



## Ready? Let's get started...

1. Who described Clapham as '*a serious paradise. As you entered the gate, gravity fell on you; and decorum wrapped you in a garment of starch*'? To answer this, you may need to Google it...
2. With a 1906 timepiece at your back, look past Byron and above ice and rose to a plaque with a Lord. Who is he?
3. Now, head for green pastures past babbling waters (keep a gift from a bovine association on your left). Tiptoe past four lions guarding six possible paths to a building the same age as the *US Declaration of Independence*. In its porch, find the plaque – who is remembered here?
4. Leave by the north gate and continue along Clapham Common Northside. Whose affair and *ménage à trois* were based at No 14 (find the plaque)?
5. Pursue The Chase to find an oriental SOS on a plaque at No 81. His portrait used to appear on his country's 1,000 value note - who is he?
6. Turn left into the road to what the 1086 Domesday Book called *Wendelesorde* and left again onto a rise named after a famous British queen to return to Clapham Common. You'll pass a school named after the Lord from Clue 2.
7. Britain's most famous diarist retired to Clapham - his long-demolished house once stood on the Chase. Who was he?



8. When you reach the Common, turn right to cross Cedars Road, named for the former Cedars House. Continue along Clapham Common Northside until you reach No 110. It was the home of a radical politician and avid book collector. The plaque tells you who he was and what he was famous for.
9. Three doors down was the home of the founder of '*The Thunderer*', nickname for one of our best known national newspapers – find the plaque to learn his name. Whose busts stand back to back on his house?
10. Turn left into Leathwaite Road then right into Shelgate Road: No 61 has a plaque for a poet, essayist and novelist commemorated in Poet's Corner in Westminster Abbey. Who is he?
11. Now turn left into a road renamed after a City merchant, Mr Webb. What were its former names? Walk along it, turning left at the ninth road crossing. If you fancy a break, there are several welcoming cafés in Webbs Road where you can get refreshments.
12. The 9<sup>th</sup> street is named after Broomwood House at No 111, now demolished. It was the home of a famous campaigner you've already met – find the plaque to remind yourself who this is.
13. Novelist, playwright and poet Pamela Hansford Johnson went to school in this road. She was the girlfriend of a well known Welsh poet and later married a writer who inhabited the



corridors of power. Who were they? (There's no plaque on the school so you may need to Google this)

14. Head back to the Common (imagine sheep grazing here as recently as 1910!) and walk to the 1890 bandstand in the centre. Bear right to the old coaching inn, *The Windmill*. It's one of the possible sites for two teenage runaways who were tracked '*easily to Clapham... [where] they removed into a hackney-coach... and were seen to continue the London Road*'? Who were they? (Again, you may need to Google this)
15. A novelist who wrote the former cult series of *Fu Manchu* stories met his future wife Rose Elizabeth Knox on Clapham Common in 1905. Who was he? (You may need to Google this)
16. Cross the road to No 50 Clapham Common Southside. There's no plaque but can you guess which famous British playwright and songwriter lived here as a teenager with his family?

**Congratulations - you've reached the end of our Clapham literary trail! We hope you enjoyed it. To return home, please make your way back to Clapham Common Underground station.**

*Many thanks to members of the Clapham Society who kindly contributed their expertise to this Clapham Literary Trail*





### ~ ANSWERS ~

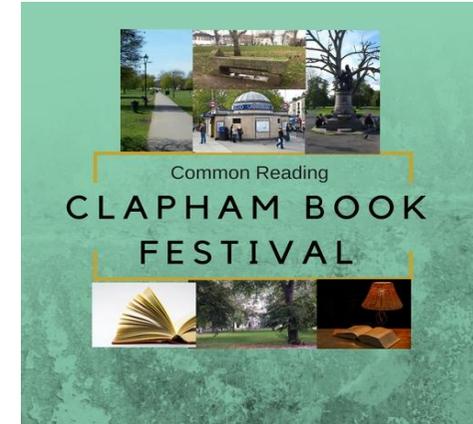
1. William Makepeace Thackeray (1811-1863), known for his satirical works, eg *Vanity Fair*
2. Thomas Babington Macaulay, later Lord Macaulay (1800-1859) lived at 5 The Pavement, and is best known for his *History of England* and *Lays of Ancient Rome*
3. William Wilberforce (1759-1833) was a member of the religious group nicknamed the Clapham Sect, and led the campaign in Parliament which in 1807 outlawed the slave trade. A founder of the Church Mission Society, he also wrote *A Practical View of Christianity* and *A letter on the Abolition of the Slave Trade*.
4. Graham Greene (1904-1991) lived at 14 Clapham Common Northside from 1935-1940, and later used the house as a setting for *The End of the Affair*. He is known as a major 20<sup>th</sup> century writer of serious Catholic novels (*Brighton Rock*, *The Power & the Glory*, and *The Heart of the Matter*) and of thrillers such as *The Quiet American* and *Our Man in Havana*
5. Natsume Soseki, Japanese author (1867-1916) lived at 81 The Chase, and wrote novels: *Kokoro*, *Botchan*, *I am a Cat*. His portrait appeared on the Japanese 1000 yen note between 1984-2004. Feminist novelist Angela Carter (1940-1992) also lived in The Chase at No 107 – her best known work is *Nights at the Circus*
6. The queen is Queen Victoria (1819-1901)
7. He is Samuel Pepys (1633-1703), the naval administrator and MP who died, aged 70, in Clapham. He wrote the *Diary of Samuel Pepys* from 1660-1669



8. John Burns (1858-1943), trade unionist and politician arrested for speaking at an open-air demonstration on the Common. He resigned as a minister in 1914 and became an expert in London history: his book collection is now in the University of London library
9. John Walter (1738-1812) founded *The Times*; the busts on either side of the first floor bay window are of Shakespeare (on left) and Milton (on right)
10. Edward Thomas (1878-1917) was a poet, essayist and novelist, best known for his war poetry. His *Collected Poems* were first published by Walter de la Mare in 1920
11. Webb's Road used to be known as Mud Lane, and before that as Popes Lane, after the poet Alexander Pope (1688-1744))
12. William Wilberforce lived at Broomwood House, and the plaque is on No 111 Broomwood Road – see also 3. above
13. Pamela Hansford Johnson (1912-1981) wrote 27 novels from 1935-1981. She was the girlfriend (and nearly married) Dylan Thomas; her 2nd marriage was to C P Snow, known for *Strangers and Brothers*
14. In Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*, Colonel Forster tracks eloping Lydia Bennett and George Wickham to Clapham
15. Sax Rohmer (1883-1959) wrote more than 13 books featuring his Chinese master criminal Fu Manchu
16. Noel Coward (1899-1973) lived at 50 Clapham Common Southside as a teenager. He published his first play *The Rat Trap* in 1918; *This Happy Breed* was set in Clapham



# CLAPHAM LITERARY TRAIL



Local arts charity **Clapham Writers** has created this self-guided literary trail around Clapham Common for you to enjoy. For most clues, the answer can be found on a plaque visible from the street, but if you are stuck, the answers are on the back of this leaflet. Accessible throughout, it takes around 90 minutes, starting and ending at **Clapham Common Underground** station (Northern line).

Love books? Find out more about Clapham authors past and present at the **Clapham Book Festival** held in May each year - see [claphambookfestival.com](http://claphambookfestival.com) for more information.

