Love among the Haystacks

Before Reading

BEFORE READING ACTIVITIES (PAGE 45)

ACTIVITY 1 BEFORE READING
1 No  2 No  3 Yes  4 No  5 Yes  6 Yes  7 No

ACTIVITY 2 BEFORE READING
Encourage students to speculate and to make guesses, but do not tell them the answers. They will find out as they read that the best answers are these:
Maurice meets Paula in the hayfield that night. Geoffrey meets another woman in the hayfield that night. She is very unhappy, and when Geoffrey is kind to her, she cries. Geoffrey kisses her. By the next day, everybody is in love (nobody is miserable), and the story ends happily.

While Reading

CHAPTER 1 WHILE READING
1 Maurice slept in the hayfield last night.
2 Geoffrey has never kissed a girl.
3 The German girl works at the house near the hayfield.
4 The German girl is interested in Maurice, not Geoffrey.
5 Geoffrey pushes Maurice off the haystack.

BEFORE READING CHAPTER 2
Encourage students to speculate and to make guesses, but do not tell them the answers. They will find out as they read that the answers are 1b, 2a, 3c.

CHAPTERS 2 AND 3 WHILE READING
1 F Maurice was not hurt by his fall.
2 T
3 F Maurice did not tell his father about the fight with Geoffrey.
4 T
5 T
6 F At dinner Maurice’s father asked Paula lots of questions.
7 F A tramp came into the field and asked for work.
8 T
9 F The tramp’s young woman had nothing to eat.
10 T

BEFORE READING CHAPTER 4
Encourage students to speculate and to make guesses, but do not tell them the answers. They will find out as they read that the answer is 2.

CHAPTER 4 WHILE READING
2 After the others left, Maurice washed himself in the river.
5 Paula came, and rode with Maurice across the hayfield.
8 It began to rain.
1 Paula helped Maurice carry the cover up the ladder.
7 Geoffrey arrived and walked across to the stacks.
4 The ladder fell down and Geoffrey left it there.
6 Paula and Maurice stayed on top of the haystack.
3 Geoffrey went to the shed and lay down on the hay bed.

BEFORE READING CHAPTER 5
Encourage students to speculate and to make guesses, but do not tell them the answers. They will find out as they read that Geoffrey meets the tramp’s woman in this chapter.

CHAPTER 5 WHILE READING
1 The tramp’s wife, about her husband.
2 The tramp’s wife, about the shed where she and Geoffrey are.
3 Geoffrey, about the tramp / the young woman’s husband.
4 The tramp’s wife, about the bed of hay where she was sitting.
5 The tramp’s wife, about her baby.
6 Geoffrey, about the young woman’s feet.

BEFORE READING CHAPTER 6
Encourage students to speculate and to make guesses, and to give reasons for their choices, but do not tell them the answers. They will find out as they read that the true sentences are 2, 3, 6.

After Reading

ACTIVITY 1 AFTER READING
If students need help with this, encourage them to look at links in the language.
4 Farmer: ‘It’s been a strange day today.’
3 Mrs Wookey: ‘Strange? Why, what happened?’
7 Farmer: ‘Well, in the morning Maurice and Geoffrey were up on the haystack, and Maurice fell off.’
10 Mrs Wookey: ‘Oh, no! Is he all right? Did he hurt himself?’
12 Farmer: ‘No, he’s all right. That little German girl saw him fall and came running down to see him.’
2 Mrs Wookey: ‘That’s the girl who’s working for the vicar, isn’t it? Do you know her name?’
6 Farmer: ‘Paula – something. I think Maurice likes her.’
13 Mrs Wookey: ‘Does he now? I’d like him to find a nice girl.’
11 Farmer: ‘Well, I think he has. She’s a bright little thing. But not the only pretty woman in the field today.’
8 Mrs Wookey: ‘Who was the other? Was it Bill’s daughter?’
1 Farmer: ‘No, it was the wife of a tramp who was looking for work. But I felt sorry for the poor girl.’
5 Mrs Wookey: ‘Why? What was the matter with her?’
9 Farmer: ‘She looked so unhappy. Her husband was a mean little man. She can’t have much of a life.’

**Activity 2 after reading**
The picture goes on page 39.
1 Paula.
2 It has been on the ground, next to the haystack, where it fell.
3 Geoffrey found it and put it up.

Lines taken from the story would make suitable captions, for example:
- ‘Come on, I’ll hold the ladder for you,’ Maurice called.
- Maurice climbed down the ladder, then stood at the bottom.
- Maurice waited for a while, but Paula did not come down.

Or students may wish to think of something more imaginative, for example:
- Geoffrey waited quietly by the hedge while Maurice called to Paula.

**Activity 3 after reading**

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The hidden words are kiss and haystack.

**Activity 4 after reading**
This is Paula, speaking to the vicar.
1 We’re engaged now, Maurice and I. So I’m not going back to Germany when I leave here. I’m going to live at the Wookey farm and learn to make cheese. I won’t be sorry to leave here. You and your wife hate me. Isn’t that true?
This is Lydia, speaking to her married sister at Crick.
2 He’s a good, kind man, and I think I can trust him. I can’t marry him, but I’ve had a miserable life since the baby died. So if he still wants me to, I’ll go to Canada with him in the spring. Can I stay with you until then?

**Activity 5 after reading**
Open answers.