

# Palindrome

(Greek 'running back again') A word or sentence (occasionally a verse) which reads the same both ways. Common words are: *civic*, *level*, *minim*, *radar*, *rotor*. Famous examples of such phrases or sentences are: (a) 'Madam, I'm Adam', to which the reply was 'Sir, I'm Iris'; (b) Able was I ere I saw Elba (attributed apocryphally to Napoleon who, alas, spoke no English); [...] (d) A man, a plan, a canal – Panama! [...]

Cuddon, J. A. *Dictionary of Literary Terms and Literary Theory*. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. London: Penguin, 1991, p. 674.