

When Summer Comes

Aims

- To engage students in discussions on holidays.
- To talk about relationships, discuss and predict what happens in the story and after.

- 1 Ask students to think about: **a** the best holiday they've ever had; **b** their ideal holiday.
Ask them to make notes about where, when, who with and why for both holidays.
- 2 Put students into groups of three or four to ask and answer questions about the two holidays.
- 3 Still in groups, ask them to imagine they went on a summer holiday to a small fishing village on the Atlantic coast of Cornwall. Ask them to discuss and list the things they think they would be able to do there.
- 4 Call for suggestions of activities from the whole class, and list them on the board.
- 5 Ask students to read the short pieces of text from the story in Extracts 1. They should list the activities mentioned, and compare them with the list on the board. Are there any different ones?
Answers: sit, drink cool drinks, watch the world go by, do nothing, eat seafood, go on a boat trip, visit an island, go jogging, walk along the coast, enjoy the views, go to a pub, sleep on the beach, swim, go fishing, go surfing, stay in a holiday cottage, stay at a hotel
- 6 Ask students to decide which of the activities listed they would like to do and which they wouldn't like to do, and why. They should compare their feelings with a partner. Call for some ideas from the whole class.

- 7 Ask students what they understand by the term 'holiday romance' (a short relationship while on holiday, which doesn't last). Tell students that *When Summer Comes* is a romance. Stephen and Anna Martins have been married for ten years. They live in London and are both tired of their jobs and the city. They rent a holiday cottage from Tristan Goddard, who is an attractive single man who has recently split up with his girlfriend. Stephen has to go back to London unexpectedly for work. Tristan takes Anna out to a restaurant. What do you think happens?
- 8 Ask students to read the two texts in Extracts 2 and answer these questions in pairs: How do Anna and Tristan feel about each other, about what they do and about Stephen? What do you think they should do?
Answers: They are attracted to each other, confused about their feelings, guilty, wish they could do more but do not want to tell Stephen, and decide to hide the fact that 'something happened'.
- 9 Tell students that Tristan offers to sell the cottage to Anna and Stephen, and that they decide to buy it and change their lives. Anna and Tristan make love and then 'try to pretend nothing has happened'. She goes back to London to start work, leaving Stephen in Polreath to buy the house from Tristan. Back at home she realises that buying the cottage would be a mistake, but before she contacts Stephen to tell him what she thinks, something happens. What do you think it is?
Answer: She gets a phone call from Stephen.
- 10 Pair the students to decide what Stephen says on the phone. Elicit suggestions from the whole class and note them on the board if you wish.
- 11 Ask students to read Extract 3. Discuss the ending.
Ask: What do you think happened next? Tell them this is the end of the story, so they can decide and there are no wrong answers.

When Summer Comes

Extracts 1

a
'When we get to Polreath on Saturday, I'm going to do nothing,' said Anna. 'I just want to sit and have cool drinks and read and watch the world go by.'

b
Polreath was a small, quiet fishing village on the north-west coast of Cornwall with a few holiday cottages, two hotels, and the usual shops, bars and restaurants. It was famous for its seafood restaurants – lobsters, prawns, crabs – and relatively unspoilt – a great place to relax.

c
'Tristan was just saying that he was running a boat trip to a little island at half past nine tomorrow morning and would we like to go?' said Stephen.

Anna said, 'Really? Do you often do boat trips?'

'Yes, there's something happening every day. In fact, you should find a list of trips on the wall by the back door.' Tristan pointed. 'Yes, look, there it is.'

'I'd really quite like to explore Polreath tomorrow morning,' Anna said.

d
Quietly, he got dressed and left the cottage. The sun had just risen and the air already felt warm. He started jogging up the hill out of the village . . . There was a signpost saying 'Footpath' so he went along it. It led to the edge of the cliff. At this point he was standing about a hundred metres above the sea, looking back down onto Polreath harbour. It was a wonderful view . . .

e
At the Fisherman's Arms they had crab salads and ice-cold beer. They sat outside in friendly silence and watched the activity on the beach.

f
They walked slowly back towards Polreath, changed into their swimming things at the cottage and went down to the beach. The sand was warm from the day's sun and Stephen fell asleep lying there. Anna continued reading her local guide book...

'Mmm.' He stood up and stretched. 'Time for a swim?'

'Why not,' she replied.

g
Together they started fishing off the back of the boat.

After a few minutes Tristan said, 'Got one.'

He pulled in the fish and said, 'Mm, a mackerel. Nothing special, but quite nice grilled on the barbecue.'

h
They went to the beach shop and hired surfboards. Neither of them felt like having a lesson – they wanted to try it themselves first. They swam out with the boards to just beyond the point where the waves were starting. Then they watched to see what other people did.

Extracts 2

a [in the restaurant]
'But now there's another problem,' he went on. 'I think we're attracted to one another.'

Anna pulled her hand away. How could he say that! He'd just been talking about her and Stephen and now he was saying this. How could he? Five minutes ago he'd been talking about breaking up with Jill. That can't have been easy to do. And here he was saying he was attracted to her.

b [after the meal at the restaurant]
They took the path along the top of the cliffs . . . Then she heard something move just ahead, an animal probably, and she stopped suddenly. Tristan walked into the back of her. She jumped and half turned round. They were standing so close. She reached up and touched his face with her finger. He put his arms round her and they kissed long and hard . . .

'Anna, I think you're wonderful,' he said, trying to keep his voice light. 'I wish we were free to do whatever we want, but we're not. At least, I'll still be able to look Stephen in the eye when I see him tomorrow.'

'I hope I can, too. Do you think we'd better go before anything else happens? We don't need to say anything to Stephen, either of us, do we?'

'No, why should we?' he replied. 'Nothing's happened.'

But they both knew something had.

Extract 3

Just as she was walking through to the kitchen, the phone rang. It made her jump. 'Stephen or Mum,' she thought. 'They're the only people who'd phone so early in the morning. Or maybe it's Tristan.' Whoever it was, she wasn't ready to speak. She picked it up nervously.

It was Stephen. 'Anna, I've just seen Tristan. He's just told me something. We've got to talk.'

Anna's heart froze.