Worksheet
Level 5

Better Late Than Never  J. M. Newsome

Before reading

1. Look at the title of the book. What does the phrase ‘better late than never’ mean and how is it used?
2. Look at the picture on the front cover of the book. What does it show? What time of day is it, and what is the weather like? Where do you think it is and why?
3. Read the blurb on the back cover.
   a) Where does the story start?
   b) Who are the main characters?
   c) What event changes their lives?
4. Look at the list of characters on page 4. What do you find out from this?
5. Look at the map on page 5. What area is shown? What do you know about the places marked?
6. What connection do you think there is between the characters listed, the map and the information given in the blurb?
7. If you have the recording, listen to Chapter 1.

Check your reading

Chapter 1

1. Why is Zaphira angry?
2. What had Anika and Zaphira been doing before they went to the café?
3. Have the two girls known each other very long?
4. Who
   a) did Anika photograph?
   b) is Anika’s father?
   c) pulled Anika and Zaphira away from the café?
   d) gets hit in the shoulder by some metal?
5. After the explosion
   a) Where does Ahmed take the two girls?
   b) What does he do when he leaves?
   c) Why does he leave?
6. What do you think Anika and Zaphira will do next?

Chapter 2

1. Write T (True) or F (False) next to these sentences.
   a) Through the whole chapter Zaphira and Anika are alone in the hut.
   b) Zaphira pulls a piece of metal out of Anika’s shoulder.
   c) Anika doesn’t bleed much, and the cut doesn’t hurt much either.
   d) The girls think the explosion was a bomb.
   e) They know that Ahmed put the bomb in the car.
   f) Zaphira’s phone is dead.
   g) Anika hides her phone in the wall.
   h) They hide the phone because it has photos of Ahmed on it.
   i) Anika tells Zaphira how to fight if they have to.
2. Write some adjectives to describe the emotions the girls feel in the hut.
3. Who is at the hut door, and what will happen next?

Chapter 3

1. Match the beginnings and endings:
   1) The man grabbed Zaphira’s phone
   2) Zaphira helped Anika
   3) Anika pretended to
   4) Zaphira attacked
   5) Zaphira broke
   6) Outside in the street
   a) fall over on the ground.
   b) the man’s nose with her heel as they left the hut.
   c) everything was damaged and burning.
   d) and broke it into pieces.
   e) the man and tied him up.
   f) to get up and walk.
2. What do you think the girls will do next?
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Chapter 4
1. Where are the girls for most of this chapter?
2. What condition is Anika in?
3. Who says these things and to whom?
   a) I can't see his car.
   b) Keep quiet and lie still.
   c) May have to kill them both.
   d) I've got a knife in my bag.
   e) Did you see it close up?
   f) I've found us a good place to hide.
4. Where do you think the boat is going? Who are the men on the boat? What will happen to the girls?

Chapter 5
1. Where do the girls hide?
2. How many people do they think are on the boat?
3. What does Anika do, with Zaphira's help?
4. What sort of person does Anika think Zaphira is?
5. What do they find out about the explosion from the TV news?
6. Where does Zaphira go?

Chapter 6
1. Put these events in the correct order:
   a) Someone tries to get into their cabin.
   b) Anika has a shower and changes her shirt.
   c) At 07.32 an Arab man comes into the cabin; the girls are hiding.
   d) Anika drinks orange juice and Zaphira eats bread and cheese.
   e) Zaphira hides the bloody towels and their bags.
   f) The two girls talk about Ahmed and the bomb.
2. What happened to Zaphira's brother and father?
3. What did Zaphira learn from her brother?
4. What did Zaphira find on the floor?
5. What do you think the piece of paper is?

Chapter 7
1. Name the people:
   a) He leaves a note for the girls.
   b) She thinks Anika is learning about being secretive.
   c) A handsome South African man
   d) The first person Maritz telephones
   e) The person Maritz arranges to meet in Faliron
   f) She draws events that happen in her notebook.
2. Does Zaphira think she should hide and pretend not to be there, or does Anika tell her to hide and pretend not to be there?
3. What state is Anika's wound in? What does Zaphira do about it?
4. Why does Maritz accuse Musaid of stealing food?
5. What would you do in Anika's position?

Chapter 8
1. Write T (True) or F (False) next to these statements:
   a) Anika feels much better when she wakes up at 12.30.
   b) Anika had done a drawing of Zaphira’s cousin Ahmed.
   c) Mr Maritz comes into the cabin while the girls are eating.
   d) Musaid says the TV suggested Anika might have been the bomber.
   e) Musaid tells them that Anika’s brother Gamal is OK.
   f) Musaid agrees with Anika that they should tell Mr Maritz they are there.
   g) Musaid tells them they will be in Faliron near Athens the next morning.
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Chapter 9

1. Write short answers to these questions.
   a) How will they know it is Musaid at the door when he comes back?
   b) Where does Musaid want Zaphira to go with him when they get to Faliron?
   c) Does the news reader say people still think Anika planted the bomb?
   d) What does the news reader say people think has happened to Anika and her friend?
   e) Does Zaphira think Ahmed planted the bomb?

2. What do you think will happen next?

Chapter 10

1. Put the events into the correct order:
   a) Maritz comes to investigate the crash with Musaid.
   b) The girls escape to a third cabin.
   c) Musaid comes in and tells them about Karimi.
   d) Karimi and Musaid break into the cabin and catch the girls.
   e) There is a bad storm at sea.
   f) Zaphira washes the cut on her face from the mirror.
   g) Musaid leads Maritz to another cabin.
   h) Zaphira smashes a mirror when she falls.

2. What do you think will happen to the girls now?

Chapter 11

1. Who says these things:
   a) She has a wound, Mr Karimi.
   b) They must be the missing girls from the bombing
   c) And what exciting guests we have.
   d) I’m going to love playing with you!
   e) Behind you, Zaphira!
   f) I’ll shoot your toes off, one by one, if you don’t behave.
   g) Maritz is crazy. Scary crazy – mad.
   h) Help us stay alive, until we can get out of this.

2. Describe Maritz’s appearance.

3. Which two men did Zaphira attack, and how?

4. What do they do with the girls?

Chapter 12

1. Where is the boat now?

2. Where does Karimi put the two girls?

3. Why does he make them stay there?

4. Why can’t Zaphira attack?

5. How does Anika get her trainers?

6. What do you think will happen next?

Chapter 13

1. How did the girls travel when they left the boat?
   a) In a long black car
   b) In a large white van

2. Who sat on the floor?
   a) Anika
   b) Zaphira

3. Who stayed on the boat?
   a) Ahmed and Karimi
   b) Ahmed and Musaid

4. After the car ride, where were the two girls put?
   a) In a walled yard
   b) In a room without windows

5. Who looked after the two girls?
   a) Two women guards
   b) Karimi and Musaid
6. What does Zaphira plan to do?
7. What do you think the girls will do if they escape?

Chapter 14

1. Match the beginnings and ends of the sentences:
   a) Zaphira and Anika attacked
   b) The girls left the house
   c) They couldn’t
   d) Anika and Zaphira
   e) They heard a man
   f) The man said
   1) find a good place to hide.
   2) that he was a policeman.
   3) hid behind a car.
   4) and tied up the two women guards.
   5) speaking in English.
   6) and climbed over a gate into the street.
2. Who did the policeman work for?
3. How did they travel?
4. How did the girls prove who they were?
5. What happened to Anika?

Chapter 15

1. Write T (True) or F (False) next to these statements.
   a) The chapter opens with Anika and Zaphira in a police station.
   b) Anika has the wound in her shoulder sewn up.
   c) They are interviewed by a policeman called Nikos.
   d) Netta says they will be sent back to Egypt as they have no papers.
   e) Anika phones home and speaks to her father.
   f) Zaphira has a happy phone conversation with her mum.
2. What does Netta ask Anika to do with her drawings?
3. What do Anika and Zaphira find strange about the police and Ahmed?

Chapter 16

1. Write short answers for these questions:
   a) What does Nikos want the girls to do?
   b) Where is Ahmed at that time?
   c) What is Interpol doing about Maritz?
   d) What do the girls tell Nikos about Bryant?
2. What is different about what Nikos knows about Bryant and what the girls say?

Chapter 17

1. Why does Zaphira want Nikos to arrest Maritz?
2. Why did Mr Wahab stop Maritz using the Alexandria port for his ships?
3. What did Interpol do about Maritz?
4. What will Nikos do in order to meet Maritz?
5. What will Netta, Zaphira and Anika do at the meeting with Maritz?

Chapter 18

1. Put the events into the correct order.
   a) The two girls wave and nod – a signal that the man really is Maritz.
   b) Nikos arrests Malcolm Maritz.
   c) Netta catches Maritz and orders him into the house.
   d) Maritz arrives and Zaphira and Anika are on the front balcony of the beach house.
   e) Zaphira and the police driver chase Karimi onto the beach.
   f) Anika’s false hair gets caught in a tree and the criminals realise it’s a set-up.
   g) Anika shouts to say where Karimi is hiding and he shoots at her.
   h) Netta (as Mrs Bryant) serves drinks to Nikos, Maritz and his men by the pool.
2. What happens to Karimi?
3. What happens to Zaphira?

Chapter 19

1. Who says these things about whom?
   a) Poor man ... It was my fault.
   b) They say he’ll lose his sight in that eye.
c) He’s been taken across the road to the Interpol offices for questioning.

d) The bullet went through the flesh and left a mess where it came out.

e) No basketball for a while for us, then.

f) Afterwards, he’ll be locked up until he leaves the country.

g) Evil woman! Daughter of a dog! You have blinded me!

h) Don’t move him! I’ll get help.

i) So beautiful.

j) You saved my life.

2. How did Ahmed save Zaphira’s life?

3. What promises do Karimi and Zaphira make to each other?

Chapter 20

1. Why does Zaphira say it is better that Ahmed died now?

2. Who comes to see Zaphira and Anika at the airport? What does she bring?

3. Do Anika and Zaphira decide that they are friends? Why?

4. What has happened to Ahmed’s mother?

5. What does Netta say the girls helped to stop?

6. How do the girls get onto the plane?

7. Who does Anika meet on the plane?

8. What does he promise to do?

After reading

Choose some of these activities to do:

1. Choose one of the characters and write about what sort of person they are.

2. Compare and contrast the characters of Anika and Zaphira.

3. Write a newspaper article summarising the Greek part of the story.

4. Write Netta’s police report about what happened.

5. Make a quiz for other students, including some true/false questions and correct/incorrect sentences.

6. Write about Zaphira’s life after she gets back to Egypt.

7. If you were making a film of this story, who would you choose for the main roles and why?

8. Write an email to the author, J. M. Newsome, telling her what you liked and didn’t like about this story.

9. Think of another title for Better Late Than Never and explain why it would be suitable.