

Dirty Money

Aims:

- To introduce the context and key characters from the book.
- To stimulate students to read the book.

- 1 Put the title *Dirty Money* on the board. Tell them that they are going to read a story with this title. What kind of story is it? Elicit (if possible) that it's a thriller.
- 2 Ask students what they would expect to find in a thriller. Elicit ideas. Establish that it's usually an exciting story, often about crime. Do they like thrillers? Why/why not?
- 3 Tell students that the story is set in Canada. Put students into small groups to discuss what they know about Canada. Give them focus questions on geography, size, population, language, wildlife, etc.

Alternatives

(If you have access to lots of pictures of Canada e.g. from the Internet or magazines) Divide the class into groups, each with a picture of a different aspect of Canada – landscape, wildlife, etc. Ask the groups to brainstorm what the picture tells them about Canada, then take feedback.

Don't tell the students where the story is set. Put some pictures of Canadian landscape, wildlife, etc. on the board or on tables. Ask students to guess the country.

Yet another alternative is to give students some facts about Canada, without telling them the country. They have to guess which country the facts relate to. For example:

- a This country has a population of 33 million.
 - b It uses two official languages. (English and French)
 - c It's the second largest country in the world (after Russia).
 - d It has a cold climate.
- 4 Take brief feedback from each group. Focus students on the fact that Canada is a very large country with quite a small population (around 33 million).
 - 5 Focus on Vancouver. Ask them if they know which part of the country it is in. If you have a map of Canada, find Vancouver on it.
 - 6 Elicit what type of countryside or landscape you would find around Vancouver and in the west generally.
Answer: high mountains, sea, lakes.
 - 7 Establish that the story is set in a small town, Murray, near Vancouver. There is a small map at the beginning of the book, if you have access to it (NB. Murray is fictional).
 - 8 Ask students to read the Blurb (next page). Elicit the names of the main character.
 - 9 Draw students' attention to the word 'mine' in the Blurb.
 - 10 Establish meaning by asking what kinds of things you can mine (alternatively show pictures of coal, diamonds, gold etc.).

- 11 From the blurb, establish the fact that Pan Global is a mining company. Ask students what they could be mining, then ask them to read Extract 1 and find out.

Answer: diamonds.

- 12 From the list of people in the story (next page), focus on Joe. What do we know about him now? Ask students to read and say whether the following statements are true or false, then to read Extracts 2 and 3 to check.

True or False?

- a Joe comes from England.
- b He comes from the city.
- c Joe's second name is Jones.
- d Joe is Sandy's husband.
- e Sandy is a nurse.
- f Joe is a journalist.
- g Joe writes about the mine.

Answers:

- a True
- b True
- c False: Brennan
- d True
- e False. She's a doctor.
- f True. He works for *The Murray Echo*.
- g True

- 13 Focus on the fact that Joe is a journalist. What does a journalist do?

Write the following sentence on the board or overhead: A journalist writes for a newspaper.

Here are some other jobs and roles from the story. Ask students to match the job or role with the description.

- 1 The mayor
 - 2 A neighbour
 - 3 An editor
 - 4 A doctor
 - 5 A boss
- a lives next door or nearby.
 - b tells workers or employees what to do.
 - c is in charge of a newspaper or magazine.
 - d treats people who are ill.
 - e is the leader of the group that governs a town or city.

- 14 Take feedback.

Answers:

- 1 The mayor is the leader of the group that governs a town or city.
- 2 A neighbour lives next door or nearby.
- 3 An editor is in charge of a newspaper or magazine.
- 4 A doctor treats people who are ill.
- 5 A boss tells workers or employees what to do.

- 15 Go back to the title *Dirty Money*. Why this title? Ask the students what they think Joe finds out about the mine. Elicit ideas.

- 16 If you have the books, hand them out and start reading so that they can find out.

Dirty Money

Blurb

Joe and Sandy love their new life in Canada. But everything changes when Pan Global comes to town. Can Joe find out what the new mine is really for?

People in the story

Joe works for the *Murray Echo*, a newspaper

Sandy is Joe's wife

Dan is Joe and Sandy's neighbour

Karl Johnson is the boss of Pan Global

Cameron Grady is Joe's boss

Ed Bains is the boss of the *Murray Daily*

Ken Reid is the mayor of Murray

Extract 1

'Look at this!' Joe says to Sandy.

'What?' asks Sandy.

Near the machines is a big white sign. On the sign it says PAN GLOBAL.

'What is it?' asks Sandy.

'I don't know, but I'm going to look,' says Joe. He opens the door and runs to the mountain.

Joe stands in front of one of the big machines. The driver sees him and stops.

'What do you want?' the driver asks.

'What's this?' asks Joe. He looks at the big hole in the ground. 'What's Pan Global?'

The man smiles. 'It's a mine,' he says. 'There are diamonds under here!'

Extract 2

'Happy, love?'

Joe's wife, Sandy, comes in with a cup of tea.

'Mmm,' says Joe, 'very happy.' He takes the tea and he drinks.

Sandy sits down too and they talk about their beautiful house. They are far from England and far from the city. Here in the little town of Murray there's no dirt and no noise. Canada is a new start for Joe and Sandy. They have new jobs too. Joe works for a newspaper, the *Murray Echo*. Sandy works at the hospital; she's a doctor.

Extract 3

It's Monday and Joe is at work at the *Murray Echo*. He's writing about the mine. He looks on the internet and reads about Pan Global.

Joe phones Karl Johnson, the boss of Pan Global.

'Mr Johnson,' says Joe, 'my name is Joe Brennan and I work for the *Murray Echo*. I want to talk to you about the mine . . .'