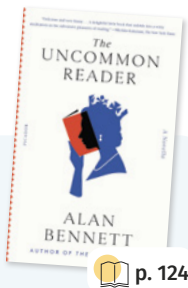


*The Uncommon Reader*

Alan Bennett



p. 124

- 1 Pick out three words or expressions that describe the Queen's first reaction to the library van. What do these words suggest about her attitude towards books and reading?
- 2 Find two or three sentences that show how Mr. Hutchings and the duke react to the Queen's interest in books. How does this reveal their view of the Queen and her role?
- 3 Focus on the end of the text. What argument is used to explain why reading might be seen as dangerous or disruptive for someone like the Queen? Do you find this idea surprising or not? Why?
- 4 Humour is a key part of this extract. Find one or two moments that seem ironic or funny. What is the author criticising or playing with?
- 5 Imagine that the Queen writes a short diary entry the evening after visiting the library van. What might she say about her discovery of books and her new thoughts about reading? (100 words)

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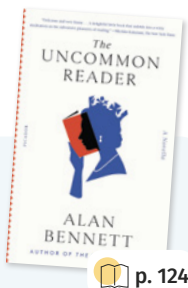


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