

**A comedy  
(loosely based on Don Quixote)  
for Adolescents and Adults**

## WORKPACK

LEVEL B2 - C1

# CHASING WINDMILLS

## Characters

Alonso Quijano, Don Quixote of La Mancha  
Sancho Panza, his squire  
(innkeeper, priest, monk, duchess, wizard, housekeeper, etc.)

### Chasing Windmills is a comedy loosely based on Don Quixote of La Mancha

The actual book was simultaneously a parody of ancient books of chivalry, a criticism of the class structure of the time and an attempt to describe a code of honor that could serve as an example.

A mixture of reality and fantasy, the original book chronicles the journeys and adventures of Don Quixote and his peasant squire, Sancho Panza.

Alonso Quijano decides to become a knight errant and, assuming the name of Don Quixote de La Mancha, he mounts his horse, Rocinante, and heads out from his village in the heart of Spain to right wrongs and protect the oppressed.

In his delusions Quixote mistakes windmills for giants, inns for enchanted castles, flocks of sheep for armies, a basin for a helmet ....

During his journey, he dreams up Dulcinea, the damsel to whom he swears love and fidelity.

Sancho and his master wander along until Quixote realises his folly and returns home to die.

Starting with a reprise of a skit that summarizes the plot (with an "attempt" at simultaneous translation), we revisit the story in the form of short sketches as a nod to Cervantes' "Entremeses"

From the famous Windmills battle to the Duchess' deceits and tricks many characters of the play are presented with the help of the audience.



# ACTIVITIES

## **For teachers:**

This workpack is divided into different levels, taking into account learners' age and level of language acquired.

As you may notice, the same play may cater for an ample age range. This is due to an important innovation meant to suit different students' needs and interests. This means that while different age groups may be viewing the same play the various pre and post language activities in the workpack attend to a different level.

This play is suitable for students whose level of English is equivalent to

**C1 and C2 on the  
Common European Framework  
of Reference for Languages.**





# ALL LEVELS

BEFORE GOING TO  
THE THEATRE

(in addition to reviewing plot and characters)

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## Activity 2 – Research on the play’s inspiration

Go online and find enough data on Don Quixote to complete this chart.



# Don Quijote de la Mancha



1 Don Quixote is so popular that it is second only to \_\_\_\_\_ for being the most published and translated book ever.

2 It was originally published in two parts. In the years:

1st part → 2nd part  
1605 → 16...



3

The novel is basically a mockery of the chivalric ideal that was embodied in figures such as Sir Lancelot, so popular throughout the \_\_\_\_\_ Ages



## 4 THE PLOT

Don Quixote is a middle-aged gentleman from the region of \_\_\_\_\_ in central Spain.

Obsessed with the chivalrous ideals from books he has read, he embarks on a quest to defend the helpless and destroy the wicked, followed by the faithful \_\_\_\_\_

5

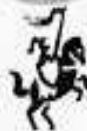
It was classified as a "**polyphonic novel**", which means it is simultaneously:

EPIC

LYRIC

.....

COMEDY



**ACTIVITY 3 Idioms.**

Don Quixote became so well known that some of its quotes and proverbs became idioms or commonly used expressions (in fact the actual word 'quixotic' was quickly adopted by many languages)

**Choose three of Sancho Panza's famous sayings and explain them in your own words.**

There's a remedy for everything except death.

Holding the power and the staff, I'll do whatever I want.

They'll come for wool and go back shorn.

The foolish remarks of the rich man pass for wisdom in the world.

Make yourself into honey and the flies will eat you up.

You're worth as much as you have.

Never put your thumbs between your wisdom teeth.

If the pitcher hits the stone or the stone hits the pitcher, it's bad for the pitcher.

The fool knows more in his own house than the wise man in someone else's.

# LEVEL 1

AFTER WATCHING  
THE PLAY





**Activity 4**

**CRITICAL THINKING**

Answer the questions and give reasons

a) Did you enjoy the play? Why?

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b) Give your opinion about the costumes. Justify it.

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c) Do you enjoy this kind of comedies? Why?

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d) Do you prefer interactive or non-interactive plays? Why?

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e) Do you go to the theater often? Which plays have you attended before this one?  
Why did you remember them?

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# USE OF ENGLISH

ACTIVITY 5: Search the meaning. Write an opposite adjective:

<b>affectionate</b>	
<b>powerful</b>	
<b>educated</b>	
<b>foolish</b>	
<b>irrational</b>	
<b>gullible</b>	
<b>rude</b>	
<b>utopian</b>	

Match TWO of them to EACH of these characters you've just seen.  
(you can either use the original adjective or its opposite)

SANCHO \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

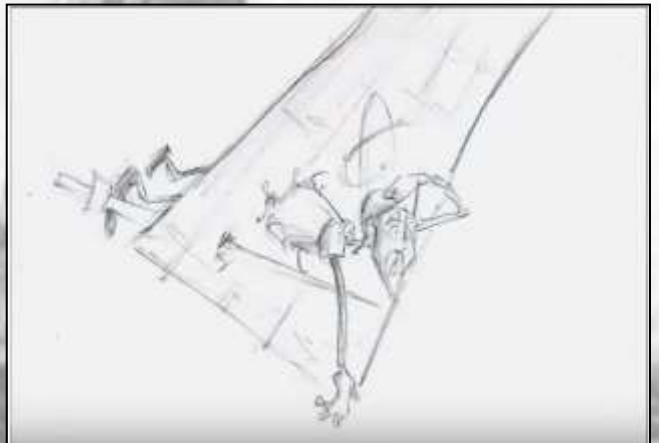
QUIXOTE \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

DULCINEA \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**ACTIVITY 6:**

Remember the play

Retell this scene using this storyboard and summarize each part in as few words as possible





## ACTIVITY 7:

Complete the following Dramatis personae (list of characters in a dramatic work)  
Use your own words and ideas



**Don Quixote** - The novel's tragicomic hero. Don Quixote's main quest in life is to revive knight-errantry in a world with no chivalric virtues and values. He believes \_\_\_\_\_ Honest, dignified, proud, and idealistic, he wants to save the world. As intelligent as he is mad, Don Quixote is \_\_\_\_\_



**Sancho Panza** - The peasant laborer—greedy but kind, faithful but cowardly—whom Don Quixote takes as his squire. A representation of the common man, Sancho is \_\_\_\_\_ and thinks \_\_\_\_\_



**Dulcinea Del Toboso** - The unseen force driving all of Don Quixote's adventures. Dulcinea, a peasant woman whom Don Quixote envisions as his ladylove. Though she never appears as a physical character she is \_\_\_\_\_ and represents \_\_\_\_\_



**The Duke and Duchess** - The cruel and naughty tricksters. Bored and snobby, the Duke and Duchess feign interest in Don Quixote and Sancho but continually play pranks on them for their personal entertainment. The Duke and Duchess are \_\_\_\_\_ and they pretend to be \_\_\_\_\_

## ACTIVITY 8:

### Reading comprehension

#### Read this text (from Man of La Mancha's monologue) and answer:

(Alonso Quijano) Being retired, he has much time for books.

He studies them from morn till night and often through the night and morn again, and all he reads oppresses him; fills him with indignation at man's murderous ways toward man.

He ponders the problem of how to make better a world where evil brings profit and virtue none at all; where fraud and deceit are mingled with truth and sincerity.

He broods and broods and broods and broods and finally his brains dry up.

He lays down the melancholy burden of sanity and conceives the strangest project ever imagined--to become a knight-errant and sally forth into the world in search of adventures; to mount a crusade; to raise up the weak and those in need.

#### Are these sentences TRUE or FALSE?

Alonso Quijano is an old man who no longer works

He reads some books from time to time though he is not an avid reader

He is concerned about the selfishness of modern society

He wants men to be kinder to one another

Although he is worried, he has no idea what to do about it

## ACTIVITY 9:

### Comprehension questions

1. What is special about Alonso Quijano?

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2. What is his dream?

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3. Is he noble hearted? Greedy? Selfish?

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4. What is Sancho's job?

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5. What does Don Quixote mistake the windmills for?

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6. What does the expression chasing windmills mean?

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7. Why does the Duchess "amuse" herself by playing all sorts of humiliating pranks on Sancho and Don Quixote?

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8. What happens to Don Quixote by the end of the play?

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