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## BEFORE YOU READ



- 1 Look at the cover and the pictures in the book. The stories are about different people and set in different places, but they have a common theme. What do you think it is?

.....

## ACTIVITIES

### 1 Underline the correct words in each sentence.

- 1 Jean's additive makes the mice *thirsty* / want to drink the water.
- 2 Katya is worried that her *son's diet isn't healthy* / *son doesn't eat enough*.
- 3 Jean knows his experiment with WOW is finally successful when the mice eat and drink *normally* / *more than usual*.
- 4 One year later Katya thinks that *Alain's diet is healthier* / *Alain is sleeping better*.

### 2 Complete the sentences with the names in the box.

Alain	Charles (x2)	Jean (x2)
Katya (x2)	The mice	

- 1 ..... Jean ..... has been very careful since a firework exploded in his face when he was a boy.
- 2 ..... carry on drinking the water with the additive even though it's killing them.
- 3 ..... tells Jean that he's the company's top chemist.
- 4 ..... refuses to eat vegetables at the beginning of the story.
- 5 ..... explains that it would be dangerous if too much WOW were used.
- 6 ..... believes that Jean's additive is going to earn the company a lot of money.
- 7 ..... thinks that Alain's new liking for vegetables could be a result of the fresh air on holiday.
- 8 ..... now likes a type of food that she didn't like before.

3 What do the underlined words refer to in these lines from the text?

- 1 He was always careful after that. (page 5)  
the firework exploded in his face
- 2 'What if,' Jean thought, 'these children could be persuaded to eat healthy food?' (page 7) .....
- 3 'This,' Jean thought, 'could be a problem.' (page 8)  
.....
- 4 'Hey Jean!' Charles cried out. 'That's brilliant!' (page 11)  
.....
- 5 'No, I'm not sure that it should be used at all, even in safe amounts.' (page 12) .....
- 6 In fact, he often asked for more. (page 14) .....

4 Answer the questions.

- 1 At first, how does Jean think WOW could help people?  
.....
- 2 What does Jean say could happen to people if too much WOW is used?  
.....
- 3 Why did Charles ask Jean to leave all his WOW work with him?  
.....
- 4 What do you think has happened to change Alain and Katya's taste in food at the end of the story?  
.....

## ACTIVITIES

- 1 Complete the summary of the story with the names in the box.

Brenda (x3)

Ralph

Mr Dunn (x4)

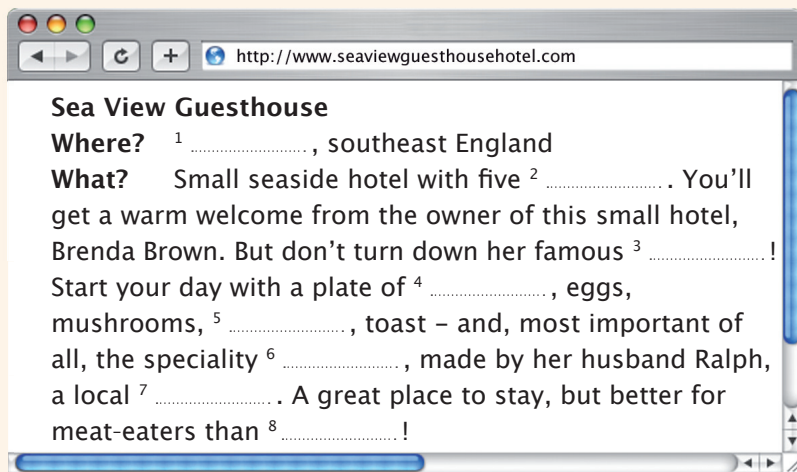
Claire (x2)

Claire's Aunt <sup>1</sup> Brenda owns a small guesthouse next to the beach in Hastings. The guesthouse is famous for its 'Full English Breakfast', especially its sausages, which Brenda's husband, <sup>2</sup> ....., makes. When <sup>3</sup> ....., a vegetarian, comes to stay for three weeks, <sup>4</sup> ..... gets very annoyed because he refuses to eat her famous sausages. She offers him one every morning, but he always refuses. Brenda's niece, <sup>5</sup> ....., tries to persuade him too, but without success. Finally, <sup>6</sup> ..... tells Mr Dunn that Ralph will make him a special vegetarian sausage without any meat. However, this isn't true: what she gives him is actually a normal meat sausage. After eating only one piece of it, there is a terrible change in <sup>7</sup> ..... and he suddenly jumps out of the window and into the street. There is a big crash outside as somebody is hit by a bus. <sup>8</sup> ..... and her aunt go out, expecting to see <sup>9</sup> ..... lying in front of the bus, but when they get there, they see it is actually a wolf that has been killed. What happened to <sup>10</sup> ..... ?

2 What do the underlined words refer to in these lines from the text?

- 1 'I always manage to persuade them to have a sausage and once they've had one ...' (page 20) ..... vegetarians .....
- 2 'I was told I had to give it up.' (page 23) .....
- 3 'It would do him good.' (page 24) .....
- 4 'Well that's what I told Mr Dunn,' my aunt replied. (page 25)  
.....
- 5 He closed his eyes and put it into his mouth. (page 26)  
.....
- 6 Its mouth was open and it had long yellow teeth. (page 29)  
.....

3 Complete the information from a holiday web site.



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the address bar displaying 'http://www.seaviewguesthousehotel.com'. The page content is as follows:

**Sea View Guesthouse**  
**Where?** 1 ....., southeast England  
**What?** Small seaside hotel with five 2 ..... . You'll get a warm welcome from the owner of this small hotel, Brenda Brown. But don't turn down her famous 3 ..... ! Start your day with a plate of 4 ....., eggs, mushrooms, 5 ....., toast – and, most important of all, the speciality 6 ....., made by her husband Ralph, a local 7 ..... . A great place to stay, but better for meat-eaters than 8 ..... !

4 Answer the questions.

- 1 Why did Mr Dunn smile when he tried the sausage?  
.....
- 2 How does Brenda change at the end of the story?  
.....

## ACTIVITIES

- 1 Complete the sentences with the names in the box.

Jack (x3)	Rex (x3)	The Boxers
Evan (x2)	Eddie	

- 1 ..... *The Boxers* ..... were all killed a long time ago.
- 2 ..... was hurt in a football match.
- 3 ..... is the college bully.
- 4 ..... buys and sells houses.
- 5 ..... finds some magic honey.
- 6 ..... gives away some money.
- 7 ..... offers to help his friend.
- 8 ..... saves a woman's life.
- 9 ..... gets a call on his mobile phone.
- 10 ..... hugs someone he was going to fight.

- 2 Are the sentences true (T) or false (F)?

- 1 The old man gives a present to the Emperor of China. ☒
- 2 Evan doesn't know that his son is getting bullied. ☐
- 3 Jack finds lots of old things from China and India in the house that his father bought. ☐
- 4 Jack finds his dad's car easy to lift. ☐
- 5 Jack wants to fight Rex in a sport with rules. ☐
- 6 Evan knows about the fight his son is planning. ☐
- 7 The woman in the car hits a child that has run into the road. ☐
- 8 Jack uses up all the honey before he gets to the sports centre. ☐

**3 Match the two parts of the sentences.**

- 1 The honey was ☒ e
- 2 Jack's father often ☐
- 3 An English army officer and his family ☐
- 4 The Chinese people in the old photo ☐
- 5 Rex is so big that he ☐
- 6 Jack's friends tell him ☐
- 7 The woman can't ☐
- 8 At the end of the story, Rex ☐
  - a escape from the car by herself.
  - b changes his behaviour towards Jack.
  - c used to live in the house that Evan bought.
  - d buys a house with all the things inside.
  - e made a long time ago in China.
  - f were probably prisoners.
  - g makes other kids look small.
  - h not to fight Rex.

**4 Answer the questions.**

- 1 Who built the old house that Jack's father has bought?  
.....
- 2 How does Jack discover that the honey could make him strong?  
.....
- 3 What do Jack's friends do when he tells Rex to shut up?  
.....
- 4 Why does Jack want to fight Rex, even without the magic honey?  
.....
- 5 Who is the woman that Jack saves from the car?  
.....

## ACTIVITIES

- 1 Complete the sentences with the names in the box.

Alex (x3)     Delia     Grandmother  
Great Uncle Tong Po (x2)

- 1 ..... *Alex* ..... works at weekends in his family's restaurant.
- 2 ..... is not good at football.
- 3 ..... lives in Hong Kong.
- 4 ..... knows about Liverpool, not the rest of the country.
- 5 ..... left home when he was very young.
- 6 ..... takes the train from London to Liverpool.
- 7 ..... enters a competition on TV.
- 8 ..... leaves London suddenly.

- 2 Match the parts of the sentences.

- 1 Grandmother goes to Liverpool every February ☒
- 2 When Uncle comes to Liverpool, he ☐
- 3 Uncle says that kung fu spice only works if you ☐
- 4 Alex feels that with his kung fu spice he ☐
- 5 At the London competition, Uncle knows that Alex ☐
- 6 Alex discovers that the magic spice ☐
- a decides to teach Alex how to cook.
- b can cook anything.
- c to be with her family for Chinese New Year.
- d doesn't need any more help.
- e is just rice powder.
- f cook with love.



3 Are the sentences true (T) or false (F)?

- 1 Grandmother has seen her brother recently. ☒
- 2 Uncle doesn't look like Alex expected him to look. ☐
- 3 Kung fu means 'a thing done well'. ☐
- 4 At first Alex thinks he can learn to cook as well as Uncle. ☐
- 5 Mum, Dad, Grandmother and Uncle go with Alex to the competition in Liverpool. ☐
- 6 Alex cooks Chinese food in the competition in London. ☐
- 7 At the competition Alex stays calm when he can't find the kung fu spice. ☐
- 8 Uncle is a martial arts teacher as well as a kung fu teacher. ☐

4 Answer the questions.

- 1 How is Alex feeling at the start of the story?  
.....
- 2 What does Grandmother complain about at the start of the story?  
.....
- 3 What does Uncle Tong Po teach Alex about cooking?  
.....
- 4 Why is Alex surprised to reach the final of the *Young Cook of the Year* competition?  
.....

## ACTIVITIES

### 1 Put the sentences in order.

- 1 Taro feels ill. ☐
- 2 Taro gets a special 'present'. ☐
- 3 Taro goes to work at Iku's restaurant in New York. ☐
- 4 Taro has to prepare a dangerous meal. ☐
- 5 Taro learns to cut fish in the fish markets of Japan. ☒
- 6 Taro was a top chef in Tokyo. ☐
- 7 The two gangsters think that Taro is dead. ☐
- 8 Two Japanese men arrive at Iku's Place looking for Taro. ☐

### 2 Are the sentences true (T) or false (F)?

- 1 *Sashimi* is fish which is cooked in a special sauce. ☒
- 2 A small amount of *fugu* poison won't kill you. ☐
- 3 *Fugu* is Taro's favourite fish. ☐
- 4 Iku's restaurant is only popular with Japanese people. ☐
- 5 Taro was expecting the gangsters to find him. ☐
- 6 When Iku sees the gun, he realises the gangsters are Yakusa criminals. ☐
- 7 Taro refused the gangster's job offer in Tokyo. ☐
- 8 Iku's place can sell real *fugu*. ☐
- 9 Taro, Iku and Anzu will die unless Taro makes *fugu* for the gangsters. ☐
- 10 At the end of the story, Anzu thinks that Taro is dead. ☐

**3** Read the sentences from the text and answer the questions.

- 1 Iku had been a little surprised, but he had also been very pleased. (page 72)  
Why do you think Iku feels like this?  
.....
- 2 'And I'm sure he can keep his mouth shut.' (page 76)  
What does Half-Finger mean when he says this?  
.....
- 3 The two big men looked as though they had hoped something would happen. (page 78)  
What did the gangsters expect would happen?  
.....
- 4 'He knew exactly what he was doing.' (page 79)  
What does Anzu mean when she says this at the end of the story?  
.....

**4** Answer the questions.

- 1 Why do people eat *fugu*?  
.....
- 2 Why didn't Taro accept the job offer in Tokyo?  
.....
- 3 Why did one of the gangsters have only half a finger?  
.....
- 4 Why did the gangsters make Taro eat the *fugu* before they tried it?  
.....
- 5 Do you think that Taro dies from eating the *fugu*? Why / Why not?  
.....

## ACTIVITIES

- 1 Complete the sentences with the names in the box.

Danny (x2)

Darren (x3)

Julie

Vanessa (x2)

- 1 ..... Darren ..... has a problem with spots.
- 2 ..... is a girl who is at the same school as Darren.
- 3 ..... discovers that he looks like a rabbit.
- 4 ..... discovers that she's got big, pointed ears.
- 5 ..... discovers that she looks like a cat.
- 6 ..... has wings and can fly.
- 7 ..... has to eat chocolate biscuits.
- 8 ..... tells his parents that he is happy with himself as he is now.

- 2 Underline the correct words in each sentence.

- 1 The comet filled the sky with light for *a night* / three nights.
- 2 Darren *eats lots of* / *never eats* sweets and chocolate.
- 3 Darren wants to look good for *his parents* / *Vanessa*.
- 4 When Darren first sees the changes to his face, he *screams* / *smiles*.
- 5 Julie realises that she can *see* / *hear* much better than before.
- 6 Scientists discovered that the comet had only changed young people who *ate* / *didn't eat* chocolate.
- 7 A lot of young people who have changed *want* / *don't want* to change back to how they were.

**3** What do the underlined words refer to in these lines from the text?

- 1 She didn't want Darren to miss it. (page 82)  
.....  
*The comet*.....
- 2 It was moving a lot, like an animal's nose. (page 85)  
.....
- 3 It was very odd. (page 86) .....
- 4 Why had it happened? (page 91) .....
- 5 'But all you have to do is eat a bit and you'll go back to normal!' said Dad. ....
- 6 She often remembered them and was sad. (page 93)  
.....

**4** Answer the questions.

- 1 Why does Darren's mother want him to see the comet?  
.....
- 2 What do pessimistic people say about the comet?  
.....
- 3 Why didn't Julie eat cakes or chocolate after her fourteenth birthday?  
.....
- 4 How is Darren's new sense of smell useful to him and his family?  
.....
- 5 Why do some parents accept the changes to their children?  
.....

## LOOKING BACK



**5** Check your answers to *Before you read* on page 3.