A Cup of Kindness:
Stories from Scotland

Before Reading

BEFORE READING ACTIVITIES (PAGE 60)

ACTIVITY 1 BEFORE READING
Encourage students to discuss and speculate, but do not confirm their guesses or predictions at this stage. They will find out as they read that the right answer is number 2.

ACTIVITY 2 BEFORE READING
At low tide on these Scottish fords, it is possible to walk across from one island to the next. But it is dangerous to be on the ford when the tide is coming in because the sea moves very quickly across the sand. It moves much faster than a man can run, and people have drowned on these fords. At high tide it is necessary to take a boat across the ford.

ACTIVITY 3 BEFORE READING
Encourage students to discuss and speculate, but do not confirm their guesses or predictions at this stage. They will find out as they read that the right answer is number 3.

ACTIVITY 4 BEFORE READING
Encourage students to discuss and speculate, but do not confirm their guesses or predictions at this stage. They will find out as they read that number 2a best describes what happens.

ACTIVITY 5 BEFORE READING
Encourage students to discuss and speculate, but do not confirm their guesses or predictions at this stage. They will find out as they read that the two ‘yes’ answers are numbers 1 and 3.

After Reading

ACTIVITY 1 AFTER READING
1 One of the three drovers in Donald and the Drovers. He is wondering how much the fare will be for crossing the South Ford in Donald’s boat.
2 The BBC woman bringing tea to Sean Connery in The Day I Met Sean Connery. She is thinking about Marina, and wondering who she is, and why she was talking to Sean Connery like an old friend.
3 The detective in The Confession. He’s thinking about Ian’s long story about the stolen washing machines and the drugs, and deciding he’s spent too much time listening to it.
4 Ella in The Pigeon. She’s thinking about her husband Jan, and feeling sorry for him because she knows he is remembering the loss of his first wife and daughter.
5 Isaac Irving in Andrina. He’s thinking about Captain Torvald and his questions about Andrina, and wondering if the old man is going a little crazy.

ACTIVITY 2 AFTER READING
Suggested answers:
‘You see, Robert, terrible things have happened in Jan’s past life. He had a family before, a wife and a lovely little baby girl called Anyusha. In the war they were put into different prison camps, and when Jan came out, he went to find his wife and daughter in the other camp. He learnt that his wife had died, and he looked for Anyusha for years and years. At last he found a girl who told him that Anyusha had been killed in the camp. The poor, poor things. He still dreams about them, you know.’

ACTIVITY 3 AFTER READING
Tina Stewart: ‘There is nobody called Andrina on this island, and never has been. I know the history of every family here. No, I think the Captain saw a ghost. He’s a sensible man and he doesn’t imagine things. Somebody, or something, is trying to send him a message from the dead.’
Isaac Irving: ‘It’s very easy to explain it. The Captain was ill, with a bad fever, and I expect he had a few glasses of whisky, too. Everyone would like a kind nurse when they are ill. So in his dreams the Captain imagines a sweet young woman and gives her the name of Andrina.’

ACTIVITY 4 AFTER READING
Open answer. Encourage discussion of Captain Torvald’s character and behaviour, as revealed in the story.

ACTIVITY 5 AFTER READING
Marina / Veronica conversation
1 Veronica: ‘OK, you went up in the lift with him. And what did you do after that?’
12 Marina: ‘I had this great idea. I got a tray with tea and shortbread biscuits, took it to his room, and went in.’
4 Veronica: ‘You just walked into his room? Didn’t he say “Who are you?” or “Go away”?’
8 Marina: ‘No, he didn’t! We had tea, and talked. And he gave me lots of good advice, about life, and boyfriends.’
6 Veronica: ‘I don’t believe you! What kind of advice? Tell me!’
10 Marina: ‘No, if you don’t believe me, I won’t say another word! I certainly won’t tell you what he said about Kevin Costner.’

Mother / Ian conversation
2 Mother: ‘You’ve been out a long time, Ian. Where have you been?’
9 Ian: ‘I’ve been at the police station, making my confession.’
3 Mother: ‘Oh no, not again! Confession about what? You haven’t done anything, you’ve got nothing to confess!’
7 Ian: ‘Yes, I have. I was confessing about the stolen washing machines. And the drugs. I told the detective everything.’
5 Mother: ‘And I suppose you told him you had a brother, too. Did he believe you? Did he believe any of it?’
11 Ian: ‘No, he didn’t. He told me to go home. He doesn’t understand. You don’t understand. Nobody understands . . .’

ACTIVITY 6 AFTER READING
Open answers.

ACTIVITY 7 AFTER READING
The first haiku is about The Pigeon.
The second haiku is about The Day I Met Sean Connery.

Notes for the teacher:
This activity helps students to think about the stories they have read, and what they see as the themes, or points of interest in the story. It also helps them to practise the key vocabulary of the stories. There are no right or wrong answers for this activity, provided that the haiku accurately reflects some aspect of the story.

• For classroom work, students can work in pairs or small groups to write their haiku. When all the groups have finished, there can be a guessing competition, with other groups guessing which story each haiku is about. Other possibilities include a haiku recital (each group in turn reads out their haiku to the class), and a poster display.

• If students are doing their reading at home, writing a haiku is a creative way of showing they have read and understood the story. Haiku can be written in students’ own reading diaries, or shared with the class. A good way is to keep a big ‘Reviews Book’ in the classroom, and each student writes their haiku in the book for other students to read.

Haiku don’t rhyme or scan, but must keep to the 5 / 7 / 5 syllable rule. They can be one long sentence, or a number of short sentences, or just phrases. They can be funny, or sad. Avoid using characters’ names. These examples for the other stories in this book show some different ways language can be used in haiku.

Donald and the Drovers
Crossing the South Ford,
Pay the boatman six pence or
You will be sorry!

Andrina
She came with the night.
Why? To punish him at last
For killing his love?

The Confession
He comes to confess.
Long story, but a short truth –
No crime, no brother.