑ *Her family are scattered around the world.*
-

She could see tall **chimneys** in the darkness.

Chimney

Noun a narrow opening in an area of rock that a person can climb up

Then he sat down heavily and, reaching for the **loaf**, cut himself a great piece of bread, which he pushed into his mouth, before calling Mary to the table.

Loaf

Noun an amount of bread that has been shaped and baked in one piece:

- ❑ *a loaf of bread*
 - ❑ *Two white loaves, please.*
-

I've told you because I've already had too much and I can't hold my **tongue**.

Tongue

Noun to remain silent although you would like to give your opinion.

And you'll heard footsteps in the **yard**, and voices **beneath** your window.

Yard

Noun an area outside a building, usually with a hard surface and a surrounding wall:

- ❑ *the prison yard*
 - ❑ *The children were playing in the yard at the front of the school.*
 - ❑
-

Her mouth **trembled**, and one hand wandered to her **throat**.

Tremble

Verb to shake in a way that you cannot control, especially because you are very nervous, excited, frightened, etc:

- ❑ *My legs were trembling with fear.*
- ❑ *Her voice trembled with excitement.*

Throat

Noun the tube in the neck that takes food and air into the body; the front part of the neck:

- *a sore throat*
 - *A sob caught in his throat.*
 - *He held the knife to her throat.*
-

To Mary there was something horrible in this ugly, shouting laughter, which in some strange way held no note of **amusement**, but rang down the dark stone passages and into the empty rooms above, filling them with hopelessness.

Amusement

Noun the feeling that you have when sth is funny or amusing, or it entertains you:

- *She could not hide her amusement at the way he was dancing.*
-

Those who could still stand had crowded round a dirty little **pedlar** from Redruth, who had made himself the joker of the group.

Pedlar

Noun a person who in the past travelled from place to place trying to sell small objects.

One more the pedlar laughed his disgust laugh, and he began to **whistle** one of his songs.

Whistle

Verb to make a high sound.

He must have hidden so that he would remained unseen by the **smugglers**.

Smuggler

Noun a person who takes goods into or out of a country illegally.

The future seemd very black at times, especially as Aunt Patience made little **effort** to be a close companion; and though now and again she took hold of Mary's hand, telling her how glad she was to have her in the house most of the time the poor woman existed in a dream, going about her **duties** without thinking and rarely speaking.

Effort

Noun the physical or mental energy that you need to do sth; sth that takes a lot of energy:

- *Getting up this morning was quite an effort (=it was difficult).*

Duty

Noun something that you feel you have to do because it is your moral or legal responsibility:

- *It is my duty to report it to the police.*
 - *Local councillors have a duty to serve the community.*
-

The **lack** of feeling in his voice shocked her.

Lack

Noun the state of not having sth or not having enough of sth:

- *a lack of food / money / skills*
 - *The trip was cancelled trough lack of interest.*
-

He spoke without shame or **sorrow**, and she supposed that he had been born, like the rest of his family, without any warmth or gentleness.

Sorrow

Noun a feeling of great sadness because sth very bad has happened:

- *He expressed his sorrow at the news of her death.*
 - *They said that the decision was made more in sorrow than in anger.*
-

The next few days passed **uneventfully**.

Uneventfully

Adj. In which nothing interesting, unusual or exciting happens.

By now there was a continuous **hammering** on the door.

Hammering

Noun the sound of sb hitting sth with a hammer or with their fists:

- *the sound of hammering from the next room*
-

»I'm **fond** of you Mary.«

Fond

Adj. Feeling affection for sb, especially sb you have known for a long time.

He was rough; he was rude; he was a **thief** and a liar.

Thief

Noun a person who steals sth from another person or place.

»You see, your uncle is the landlord of Jamaica **Inn**.«

Inn

Noun a small hotel with a bar, especially in the country.
