

# One Day

Helen Naylor

## Before reading

1. Look at the front cover of the book. What does the picture show? Where do you think it is?
2. What do you think the title of the book ("One Day") means?
3. Read the blurb on the back cover. What do the characters have in common?
4. Look at page 4. Does the information help you to answer Question 3? What sort of people are they?
5. Look at the maps on page 5. What two countries do they show? What connection is there between them in the story?
6. If you have the recording, listen to the Introduction.

## Check your reading

### INTRODUCTION

1. What information do you find out about the following, which was not included in the blurb?
  - a Moreland Road
  - b Jason and his Mum
  - c Maggie
  - d Sam
2. What is important about the last line in comparison to what it says in the blurb?

### CHAPTER 1

1. What is Jason doing in his room?
  - a listening to music?
  - b doing his homework?
  - c looking at old photographs?
2. What does Jason want to do in the autumn?
3. What do you find out about
  - a Maria?
  - b Jason's father, Simon?

### CHAPTER 2

1. Which of these things are true?
  - a Nina Sen has a six-year-old son.
  - b She is the manager of a post office.
  - c She was offered a better job in Newcastle.
  - d Her husband David is a cook.
  - e David doesn't want to move from Bath.
  - f Nina writes to the bank accepting the new job.
2. What do you think about Nina and David's decision? Was it the right thing to do?

### CHAPTER 3

1. Whom did Maggie go to Chile with?
2. Whom did they meet in Chile?
3. Which of the two women liked Xavier: Belen or Maggie?
4. Which of the two women did Xavier like: Belen or Maggie?
5. What is strange about the phone call Maggie receives when she is out?
6. What is Xavier going to do?
7. What has he sent to Maggie?

### CHAPTER 4

1. Who are the people in Sam Davies' family?
2. What is Sam's job?
3. What does Emma want to do and why is it a problem for Sam?
4. True or false?
  - a Sam asks his brother Jeremy to lend him the money.
  - b Jeremy agrees as he always has done before.
  - c Sam tells Hannah that Jeremy has lent them the money.

### CHAPTER 5

1. Match the beginnings and the endings:
  - 1 Jason goes to Maria's house
  - 2 Maria met a man called François
  - 3 Maria and François
  - 4 Maria met François again
  - 5 Maria is going to study
  - 6 Jason is very upset
  - a have emailed each other every day.
  - b in Paris when she finishes school.
  - c because they are going out to Broad Street Bar.
  - d about this news.
  - e when she went to stay at her sister's in London.
  - f when she was in Paris at New Year.
2. Who does Jason meet when he gets home?
3. Look at the picture on page 30. Where is Jason? Why is he there?
4. What is the most important thing for Jason?

### CHAPTER 6

1. Whom does David talk to on the phone?
2. What are David's parents giving him for his birthday? How will he find out about his present?
3. What problem does the phone call raise about Nina's job in Newcastle?

### CHAPTER 7

1. What do Maggie and Belen think about Xavier?
2. What are they doing when the door bell rings?
3. Who rings the front door bell?
4. What does the man want?
5. What do the women do when the man leaves?
6. Where does Maggie sleep that night? Why?

### CHAPTER 8

1. What is Sam going to do to get the money to pay for Emma's trip?
2. What else is Sam planning to do?
3. Who are the following people?
  - a Frank Barrett
  - b Paul and Sonia Cooper
  - c Mr Thomas Cooper
4. What is the connection between these people and Sam?
5. What does Mr Barrett's secretary do?

## CHAPTER 9

1. What does the picture on page 42 show?
2. What got burnt in the fire?
3. How do you think the fire started? Look back at page 29 for help.
4. What do you find on pages 43–46?
5. True or false?
  - a The letter to Jason tells him he didn't get a place at art college.
  - b The letter to David tells him about his birthday present from his parents.
  - c The letter to Maggie explains that Xavier and his brother are criminals.
  - d The letter to Sam tells him how much money Thomas Cooper left him.

## CONCLUSION

1. Read the first sentence and make notes on what you think happened to the four people who didn't get their letters.
2. Which of the people in the story
  - a changed their lives in a big way?
  - b felt sad?
  - c made a new relationship?
3. Who do you think was happiest of the people, and why?

## After reading

Choose some of these activities.

1. Write a conversation between Jason and his father Simon in which they talk about why Simon went away for twelve years and what he did.
2. Write a story about what happened to Xavier and the other man who visited Maggie.
3. Think of another title for "One Day" and explain why it would be good.
4. Write an email to the author, Helen Naylor, telling her what you liked and didn't like about the story.
5. Do you think the cover is good for the story? Say why/why not. Can you think of another cover that would be better? Describe it or draw it.
6. What book do you think Sam is writing?
7. Draw a timeline from the start of the story to two years ahead, showing what happened to David, Nina, Max, and introducing David's niece.
8. Who is your favourite character in the story? Write a paragraph saying what you like about about him or her.