Before Reading

BEFORE READING ACTIVITIES (PAGE 42)

ACTIVITY 1 BEFORE READING
A one-way ticket is for a journey from A to B (number 2); that is, not a return ticket. Encourage students to speculate why the people in the stories might be only going to a place, and not returning.

ACTIVITY 2 BEFORE READING
The answers that are guesses are marked as ‘open’, with the correct answer in brackets. Encourage students to guess, but do not tell them the answers. They will find out as they read the stories.

The Girl with Green Eyes
1 Yes 2 No 3 Open (No) 4 Open (Yes) 5 Open (No)
South for the Winter
6 Yes 7 No 8 Yes 9 Open (Yes) 10 Open (Yes)
Mr Harris and the Night Train
11 Yes 12 Open (No) 13 No 14 Open (No)
15 Open (Yes)

ACTIVITY 3 BEFORE READING
Encourage students to speculate and to make guesses but do not tell them the answers. Numbers 2 and 5 happen in story 1. Numbers 3 and 4 happen in story 2. Numbers 1 and 6 happen in story 3.

While Reading

THE GIRL WITH GREEN EYES (1)
14 sentences are possible:
Julie read a newspaper.
The tall dark man read a newspaper.
The man in the brown hat talked a lot.
Bill talked a lot.
The tall dark man smiled but never spoke.
Julie got off the train at Plymouth.
The tall dark man got off the train at Plymouth.
Bill went to the restaurant.
The man in the brown hat went to the restaurant.
The little girl saw Julie on the platform.
The mother saw Julie on the platform.
Julie was bored.
The little girl was bored.
The little boy was bored.

THE GIRL WITH GREEN EYES (2)
1 The man in the brown hat was a boring man.
2 Julie read the back page of the tall dark man’s newspaper.
3 A lot of people got on the train at Plymouth.

While Reading

4 Julie did not say goodbye to Bill when she got off the train.
5 Bill was very unhappy when Julie left.
6 The man in the brown hat wanted Bill to forget Julie.

SOUTH FOR THE WINTER
9, 4, 7, 10, 1, 8, 6, 3, 5, 2
When the train stopped at a village, two policemen came into Tom’s carriage. They told Tom to go with them into the station building, and to bring his bag with him. They took all his clothes out of the bag, and then picked it up and turned it over. A lot of US dollars fell out on to the table. Tom didn’t know anything about this money, but the dollars were in his bag, and so he went to prison.

MR HARRIS AND THE NIGHT TRAIN
1 What . . .? He looked out of the window for an hour or two, and then he read his book.
2 Who . . .? A young man and a young woman (Carl and Elena).
3 Why . . .? Because he needed money.
4 Who . . .? Her husband.
5 What . . .? He laughed.
6 What . . .? Only his bags and his hat and coat.
7 Who . . .? The guard.
8 Why . . .? Because he didn’t want to take the night train again.

After Reading

ACTIVITY 1 AFTER READING

ACROSS: 2 ghost 4 boring 8 platform 9 carriage
10 seat 11 prison 12 bored
DOWN: 1 corridor 3 station 5 guard 6 knife 7 eyes

ACTIVITY 2 AFTER READING

7 Tall dark man: Do you see my book about Italy?
I’m going to visit these four famous cities.
4 Julie: How wonderful! I’d love to go to Italy. But
I’m going to St Austell.
11 Tall dark man: St Austell’s a boring town. Come
with me to Italy.
2 Julie: I can’t do that! What about Bill?
6 Julie: Yes, that’s true. I am bored. But he’s my husband, and I can’t just leave him . . . can I?
1 Tall Dark Man: Of course you can. Bill is more interested in his stories than in his beautiful wife. And you are beautiful, Julie. You have the most wonderful eyes.
10 Julie: OK, I have wonderful eyes, but . . .
3 Tall Dark Man: No buts. Come with me to Italy. You can be happy with me. Don’t you want to be happy?
12 Julie: Yes, Yes, I do. But what do I say to Bill?
5 Tall Dark Man: Say nothing. That’s the best way. Just get off the train at Plymouth after me.
8 Julie: All right. Wait for me on the platform!

ACTIVITY 3 AFTER READING

Dear Mum
I left Italy last autumn and came south by train. I’m staying here in Bulgaria for the winter. I haven’t got a job, and I haven’t got much money. So life is difficult (not easy). Next year, I’m going to Australia with a new friend – his name’s Boris. We’re going to start a new life in Brisbane or Sydney. Hope you’re well. Give my love to Burnham-on-Sea!

Love from Tom

The one important thing that Tom forgets to say is that he’s in prison.

ACTIVITY 4 AFTER READING

Friend: Mr Harris, how nice to see you! Did you have a good journey?
Mr Harris: Well, not very good. I didn’t sleep all night.
Friend: Oh, that’s bad. But why couldn’t you sleep?
Mr Harris: Because there were two ghosts in my carriage.

Friend: Ghosts? How exciting! What happened?
Mr Harris: It was a young man and his sister. He had a diamond necklace, but it was his sister’s necklace and she wanted it back. And in the end she killed her brother with a knife. It was terrible! There was blood everywhere – I saw it! I ran to get the guard, but when we came back, there was nothing there.

Friend: Ah, wait a minute. It was Elena di Saronelli and her brother Carl, yes?
Mr Harris: That’s right, but how did you know?
Friend: Oh, everyone in Finland knows that story.
Mr Harris: But is it true?

Friend: Of course it is. You saw their ghosts, didn’t you? Well, well, how exciting! And when you take the train back to Helsinki . . .
Mr Harris: Oh no, I’m going back to Helsinki by bus. No more ghosts for me, thank you!

ACTIVITY 5 AFTER READING

Open discussion.

ACTIVITY 6 AFTER READING

The picture goes on page 19, in the story South for the Winter.

1 Carol.
2 She is hiding 200,000 US dollars in the bottom of Tom’s bag, because she wants Tom to carry (smuggle) the money into Bulgaria for her and Melanie.
3 Tom and Melanie are in the restaurant on the train. Students can invent any appropriate caption they would have (they might want to use the word ‘smuggling’). The obvious caption would be:

• Carol is putting the dollars into (hiding the dollars in) Tom’s bag.

More inventive ones might be:

• Carol did not sleep when Tom and Melanie went to the restaurant.
• Trouble for Tom!

ACTIVITY 7 AFTER READING

Open answers.

ACTIVITY 8 AFTER READING

The titles match the stories as follows. Students should give their own explanations about appropriateness, but some suggested explanations are given in brackets.

The Girl with Green Eyes

• Love Before Plymouth (possible, as it is a kind of love story)
• A Man Called Bill (not very appropriate; the story is as much about Julie as Bill)
• Green Eyes, Brown Eyes (quite good; suggests a relationship of some kind)
• A Holiday in St Austell (not appropriate, as they never get to St Austell)

South for the Winter

• Saturday Night in Sofia (not very appropriate; Tom never gets to Sofia)
• The American Girls (possible, as they are the cause of Tom’s ‘experience’)
• An Easy Winter (not appropriate for a winter in prison!)
• Don’t Talk to Strangers (quite good; suggests the moral of the story)

Mr Harris and the Night Train

• A Loving Sister (not very appropriate for a sister who murders her brother)
• The Ghost Train (possible, but perhaps gives too big a clue for the story)
• Murder in the Night (quite good; suggests an exciting event without revealing the ghost twist)
• Happy Days in Finland (not appropriate; Mr Harris does not enjoy his experience)