

## People in the story

**Freddie Fox:** 17, from Middleton, Yorkshire, England

**Laura Marcos:** 17, lives in Badajoz, Spain

**Alonso Marcos:** 19, Laura's brother

**Javier Marcos:** Laura and Alonso's father

**Ruben Sosa:** Laura and Alonso's uncle

**Isabel Marcos de Sosa:** Laura and Alonso's aunt

**Ray:** 23, an American in Europe

## BEFORE YOU READ



- 1 Look at the cover and *People in the story*. Answer the questions.

1 Who do you think the person on the train is?

.....

2 Do you think this story takes place now or in the past?

.....

## LOOKING BACK

- 1 Check your answers to *Before you read* on page 4.

## ACTIVITIES

- 2 Underline the correct words in each sentence about Chapter 1.

- 1 Freddie *can't bear / doesn't mind* going down into the mine.
- 2 Ralph *feels sorry for / laughs at* Freddie.
- 3 Freddie's *mother / father* is interested in world news.
- 4 Freddie and his dad have a *good / difficult* relationship.
- 5 Freddie is *popular / a bit of a loner*.
- 6 Freddie and Ralph fight over *the war in Spain / Freddie's sister*.
- 7 Ralph wants to *hurt Freddie / leave Freddie in peace*.

- 3 Put the sentences about Freddie in Chapters 1 and 3 in order.

- 1 An artist buys Freddie lunch in Paris. ☐
- 2 He pulls the boss free from the rocks. ☐
- 3 He crosses to France by boat. ☐
- 4 He decides to run away to Spain. ☐
- 5 He travels across France by train without a ticket. ☐
- 6 Mr Taylor thanks Freddie before falling unconscious. ☐
- 7 Nobody from the town wants to talk to Freddie. ☐
- 8 Ralph takes the credit for saving the boss. ☐
- 9 The boss is trapped by falling rocks. ☐

**4** Complete the sentences with the words in the box.

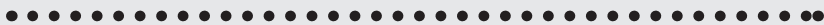
the Republicans (x3)	the Nationalists (x3)
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- 1 The rebel army fought for .....
- 2 ..... supported the government.
- 3 Most of the Marcos family were in favour of .....
- 4 The fascists wanted ..... to win the war.
- 5 Franco betrayed .....
- 6 ..... didn't want a democratic government.

**5** Answer the questions about Chapter 2.

- 1 A plane flies over Badajoz. What is it doing?  
.....
- 2 Why is Laura's father well known in the town?  
.....
- 3 Who is determined to fight for Spain – Laura or Alonso?  
.....
- 4 Why doesn't Uncle Ruben want Laura and Alonso to stay?  
.....

## LOOKING FORWARD



**6** What do you think? Answer the questions.

- 1 Somebody bangs on the front door of the Sosa farm? Why?  
.....
- 2 Somebody holds something against Freddie's head? What?  
.....

## LOOKING BACK

- 1 Check your answers to *Looking forward* on page 35.

## ACTIVITIES

- 2 Match the two parts of the sentences about Chapter 4.

- 1 The Nationalists want to kill the American ☐
- 2 Freddie and Ray have both come to Spain ☐
- 3 The border guards wave them into Spain ☐
- 4 Laura gets out of the house ☐
- 5 Laura cuts her hair short ☐
- 6 In Ciudad Real, Laura and Alonso learn that ☐
  - a by disguising herself as her aunt.
  - b because they didn't like his newspaper reports.
  - c the army has nearly entered Madrid.
  - d to fight for the Republic.
  - e to show that women are equal to men in the Republic.
  - f without asking for their papers.

- 3 Read the sentences and write *F* (Freddie), *R* (Ray), *B* (both) or ? (the answer isn't in the text).

- 1 He has come to Spain because of trouble at home. ☐
- 2 His watch is stolen. ☐
- 3 He speaks Spanish. ☐
- 4 Women often fall in love with him. ☐
- 5 He doesn't want to get on the train. ☐
- 6 He asks the soldier with the scar about the boxes on the train. ☐
- 7 He shows the soldier his papers. ☐

**4** Are the sentences about Chapter 6 true (T) or false (F)?

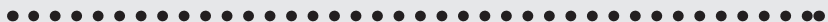
- 1 Freddie can't understand what the soldiers are saying. ☐
- 2 The soldier with the scar doesn't like the Russians. ☐
- 3 Frank offers Freddie a job as a journalist. ☐
- 4 Ray thinks Freddie is ready to be a great soldier. ☐
- 5 Freddie decides to take Frank's offer of a job. ☐
- 6 In Madrid, Laura helps at a refugee centre. ☐
- 7 Alonso finds Nationalist plans for a new tank. ☐
- 8 Alonso discusses his plans with Laura before he joins the army. ☐

**5** Complete the sentences with the adjectives in the box.

alone	thankful	bitter	proud	scared
-------	----------	--------	-------	--------

- 1 The American journalist is ..... to the Sosa family for their hospitality. (page 39)
- 2 Laura and Alonso feel ..... when they shout '*No pasarán!*' in the café. (page 45)
- 3 Freddie is ..... when the soldiers are approaching the back of the train. (page 50)
- 4 Freddie feels ..... when Ray tells him he's not ready to fight. (page 56)
- 5 Laura feels very ..... when Alonso leaves her in Madrid. (page 63)

## LOOKING FORWARD



**6** What do you think? Answer the question.

Who do you think says 'Welcome to Barcelona'?

.....

## LOOKING BACK

- 1 Check your answer to *Looking forward* on page 65.

## ACTIVITIES

- 2 Tick (✓) the correct sentence in each pair about Chapter 7.
- 1 a Journalists are shocked by the destruction of Guernica. ☐  
b Everyone has got used to the violence of the civil war. ☐
  - 2 a Freddie acts calmly after the shots in the post office. ☐  
b Freddie panics in the post office and falls unconscious. ☐
  - 3 a The Communists and Anarchists are on the Republican side. ☐  
b The Communists are Republicans and the Anarchists are Nationalists. ☐
  - 4 a Freddie faints when he sees Laura's blood. ☐  
b Freddie gets Laura to safety. ☐
  - 5 a Laura's wound is worse than they thought. ☐  
b The nurse says Laura can go home in two hours' time. ☐
- 3 Copy words from the text in Chapter 8 that show these facts are true.
- 1 The street fighting has left bad feelings in the city. (page 74)  
.....
  - 2 Freddie impresses Laura with his story about Picasso. (page 77)  
.....
  - 3 Freddie and Laura decide to go to the front. (page 79)  
.....
  - 4 At first, Frank doesn't want Freddie and Laura to go. (page 80)  
.....

**4** Complete the sentences with the words in the box.

hardships	cigarettes	cold weather	fighting unit
front line	medical station	rubbish and rats	trenches

I am reporting from a <sup>1</sup> ..... behind the  
<sup>2</sup> ..... near the Spanish town of Guadalajara. Today  
I was able to visit a Republican <sup>3</sup> ..... and talk to  
some of the men. There isn't much fighting at the moment  
and the men spend most of the day in the <sup>4</sup> ..... ,  
where the conditions are terrible. With the <sup>5</sup> .....  
approaching, they'll get even worse. The trenches are full of  
<sup>6</sup> ..... and the men's clothes are crawling with lice.  
'The food is disgusting,' one soldier told me, 'and we only get  
two <sup>7</sup> ..... a day.' Despite these <sup>8</sup> ..... the  
men are keeping their spirits up ...

**5** Answer the questions about Chapter 9.

1 Why does Laura throw the letter from Esteban in the fire?

.....

2 Why is Ray at the medical station?

.....

3 What does Freddie find out from the pilot?

.....

**LOOKING FORWARD**

.....

**6** Tick (✓) what you think happens in the final chapters.

1 Alonso kills Colonel Yagüe. ☐

2 Laura falls in love with Ray. ☐

3 Freddie asks Laura to marry him. ☐

- 1 Check your answers to *Looking forward* on page 91.

## ACTIVITIES

.....

- 2 Complete these sentences about Chapter 10.

- 1 Alonso gets information about the Nationalist camp from ..... •
- 2 Alonso takes Ray on the mission instead of Freddie because ..... •
- 3 Freddie and Laura suddenly run to meet Alonso and Ray because ..... •
- 4 Alonso didn't shoot Colonel Yagüe. He shot the man ..... •
- 5 Alonso actually shot ..... •
- 6 Laura hasn't come back to Barcelona with Freddie because ..... •

- 3 Put the events from Chapter 11 in order.

- 1 Freddie and Laura are pushed into lorries with other Republican prisoners, including Ray. ☐
- 2 Freddie and Laura sing songs and eat chocolates. ☐
- 3 Freddie, Laura and Ray jump out and try to escape. ☐
- 4 The line of lorries stops after an accident. ☐
- 5 The Nationalist soldiers surround them with guns. ☐
- 6 They find two terrified children in a cellar. ☐
- 7 They step back and fall through a hole in the ground. ☐
- 8 Freddie and Laura are taken prisoner. ☐



**4** Underline the correct words in each sentence about Chapter 12.

- 1 *Freddie feels / They all feel* afraid in the black tunnel.
- 2 Freddie *takes charge / loses control*.
- 3 Freddie chooses the *right / wrong* tunnel to follow.
- 4 Laura *recognises / has never seen* the Monte Castillo caves.
- 5 Ray is *awake / unconscious* at the bottom of a steep slope.
- 6 Ray *is sure / doesn't think* Laura is interested in Freddie.
- 7 They head *for the French border / back to Barcelona*.

**5** Are the sentences about Chapter 13 true (T) or false (F)?

- 1 The three travellers cross into France over a bridge at Irún. ☐
- 2 They decide to swim across the river further down. ☐
- 3 They manage to row their boat to the opposite bank. ☐
- 4 French border guards shoot at them from the French side of the river. ☐
- 5 Laura is reunited with her father at the British consulate. ☐
- 6 Esteban saved their father from the massacre at Badajoz. ☐
- 7 Laura decides to go to New York with Ray. ☐
- 8 Freddie arrives home to a hero's welcome. ☐

Although Freddie's story is not true, it takes place against the background of real people and events. Freddie meets the following real people: Pablo Picasso (pages 27–9), photographers Endre Friedmann (Robert Capa) and Gerda Taro (pages 29–31) and writer George Orwell (pages 74–6). Laura and Alonso meet journalist Jay Allen (pages 36–9) and hear political leader Dolores Ibárruri ('La Pasionaria') on the radio (page 45).