

Don Quixote

Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra (Translated by John Rutherford)

Reviewed by: Enzo Takagi, 15

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First, I noticed that this novel is very hard to read, both physically and mentally. The letters are small in this book, and the content is very complex. This book is not recommended for young readers or people who have trouble focusing or reading well. This book would be recommended for a high school student or older, who is good at reading.

This novel, a classic, is about an old man living in La Mancha, in Spain. He likes reading books about knights, and one day, he decides to become a knight and go on an adventure. The reason for this adventure is that the books that he has read have made him delusional. To go on the adventure, he wears knight's armor and rides his old horse, and gives titles to himself, his lover, and his horse.

After his first trip, which was unsuccessful, Don Quixote goes off on another adventure joined by Sancho, who becomes Don Quixote's servant. Don Quixote de la Mancha fights many random people for stupid reasons, and loses to some, and gets beat up, along with Sancho. In the second adventure, a notable battle is Don Quixote fighting the windmills, which he believes are giants.

After the two adventures, Don Quixote calms down, but is tricked by dukes, duchesses, and even his own squire, Sancho. After being humiliated a little bit more, Don Quixote goes home and retires to a quiet life without dreams of being a knight. Ironically, before he dies, Don Quixote, or Alonso Quixano writes in his will that his niece cannot marry a man who reads books about chivalry.

I did not like this book very much, because it took a long time to read and was not the most exciting thing ever. I may re-read this book in the future, when I have a better understanding of classical writing. I would not recommend this book as a gift, because it is too difficult.