Before Reading

BEFORE READING ACTIVITIES (PAGE 108)

BEFORE READING 1–10
Open answers. Encourage students to discuss and speculate, but do not confirm their guesses or predictions at this stage.

After Reading

ACTIVITY 1 AFTER READING
Open answers. Encourage discussion.

ACTIVITY 2 AFTER READING
1 Old Mother, in Family. Her grown-up children have just visited her and shown their interest in the Old Biscuit Tin (which contains her jewels). She has just locked it safely in a cupboard, and the children have left the house.
2 Jeevan the pool boy in Fair Trade. Alice, the American model, has just come down the outdoor staircase to the pool area for a photographic session with the local boys, Jeevan and Murali.
3 Lili in Taken for a Ride. She has just heard her ex-husband Jinnan singing wedding songs for her, outside the sedan chair she and her boyfriend are sitting in.
4 Marimuthu in Anil. With his brother the headman, Marimuthu is watching the train leave the station, with Anil on board, heading for the city; he feels sure that his crime will now remain hidden.
5 Priti in My Beloved Charioteer. She has just been crying because her mother, Aarti, asked angrily if she remembered her dead father (Madhav).
6 Nadia in Lily. She has just been on the phone to her lover Adam, who was talking about his problems and home life and showing her too little attention.
7 The mother-in-law in A Child is Born. Her daughter-in-law has just given birth to a girl. Everyone knows the baby will have to be put to death, because girl children are expensive to look after and cannot provide for the family.
8 The husband in The First Party. His young wife has just refused to dance with him at the party, and it is obvious she is not going to fit in with his friends or accept their way of enjoying themselves.
9 The daughter in Mid-Autumn. She has burnt her hands on the brick kiln. It is the Mid-Autumn festival, and she is thinking longingly of home and her mother, but the call of her missionary duty is stronger.
10 The uncle in A Dream of China. His niece has just left China, without agreeing to help him leave the country, and he feels extremely resentful.

ACTIVITY 3 AFTER READING
Open answers. Accept any answers which cover all the points mentioned and are written in an appropriate style for each character.

ACTIVITY 4 AFTER READING
Open answers.

ACTIVITY 5 AFTER READING
The first haiku is about Anil. The second is about Family.

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 four of the other stories in this book show some different ways language can be used in haiku.

My Beloved Charioteer
Father, then husband,
Each time the wrong person died.
Life is a desert.
A Dream of China
I have decided.
If I lie to my father,
he can keep his dreams.
**Fair Trade**
White teeth, see-through clothes,
Not what the island’s used to,
But good for business.

**The First Party**
Marriage is harder,
More dangerous than she thought,
She is on her own.