

Love in the Lakes

Penny Hancock

Before reading

- Look at the title and the picture on the front cover. What kind of story do you think it is going to be?
- Check your answer to (1) by looking at the Genre on the back cover, then read the blurb and answer these questions:
 - Who are the new couple?
 - Where are they on holiday?
 - Who has Laura taken with her?
 - Who is Robert?
 - What is Laura's choice?
- Look at the maps on page 5 and answer the questions.
 - Which part of England is the Lake District in?
 - What are the names of the three Lake District towns?
 - What other two places are named in the Lake District?
- If you have the recording, listen to Chapter 1.

Check your reading

CHAPTER 1

- Does Robert really see an accident and hear a scream as he is driving home? If so/If not, where is the crash?
- Why doesn't Robert eat at home very often? (Two reasons)
- Why do you think his house is 'silent now'?
- What do the local people think about Robert?
- Why doesn't he sleep much at this time of year?

CHAPTER 2

- Who is Joseph and what happens to him?
- What does Laura have to do while Joseph is in hospital?
- Why might Kip be a problem for Laura at the weekend?
- How did Laura meet Nick?
- Which of these facts is true?
 - Nick is a bank manager / a designer / a teacher.
 - Nick rides a bike / a motorbike.
 - Nick likes rock climbing / motor sports.
- How does Laura feel about Nick?

CHAPTER 3

- Where are Nick and Laura going?
- Read the extracts and answer the questions.
 - 'He had a heart attack.' Who did?
 - 'He never usually invited his girlfriends away with him.' Who didn't?
 - 'He'll have to go in the back, on top of the luggage.' Who will?
 - 'I can cook when we arrive.' Who can?
 - 'He was interesting-looking . . . with an intelligent face.' Who was?
 - 'They aren't very friendly round here.' Who aren't?

CHAPTER 4

Match the beginnings and the endings:

- Nick and Laura are staying
- Laura goes outside

- Nick finds Kip
- Kip has eaten
- Nick doesn't help Laura
 - under a chair.
 - some rat poison.
 - in a barn.
 - to find a vet.
 - to look for Kip.

CHAPTER 5

- What is happening to Robert when he wakes up?
- What does Robert think about city people?
- How did Laura get to the vet's surgery?
- Where did Laura see the vet before?
- What does Robert offer to do with Kip that night?

CHAPTER 6

- Use adjectives to describe these things.
 - What the morning is like.
 - How Laura feels about jet-skis.
 - The air in the countryside.
 - The sound of the jet-skis.
 - What Maggie thinks Robert might become.
 - What Maggie looks like.
 - How Robert often feels now that Chiara has gone.
 - Robert thinks Laura has the dog because it's this.
 - How Robert feels when Laura is not at the barn. (Two words)
- What does Robert think about
 - his receptionist Maggie?
 - Laura?
 - having a dog?
 - jet-skiers?

CHAPTER 7

- Decide which sentences are true/false.
 - Laura collected mushrooms in the fields.
 - Nick came home for a long lunch.
 - Nick wants to go water-skiing in the afternoon.
 - Robert takes Kip to Nick first.
 - Robert thinks that Nick and Laura are 'awful'.
 - Laura has to pay Robert £200 for Kip's treatment.
 - Laura thanks the vet for his work with Kip.
 - The vet likes Nick and Laura.

CHAPTER 8

- Who was Chiara?
- How did she die?
- Who were the jet-skiers?
- How did Robert find out about Chiara's death?
- The next morning, who
 - wants to go for a walk?
 - wants to go jet-skiing?
 - wants to use the car?
 - is upset by the story about Chiara?
 - isn't sympathetic about Robert?
 - needs to get some money?

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CHAPTER 9

1. What do you find out in this chapter about
 - a Laura's feelings for Nick?
 - b Laura's feelings about the countryside?
 - c Maggie's feelings for Robert?
 - d Laura's feelings for Robert?
 - e Robert's feelings for Laura?

CHAPTER 10

1. Put what happens in the correct order.
 - a Laura leaves the farm to get Nick from the lake.
 - b Robert tells the farmer that Laura is better than Nick.
 - c Laura visits a farm to talk about buying cheese.
 - d Maggie is surprised when Robert agrees to go to the pub with her.
 - e Robert arrives at the farm too late to help.
 - f Laura helps a calf to be born.

CHAPTER 11

1. Where does the action of this scene take place?
2. Who is Barbara?
3. What does Barbara do?
4. Why is Barbara pleased about Robert?
5. Who says these things?
 - a 'It made me think my life's quite dull.'
 - b 'Then the vet isn't doing a very good job'
 - c 'I've had enough of all this local food.'
 - d 'there are people who like living alone better than sharing their house with anyone'
 - e 'Robert saved Kip's life'
 - f 'You're taking my work away from me'
 - g 'If you'd like to visit my shop, I'd love to talk to you more'

CHAPTER 12

1. True or false?
 - a Nick decides not to go jet-skiing on Saturday.
 - b Laura drives to Cockermouth to meet Barbara.
 - c Laura realises she really loves Nick very much.
 - d Barbara and Laura get on very well.
 - e Barbara thinks Robert is very happy now.
 - f Barbara invites Laura to go walking with her that afternoon.

CHAPTER 13

1. Who thinks these things, Nick or Laura?
 - a Kip is stupid.
 - b The vet is bad-tempered.
 - c The local people are important.
 - d Chiara's death was her own fault.
 - e Their relationship will end back in London.
2. What surprises Laura on the walk?
3. "'That's excellent,' said Robert.' What is?
4. What does Barbara say that helps Robert understand more about Laura?
5. What puzzles Robert about Laura?
6. What does Robert say that puzzles Laura?

CHAPTER 14

1. Match the beginnings and the endings.
 - a Barbara and Laura make arrangements
 - b Barbara asks Laura
 - c Robert invites Laura
 - d Robert apologises to Laura
 - e Laura agrees with Robert
 - f Laura is starting to have
 - 1 into his house for a cup of tea.
 - 2 that jet-skis are horrible things.
 - 3 feelings for Robert.
 - 4 about sending food to London.
 - 5 for thinking that she was a bad person before.
 - 6 to give Robert a lift home.

CHAPTER 15

1. What does Laura realise about her feelings as she leaves Robert's house?
2. Who telephones Laura and why?
3. What does that mean for Kip?
4. How does Nick feel about Laura keeping the dog?
5. What idea does Laura have about Kip?

CHAPTER 16

1. Answer the questions with short answers.
 - a Who wants to go home by train?
 - b Who wants to be with Laura?
 - c Who phones Laura?
 - d Who gets off the train?
 - e Who comes to meet Laura?
2. Who did Laura think Robert was going out with?
3. What doesn't happen as they drive by the lake?
4. What do Robert and Laura do at the end of the story?

After reading

Choose some of these activities.

1. Write a newspaper report about Chiara's death.
2. Write a description of the Lake District.
3. Think of another title for "Love in the Lakes" and explain why it would be good.
4. Make a list of the different animal cases Robert worked on as a vet in the story.
5. Write a comparison of the characters of Nick and Robert.
6. Make a quiz about this story for other students, e.g. some true/false questions or some correct/incorrect sentences.
7. Write an email to the author, Penny Hancock, telling her what you liked and didn't like about the story.
8. What do you think will happen between Robert and Laura? Write some paragraphs explaining how their lives change after the end of the story.
9. Choose one of the minor characters in the story – e.g. Maggie or Barbara – and write some paragraphs about them, inventing more about their lives.