Before Reading

BEFORE READING ACTIVITIES (PAGE 107)

ACTIVITY 1 BEFORE READING
1 N 2 Y 3 Y 4 N 5 Y 6 N 7 Y

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 ‘yes’ answers are 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 and 8.

While Reading

CHAPTERS 1 AND 2 WHILE READING
1 Four months.
2 Because he could hear several engines.
3 Because the landing lights came on.
4 On the dog sledge.
5 The homing spool, the radio antenna poles, and the snow sticks.
6 Because British Airways didn’t normally fly planes over the Polar ice-cap.
7 Three (two pilots and the third officer).
8 One (a passenger).
9 Because the pilot must have known that he was going to crash.
10 The radio operator, the stewardess, and the dark-haired young man.
11 Marie LeGarde, the famous actress.
12 Because it was the only way of contacting the outside world.

CHAPTER 3 WHILE READING
Possible sentences:
• The man with the white hair and moustache, Senator Brewster, was an American politician.
• Nick Corazzini, who had a cut forehead, was a businessman.
• Mrs Dansby-Gregg was an expensively dressed society woman.
• Helene Fleming, who had a broken collar-bone, was a German maid.
• The little man, Solly Levin, was the boxer’s manager.
• Theodore Mahler was thin and elderly and Jewish.
• Joseph Smallwood was a minister and wore a priest’s collar.
• Johnny Zagero, the dark-haired young man, was a boxer.

BEFORE READING CHAPTER 4
Do not give the answers, but encourage students to speculate and to make guesses. They will find out as they read that the ‘yes’ answers are 1, 4, 5 and 6.

CHAPTERS 4 TO 6 WHILE READING
1 Corazzini, to Dr Mason, about Hillcrest and his other colleagues.
2 Dr Mason, to Margaret Ross, about her injured back.
3 Dr Mason, to Joss, about getting lost in the snow.
4 Dr Mason to Margaret Ross about the bullet hole in the Captain’s back.
5 Margaret Ross to Dr Mason, about her engagement to the radio operator, which meant that she couldn’t have killed him.
6 Jackstraw to Dr Mason, about getting to Uplavnik.
7 Zagero to Dr Mason, about Jackstraw being ready to shoot.
8 Corazzini to Dr Mason, about the plane being on fire.
9 Joss to Dr Mason, about the stolen fuse wire.
10 Joss to Dr Mason, about the stolen sugar.

CHAPTERS 7 AND 8 WHILE READING
1 F Mahler stole some / a few handfuls of the sugar.
2 F Special food or injections of insulin would save Mahler’s life. / The sugar would not save Mahler’s life.
3 T
4 T
5 F Nick Corazzini and Solly Levin were standing near Margaret Ross when the radio fell and broke.
6 F No one slept when they stopped the tractor.
7 T
8 F Dr Mason told the other passengers that Hillcrest was 400 kilometres behind them.
9 F Someone took the newspaper article from Dr Mason’s pocket when he was hit on the head.
10 F Hillcrest had only travelled 13 kilometres since noon.

BEFORE READING CHAPTERS 9 AND 10
Encourage students to speculate and to make guesses, but do not tell students the answers. They will find out as they read that the answers are 1a, 2b, 3a, 4c and 5b. The criminals are 6b and 6g.
CHAPTERRS 11 AND 12  WHILE READING
1 Which . . .? Helene, Marie LeGarde, Theodore Mahler.
2 What . . .? The dog sledge.
3 Who . . .? Senator Brewster.
4 What . . .? The tractor sledge.
5 Which . . .? The magnesium flares and the radio balloons.
6 Who . . .? Jackstraw.
7 Why . . .? Because they were on the far side of the glacier.
8 How . . .? With his head.
9 Who . . .? Zagero.
10 Why . . .? Because he needed to save his remaining bullets.
11 Why . . .? Because he saw the Marines.
12 How . . .? By jumping on top of him.

After Reading

ACTIVITY 1  AFTER READING
Possible sentences:
• They shot the chief pilot because he didn’t land where they told him to.
• Smallwood shot Mrs Dansby-Gregg because she rushed in front of Helene.
• They shot Colonel Harrison because he was carrying the secret guided-missile mechanism.
• They stole the sugar to put in the petrol.
• They stole the fuse wire to blow up the plane.
• Corazzini shot Solly Levin because he attacked him.
• Smallwood tried to shoot Helene because she kicked out at him.
• They destroyed the radio to stop anyone from calling for help.
• Smallwood shot Margaret Ross to make Mason drop his gun.

ACTIVITY 2  AFTER READING
7, 4, 9, 13, 3, 11, 10, 6, 5, 12, 8, 14, 1, 2
Possible paragraph:
Helene slipped and fell into a crevasse, but she landed on a snow and ice bridge six metres down. Jackstraw jumped down after her, hurting his arm as he fell. Mason lowered himself into the crevasse to help them and tied a rope round Helene, who was then pulled to safety. Mason heard the ice beginning to crack, so he and Jackstraw jumped to the other side of the bridge, and then one side of it collapsed. When Mason looked up, he saw Corazzini with a gun in his hand. He thought that Corazzini was going to kill them, but Corazzini smiled and threw down a rope.

Possible paragraph:
Smallwood and Margaret fell into a crevasse, but they landed on a solid shelf of rock. Mason jumped down on top of Smallwood, holding on to him until he was too weak to fight back. Jackstraw was lowered into the crevasse to help Margaret. He tied a rope round her and she was pulled to safety. Mason felt the crevasse closing and he heard Jackstraw shouting, so he climbed out with the help of another rope. Then Jackstraw angrily threw a rope down on top of Smallwood and left him to die.

ACTIVITY 3  AFTER READING
Students can complete this conversation how they like. Possible answers:
J oss: Hillcrest, what on earth are you doing back here?  Hillcrest: We heard from Uplavnik that a plane was missing and that they wanted us to join in the search for it.
J oss: Well, I can’t tell you how glad I am to see you!  Hillcrest: It’s good to see you too. But where are Mason and Jackstraw?
J oss: They’re on the way to the coast in the other tractor. And you must go after them at once!  Hillcrest: Why do I have to go after them? I’ m supposed to be looking for a crashed plane.
J oss: You don’t have to search for the plane.  Hillcrest: Why not? What do you mean?
J oss: It’s about 500 metres away, buried under a snowdrift. It crashed right here.
Hillcrest: My God! What about the passengers?  J oss: Most of them were OK. But the pilot and other officers didn’t survive.
Hillcrest: Dead? Oh no! But why didn’t you radio for help?
J oss: Because someone broke the radio.  Hillcrest: Are you sure? Let me have a look at it.  J oss: Look. It’s smashed. There’s something very strange going on. Mason and I believe that there are two murderers amongst the passengers.
Hillcrest: Murderers? That’s crazy! Why do you think that?
J oss: The pilot and one of the passengers were shot, they didn’t die in the crash, and then back here in the cabin someone killed the radio operator.
Hillcrest: So Mason and Jackstraw are out there with a couple of killers? Why didn’t they just wait here for help?
J oss: We didn’t have enough food for us all here.
Hillcrest: Well, we’d better go after them right now...
**ACTIVITY 4** **AFTER READING**

Possible answers:

Helene worked for Mrs Dansby-Gregg as her maid. At first, Mrs Dansby-Gregg called her Fleming, not Helene. She didn’t seem to realize that Helene’s shoulder (collar-bone) was broken in the crash, and when she found out, she wasn’t very sympathetic (interested). The next morning, she told her maid to get her a cup of coffee, although Helene was hurt (injured). But later in the story, her feelings changed and she showed great concern for Helene. She called her by her first name and when Smallwood tried to shoot her, she saved her life.

Possible paragraph about Dr Mason and Margaret Ross:

Margaret Ross worked for British Airways as a stewardess. At first, Dr Mason called her Miss Ross, not Margaret. He didn’t seem to realize that her back was badly hurt in the crash and when he found out, he wasn’t very interested. When they went back to the plane, he told Margaret to jump in through the windscreen, although she was injured. But soon his feelings changed and he fell in love with Margaret. He called her by her first name and when Smallwood tried to shoot her, he saved her life.

**ACTIVITY 5** **AFTER READING**

Possible answers:

1. If the pilot had landed near the Kangalak glacier, the killers might not have shot him.
2. If they had had more food, they could have stayed in the cabin.
3. If they had all stayed in the cabin, they might have been all right until Captain Hillcrest arrived.
4. If Mason hadn’t found one of the antenna poles when he was lost in the snow, he would have died.
5. If Corazzini and Smallwood hadn’t set fire to the plane, Hillcrest would have been able to use the plane’s petrol.
6. If Corazzini and Smallwood hadn’t put sugar in the petrol, Hillcrest would have travelled faster.
7. If Mason had read the newspaper article earlier, he would have searched everyone’s luggage and found Corazzini’s and Smallwood’s equipment.
8. If Mahler hadn’t worked for an oil company, he couldn’t have helped Hillcrest get the sugar out of the petrol.
9. If Mason had known that Levin was Zagero’s father, he might not have thought they were the killers.

**ACTIVITY 6** **AFTER READING**

Open answers.

**ACTIVITY 7** **AFTER READING**

Open answers.

**ACTIVITY 8** **AFTER READING**

Open answers. Encourage discussion. Almost all the items are potentially useful, except for the guided-missile mechanism. The insulin would only be important for a diabetic, and the tape recorder is unlikely to be particularly useful.