Summary

Edward Prendick is travelling in the South Pacific when his ship goes down. He is saved by another ship and is helped by a passenger, Montgomery, who lives on a mysterious island with another scientist like himself, Dr Moreau. These scientists do strange experiments with animals. They turn them into humans. By the end of the story, the animal-people on the island have gone back to their animal nature and they attack each other and the humans on the island.

Chapter 1: Prendick is travelling in the South Pacific when the ship he is on goes down. He is rescued after a few days by a ship called the Ipecacuanha. He is nursed by Montgomery, a scientist who lives on a small island with no name. He is surprised to see many animals on board.

Chapter 2: Life on the ship is not easy. The animals make noises all the time, which Davis, the captain, doesn't like. He is often drunk and he hits M'ling, Montgomery's assistant. Prendick stops the fighting, but it's not a good idea to contradict the captain if you can't pay for the journey.

Chapter 3: One morning, the cages are taken to a boat tied to the ship. The captain forces Prendick to leave his ship, but Montgomery and his master don't want him in their boat. The captain puts Prendick in his old boat, but when the master sees the boat is going down, he agrees to take Prendick to his island.

Chapter 4: Montgomery offers Prendick his room. Prendick remembers hearing the master's name in connection with experiments with animals. He thinks Moreau has continued his experiments on the island.

Chapter 5: Prendick sees a man drinking water like an animal. He also sees a dead rabbit and other strange people who look like pigs. As he runs to the beach, a shadow follows him. When the thing jumps at him, he hits it with a stone and the thing falls to the ground.

Chapter 6: Prendick is curious about the strange creatures. He sees something pink in Moreau's laboratory, covered in blood. Moreau is angry and Prendick runs back to the beach and sees an ape-like creature who speaks to him.

Chapter 7: The ape-like man takes Prendick to the huts, where he meets the Sayer of the Law. Everybody repeats and obeys the Law.

Chapter 8: Moreau and Montgomery want to take Prendick back to the house because he is not safe in the open. Prendick thinks Moreau wants him for his experiments, but Moreau tells him he does not want humans: he turns animals into humans.

Chapter 9: Moreau tells Prendick how he started his experiments on the island eleven years before.

Chapter 10: Prendick tells the men about the dead rabbit and his attacker. Moreau reminds all the animal people of the Law and the punishments. Prendick's attacker jumps at Moreau and runs away. Later, Prendick shoots him, and other meat-eaters start eating him.

Chapter 11: The puma escapes from the laboratory. Moreau runs after it. Montgomery returns to the house and tells Prendick all the animals have gone crazy. There is no sign of Moreau. The two men decide to go and look for him.

Chapter 12: The animals know Moreau is dead, and they think there is no Law any longer. Prendick tells them he is not dead, he has only changed his shape. Montgomery is desperate and gives M'ling some whisky.
The Island of Doctor Moreau

Chapter 13: Montgomery gives whisky to several animals, who start killing each other. Prendick hears noises and goes to the beach to find many dead animals and Montgomery dying. He hears a noise, and sees the house on fire. He has to live in the huts.

Chapter 14: Prendick wants to escape, but he can't. He lives with the animal men, who are going back to an animal state. He is rescued by a ship. People don't enjoy his company and he doesn't like people because he sees the animal in them.

Background and themes

This story presents several themes:

**Society:** laws are necessary in society. Without them, human beings cannot survive. Society also needs authority.

**Human nature:** human nature is shown in its good and bad aspects. Is Moreau's behaviour humane? Does he have a conscience, which animals don't have?

**Identity:** despite Moreau's efforts, animals tend to go back to their identity, which you never lose. When they lose their identity, they become monsters.

**Darwinism:** Darwin's idea of the evolution of man from animals is presented too.

**Science and ethics:** Moreau wanted to play the role of God, and he was punished in the end. The story questions the limits of scientific research.

**Nature vs nurture:** to what extent are the characteristics of human beings and animals part of their nature? Can behaviours be modified as the result of nurturing?

Discussion activities

Before reading

1 **Discussion:** Look at the book cover. Guide students with these questions.
   - What can you see? What is the man's job? Why is he wearing strange clothes? What is he doing?
   - Is this a love story?
   - Is the ending happy or sad? Do you think you're going to like the story? Why/why not?

2 **Discussion:** Have students discuss animals.
   - Do animals frighten you? Must we protect animals?
   - Are all animals important?

3 **Predict:** Have students read the titles of the chapters and predict what the story is about.

Chapters 1–2

After reading

4 **Character description:** Ask students to make a list of characters and their description.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Description</th>
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5 **Discussion:** Have students answer these questions.
   - Are M'ling and Montgomery friends? Relatives? Why?
   - Why does Montgomery want M'ling with the sailors? Why don't the sailors want him? Why is the captain angry with the scientists?

6 **Check:** Have students go back to their predictions about the story based on the titles of the chapters. Ask them if they would make any changes.

Chapters 3–4

Before reading

7 **Read carefully:** Have students look at the picture on page 9 and its caption. Ask them these questions.
   - Who's on the boat? Are they friends? There's a man with white hair. Who is he? What's his job? Who's on the second boat? Where are they going?
   - There's a house on the island. Whose house is it? Is there anything else on the island?

After reading

8 **Check:** Students check their predictions about the boat and the people on the boat. Discuss with students how they would change their predictions related to the titles of the chapters.

9 **Read carefully:** Have students read the last paragraph on page 12. You can help them predict with these questions.
   - Who's crying? Is it the puma? Why is it crying? Why is Montgomery worried?

Chapters 5–6

Before reading

10 **Predict:** Have students read the name of the chapter and answer these questions.
   - Who's going for a walk? What's the weather like? Describe the place. How is everybody feeling? What's going to happen? Is it good or bad?
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Chapters 9–10

Before reading
18 Discussion: Have students discuss animals and their good characteristics. What are horses like? What about sheep? And dogs?

19 Imagine! Get students to imagine some animal-men. If you turn a dog and a cat into men, what will the animal-men be like? Describe them.

Chapters 11–12

Before reading
20 Predict: Ask students to base their predictions on the title of Chapter 11.

After reading
21 Discussion: Have students discuss the following: Montgomery starts drinking whisky. Why? Does this help him? What problems does whisky bring in Chapter 12? What can happen if Montgomery gives a party and M'ling drinks?

Chapters 13–14

After reading
22 Discussion: Go back to the questions in the first activity. Ask students if they were right in their predictions.

23 Discussion: Ask students to discuss what actors and actresses are good for the role of each of the main characters.

24 Discussion: Ask students if they know any other scientists who wanted to create life. You can mention Dr Frankenstein. Ask students to compare both.

Vocabulary activities
For the Word List and vocabulary activities, go to www.penguinreaders.com.

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### After reading

**11 Check predictions:** Have students go back to their predictions and ask if they were right.

**12 Discussion:** Have students discuss evening walks. You can guide them with these questions: Do you usually go for a walk? Is it OK to go for a walk in the evening or is it dangerous? Where do you like going for a walk? Why? Would you like to go for an evening walk on Moreau’s island? Why/why not?

**13 Predict:** Have students predict what is going to happen. Ask them to read the last paragraph of Chapter 6 on page 18 again. You can guide them with these questions: Make a list of good things that may happen. Make a list of bad things that may happen. Are Prendick and the ape-like person going to start a conversation? What about?

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### Chapters 7–8

**After reading**

**14 Check:** Students check their predictions about Prendick and the ape-like man.

**15 Read carefully and discuss:** Have students read page 21 again. One of the strange men talks about a burn. Why did the Master give him a burn? In what other way could Moreau punish these animal men?


**17 Discussion:** Have students make a list of what they know about Moreau. They can divide the list into positive aspects, negative and neither positive nor negative. You can use as an example the ones provided in the chart below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GOOD (+)</th>
<th>BAD (−)</th>
<th>NEITHER GOOD NOR BAD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>He’s hardworking.</td>
<td>His animals suffer.</td>
<td>He can speak Latin.</td>
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