

The Way Home

Sue Leather

Before reading

1. Read the back cover blurb. What sort of book is this?
2. Choose a story to read. After two pages, can you predict the ending?
3. If you have the cassette, listen to the story you chose.

Check your reading

1. Match the titles with a sentence from each story.

- 1 The Way Home
- 2 The Nature of truth
- 3 Just the Facts
- 4 Water in the Desert
- 5 The Knowledge
- 6 Fifteen Hundred Words
- 7 North Sea Eyes
- 8 End Point

- a ... you have to learn the London streets so that you know them like the back of your hand.
- b The prisoner's last meal request was two double meat cheeseburgers ... That's the kind of thing Joe Public wants to know ... It sells newspapers.
- c ... she had always been looking for the way back to this, her first world. Her place.
- d ... a few local fishing boats, and some ships with the names of English ports on them.
- e ... the Lone Star Motel was their final destination.
- f ... then I found out that he was having an affair with that ... woman.
- g He drank thirstily, letting it run down the sides of his mouth.
- h Write a story that shows the relationship between the two people.

The Way Home

1. Read the words in italics. Who are *he*, *him* etc.?
 - a Before she met *him*, *she* had felt that she would always be searching.
 - b *He* was asking her to be unfaithful to her husband.
 - c She had never lost that feeling that *he* made her special.
 - d She could also see the shape of *someone else* through the window.
 - e *I* know it was wrong, but these things happen.
2. Match the beginnings and endings.
 - 1 Alex felt secure with Jake, but
 - 2 Although she loved her husband,
 - 3 Since discovering her mother's betrayal of her father,
 - 4 Twenty years later, Alex talked to her mother,
 - 5 After walking the landscapes of her childhood,
 - a Alex had had little contact with her family.
 - b Alex knew she had to talk to Jake.
 - c felt something was wrong with their relationship.
 - d she couldn't admit being unfaithful to him.
 - e who said she had told her father everything.
3. Do you think of anywhere as 'my place', like Alex did?

The Nature of Truth

1. Annie Sanderson, Jane Thompson, or both?

Which woman ...

- a studied art at university?
- b was James's ex-lover?
- c was James's ex-wife?
- d was married to Pietro?
- e was a famous novelist?
- f was plain and middle-aged?
- g adored handsome men?
- h worked at a museum?

2. Complete the sentences with places.

- a Annie gave a talk about her novel in
- b On the train to, she met Jane Thompson.
- c Jane and Annie had first met at University.
- d After university, Jane and her husband lived in
- e James met Annie on a business trip to

3. What did Jane mean by: 'I know where you live.?'?

Just the Facts

1. Put the events in order.

- a Kathy's brother had covered up the crime and ensured Pearson was charged.
- b She confessed to killing her father.
- c Pearson claimed he was innocent, which Lisa believed.
- d Lisa left the newspaper to write the true facts.
- e John prevented Kathy from stopping the execution.
- f Kathy Baker jumped into the reporters' car.
- g Lisa Thomas interviewed Pearson, convicted of Judge Baker's murder.

2. Who said what?

- a The thing is, kid, you're there to record the facts.
- b Believe me, ma'am, they're gonna kill me for this.
- c But he says he didn't do it ... and he sounds like he's telling the truth.
- d This is the day we've all been waiting for ... when the man who killed my father finally gets what he deserves.
- e He is innocent. I killed my father!
- f How can you be sure she's telling the truth?
- g How can it be too late? This is a man's life!

3. What did you learn about justice in Texas from the story?

Water in the Desert

1. Match the colours and nouns.

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| 1 Dark pink. | a Lee's eyes. |
| 2 Dark red. | b The sunset. |
| 3 Green. | c The truck. |
| 4 Silver. | d The desert. |
| 5 Red and pink. | e The night sky. |
| 6 Orange. | f The landscape. |
| 7 Dark blue. | g Lee's hair. |

2. Complete the paragraph.

Jed's story

After ¹..... years of a life ²....., Jed escaped from prison. He had ³..... Tony Garcia in a fight in a bar, but had acted in ⁴..... . Garcia's friends ⁵..... at the ⁶..... and the ⁷..... hadn't believed Jed. Now, he realised the ⁸..... he had suffered.

3. Should someone who kills in self-defence be punished?

The Knowledge

1. Match the beginnings and endings.

- 1 You should empty your cup
 - 2 Fighting is not about aggression
 - 3 When you seek,
- a you will not find.
 - b and unlearn everything you know.
 - c but about having the strength to walk away.

2. How did Ricky change? Write TRUE or FALSE.

- a He controlled his aggression.
- b He found a new girlfriend.
- c He stopped driving his cab.
- d He started studying.
- e He started to run his own business.
- f He paid attention to health and fitness.

3. 'Knowledge' has two different meanings. What are they?

Fifteen Hundred Words

1. Who or what is being described?

- a Such a change from typical Hollywood films.
- b They called it Hollywood North.
- c He looked so English in his dark suit.
- d ... one of the coldest, windiest places in the city.
- e He was thin and grey, and his clothes and beard were dirty.
- f It can be slow and insistent, like waves on a rock.

2. Complete the sentences with these words:

extreme self-control speaks calmness eloquence important

- a *Envyro* means ¹..... and ²....., or holding back.
- b ... action is ³.....; it ⁴..... for itself. Although action is ⁵....., it shouldn't be ⁶..... action.

3. How will Abi's writing style change?

North Sea Eyes

1. Harry, Ria or both? Write the names.

Which character ...

- a was English?
- b was Dutch?
- c worked as a tram driver?
- d worked for an import/export company?
- e fell in love at first sight?
- f had soft blue-grey eyes?
- g wrote poetry when in love?
- h was tall and slim, with long legs?
- i entertained guys in a bar?
- j was a man?

2. Look at the words in italics. What does *it* or *this* refer to?

- a *It* grabs you by the throat.
 - b And *it's* all deep meaningful stuff.
 - c I was completely overcome with *it* all.
 - d Finally, one Friday evening, I knew I had to go for *it*.
 - e *It* had a reputation as a wild kind of place.
 - f Look at *this* ... You'll like *this*!
 - g OK, *it's* boring, but to tell the truth I kind of like *it*.
3. How can you begin talking (in English) to a boy or girl who you are attracted to?

End Point

1. Paul Boyle, Grace Kent, Tim Parker, Joe Stefano? Match the names to the reasons.

Reasons for visiting Austin:

- a to attend a conference.
- b to enjoy freedom.
- c to listen to music.
- d to observe the wildlife.
- e no specific reason.
- f to have a short break.
- g to avoid family responsibilities.

Reasons for staying at the motel:

- h a personal recommendation.
- i to avoid five star hotels.
- j no reason given.
- k to have time to think.

2. Match up the 'if' sentences.

- 1 If Grace had felt more appreciated,
- 2 If Joe hadn't lost his temper,
- 3 If the motel hadn't been fully-booked,
- 4 If Tim hadn't disliked luxury,
- 5 If Paul hadn't taken up football,

- a he might have become a musician.
- b she might not have deserted her family.
- c he wouldn't have requested a motel
- d Joe might not have lost control.
- e he wouldn't have been fired.

3. *End Point* begins with its ending. Did this increase or spoil your enjoyment?

After reading

1. In *Fifteen Hundred Words*, Abi thought: 'you really knew the characters and cared about them'. Did you feel the same after reading the stories?
2. What did you learn about the countries where the stories happen?
3. Some stories end with a 'life lesson', as in *North Sea Eyes*. Which 'life lessons' interested you?
4. Do you prefer reading short stories or full-length novels?
5. Read the news item, page 95. Expand it into a full article.
6. Write a review a story for the class noticeboard.
7. Read the last page of *Just the Facts*. Now write Lisa's full article.
8. Make your own activities for other students to do, e.g. Put the events in order.