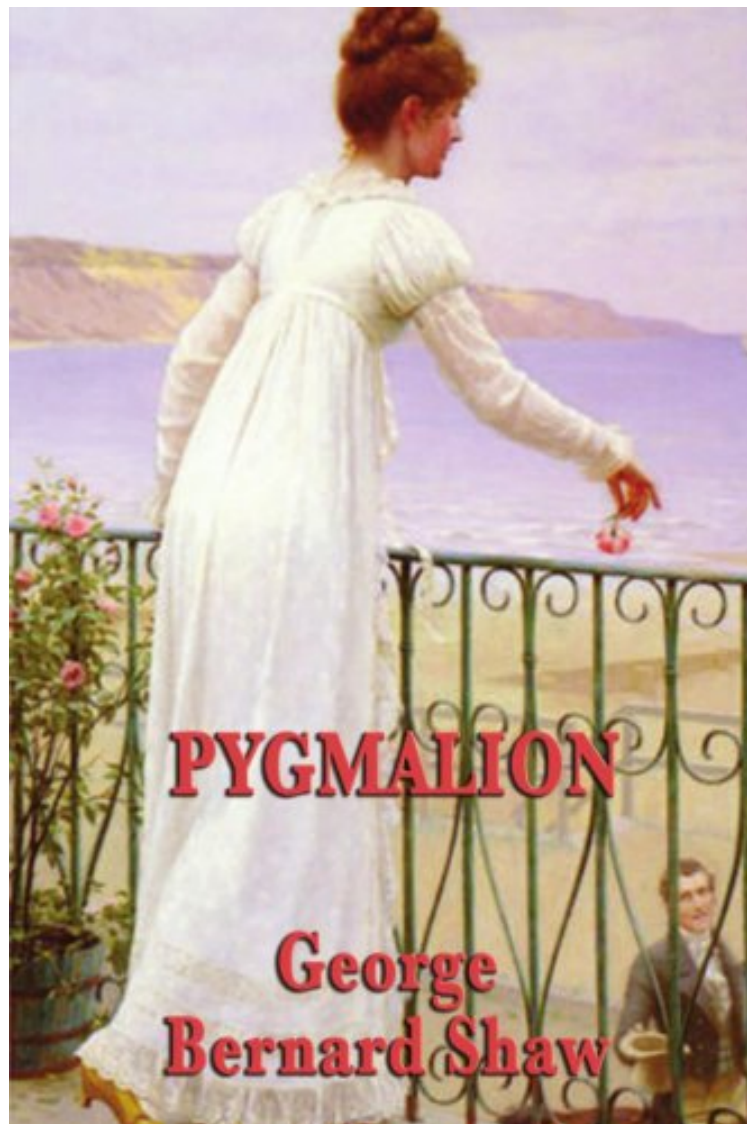


(Ebook pdf) Pygmalion

# Pygmalion

*George Bernard Shaw*  
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**George Bernard Shaw : Pygmalion** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Pygmalion:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Reforming the English languageBy John P. Jones IIIbefore it became the worlds language.George Bernard Shaw was an Irish playwright who wrote Pygmalion in 1912. He would win the Nobel Prize in 1925. He was a polemist and a gadfly, challenging much conventional thought. He opposed both organized religion and vaccinations. More people are familiar with this play thanks to the musical My Fair Lady

which is largely based upon its central themes, though the rain in Spain stays mainly in the plain is never in the original work. Pygmalion is the first name of Professor Higgins, an insufferable, arrogant academic prig. He has developed quite a skill, which he demonstrates throughout the play: identifying someones place of origin by their accent. He claimed to be able to spot someones birthplace within London to within two miles. As for reforming the English language and many others would no doubt agree, particularly those who have learned it as a second language: he advocated the use of phonetics. The good professor decides to conduct an experiment. During a rainstorm, he meets a Cockney flower girl on the streets. He is so proud of his skills, that he is confident that he can teach her proper English (as well as manners) so that in six months, she can pass herself off as a lady. Lisa Doolittle is the flower girl, and she does want proper diction lessons in order to better herself. But she does have a mind of her own, and shows it, objecting to the callous way that she is treated, as merely a pawn in Professor Higgins experiment. There are several supporting characters, such as Professor Higgins mother who largely supports Ms. Doolittle in the conflicts. Meanwhile, her dad, a dustman, sees direct monetary gain in this experiment, not in improving his daughters social status, but in hitting the Professor up for a fiver. The play is left open-ended. In fact, Shaw devotes the last 10% of the work to speculating on the best possible outcomes after the experiment is concluded, including if it would be best for Ms. Doolittle to marry the Professor, purportedly a confirmed bachelor. Shaw notes: When you go to women, says Nietzsche, take your whip with you. Sensible despots have never confined that precaution to women: they have taken their whips with them when they have dealt with men, and been slavishly idealized by the men over whom they have flourished the whip much more than by women. No doubt there are slavish women as well as slavish men; and women, like men, admire those that are stronger than themselves. But to admire a strong person and to live under that strong persons thumb are two different things. Sensible sentiments even, that resonate more than a century later. And I must consider the difficulties of enunciation in another language, and trust I would be able to find a better teacher than the good Professor. 5-stars, for Shaws work. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Hard to swallow By HHI can't say that I enjoyed these plays very much. I find Ibsen's characters to be unbelievable, especially one of the shining stars of his fame and accomplishments, Nora Helmer of "A Doll's House". I guess what I find most obnoxious about these characters is the speed with which they do things, which could be blamed on the necessity of story and play-writing, or it could be that the characters do not show significant glimmers of what they are to suddenly and so surprisingly become. Nora, for example, is this flitting, domestic plaything (thus the title) for nine-tenths of the play, unable to see her own mistakes and the seriousness of the looming catastrophe ahead. Then, all of a sudden, she is a most advanced, thoughtful, determined individual, come to drastic acts with absolutely no passion and able to express her inmost feelings and will to her husband without missing a beat. Ive been in arguments and they dont go like that. Ibsen said of his own work that his plays only just pose questions; they don't make statements. I myself dont buy Ibsen's assessment for a second. It is historically interesting that he considered his plays questions, but they are very clearly works of value statements and modes for societal change (which is exactly what they became). With lines like If Im ever going to reach any understanding of myself and the things around me, I must learn to stand alone, would you honestly believe his plays are unbiased vignettes, wondering about human nature, and nothing more? 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Bad formatting for Kindle. By Linda McCombe I gave this one star as the formatting for Kindle was very, very bad. It was all over the pages in boxes, ran off the pages and left blanks in the story. Story is a classic, but this version is awful.

Pygmalion tells the story of Henry Higgins, a professor of phonetics, who makes a bet with his friend Colonel Pickering that he can successfully pass off a Cockney flower girl, Eliza Doolittle, as a refined society lady by teaching her how to speak with an upper class accent and training her in etiquette. In the process, Higgins and Doolittle grow close, but she ultimately rejects his domineering ways and declares she will marry Freddy Eynsford-Hill - a young, poor, gentleman.

About the Author George Bernard Shaw (1856-1950) is one of the worlds greatest literary figures. Born in Dublin, Ireland, he left school at fourteen and in 1876 went to London, where he began his literary career with a series of unsuccessful novels. In 1884 he became a founder of the Fabian Society, the famous British socialist organization. After becoming a reviewer and drama critic, he published a study of the Norwegian dramatist Henrik Ibsen in 1891 and became determined to create plays as he felt Ibsen did: to shake audiences out of their moral complacency and to attack social problems. However, Shaw was an irrepressible wit, and his plays are as entertaining as they are socially provocative. Basically shy, Shaw created a public persona for himself: G.B.S., a bearded eccentric, crusading social critic, antivivisectionist, language reformer, strict vegetarian, and renowned public speaker. The author of fifty-three plays, hundreds of essays, reviews, and letters, and several books, Shaw is best known for *Widowers Houses* (1892), *Mrs. Warrens Profession* (1893), *Arms and the Man* (1894), *Caesar and Cleopatra* (1898), *Man and Superman* (1903), *Major Barbara* (1905), *Pygmalion* (1913), *Heartbreak House* (1919), and *Saint Joan* (1923). He was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1925.