

Blood Diamonds

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Before reading

1. Look at the front of the book. How does the picture illustrate the title?
2. What do you think *Blood Diamonds* means?
3. Read the blurb. Who are the three people it writes about?
4. Look at *People in the story* on page 3. Who is the other person in the story and what does she do?
5. Look at the map of London on page 4. Where is Sophie Lafon's shop?
6. Why do you think Beesands in Devon is shown on the map of England?
7. If you have the recording, listen to Chapter 1.

Check your reading

CHAPTER 1

1. Read the newspaper story on page 5. What can you find out about blood diamonds?
2. Why are Shepherd and Kirkpatrick pleased?
3. Why are these African countries in Chapter 1?
a Angola, b Nigeria, c South Africa
4. True or false?
a Van Delft is half British, half African.
b Van Delft is nine years older than Shepherd.
c Shepherd is paying Kirkpatrick to watch Van Delft.
d Shepherd is going to watch Van Delft and see where he goes.
e Most important British newspapers are not on Fleet Street now.
f The story happens in October.

CHAPTER 2

1. What is Van Delft's business?
2. What sort of shops do you find in Hatton Garden?
3. Complete these sentences:
a Kirkpatrick saw Van Delft walk into
b While he waited, Kirkpatrick talked to
c Kirkpatrick told Van Delft he met him in
d Kirkpatrick gave Van Delft his
e Kirkpatrick told Van Delft he knew someone who
4. Is what Kirkpatrick says to Van Delft true or false?

CHAPTER 3

1. Who said what to whom?
a 'I met Van Delft.'
b 'Guns are important in these countries too.'
c 'Get in.'
d 'Where are we going?'
e 'I'm telling you: don't come near me again.'

2. Put the events in the correct order.
a Annie gives Harley information about Van Delft's ships.
b Harley meets Van Delft near St Paul's Cathedral.
c Harley tells Annie about his meeting with Van Delft.
d Van Delft's driver hits Harley with a baseball bat.
e Harley gets a phone call from Van Delft.
3. Does Van Delft believe that he met Kirkpatrick in Lagos?
4. Who has a gun, b a baseball bat?

CHAPTER 4

1. Who?
a Who drove Kirkpatrick to the *Daily Post*?
b Who didn't look good?
c Who left the Charterhouse Hotel?
d Who found out about *Lafon Jewellery*?
e Who buys diamonds from Van Delft?
2. What did Shepherd find out about Sophie Lafon?
3. What does Sophie Lafon say about blood diamonds?
4. Why do you think she offers to help Kirkpatrick?

CHAPTER 5

1. Look at the words in italics below from pages 22–23. Who or what are *I, he, you, it, they*?
a *He* answered *it*.
b '*I* can't say much because *he's* in the next room.'
c '*I'm* going to have a look at *it*.'
d '*You're* not OK, and *I'm* coming too.'
e At ten thirty *they* got to Beesands.
2. Put the events in the correct order.
a Kirkpatrick and Shepherd drove to Devon.
b Kirkpatrick went to look at Van Delft's house.
c Sophie Lafon telephoned Kirkpatrick.
d Van Delft's driver hit Kirkpatrick with a baseball bat.
e Shepherd started to use the internet on her laptop.
f Van Delft's driver put something into a car.
3. What do you think Shepherd was looking for on the internet?
4. What do you think Van Delft is going to do with Kirkpatrick?

CHAPTER 6

1. Use the words below to complete the sentences.
guns ship stupid beach business
a The events in this chapter happen on the
b The long black boxes have in them.
c Van Delft thinks that Kirkpatrick is
d Sophie Lafon is only interested in
e They are going to take the guns to Africa by
2. What are they going to do with Kirkpatrick and Shepherd? Why?

3. Who?

- a His hands were tied together.
- b He had a gun.
- c She drove Kirkpatrick's car onto the beach.
- d She had a gun.
- e He was taking boxes out of Van Delft's car.
- f He shouted to Van Delft.

CHAPTER 7

1. Match the two parts of the sentences:

- 1 The man in the boat opened the box
 - 2 Four police cars
 - 3 There were three police boats
 - 4 The police asked Shepherd and Kirkpatrick
 - 5 Shepherd and Kirkpatrick
- a on the sea.
 - b a lot of questions.
 - c to look at the guns.
 - d have got another front-page story.
 - e came down to the beach.

2. What did Shepherd find out on the internet?

3. Why has Kirkpatrick got a smile on his face when he is asleep?

After reading

Choose some of these activities.

- 1. Write the front-page story that Shepherd and Kirkpatrick wrote when they got back to London.
- 2. You are making a film of *Blood Diamonds*. Which actors do you want to play Van Delft, Lafon, Shepherd, Kirkpatrick and Van Delft's driver?
- 3. What do you think will happen to Erik Van Delft and Sophie Lafon?
- 4. Look at the picture on page 29. You are the man in the small boat. Write about what you were doing before you got to the beach, and what you were going to do after.
- 5. Look at the picture on page 10. Erik Van Delft visits Sophie Lafon, and they go into the back room of the shop. Write the conversation they had.
- 6. On page 6 it says, 'Kirkpatrick and Shepherd worked well together.' How can you see that from the story?
- 7. Describe the four main characters, using the pictures and the information in the story.
- 8. There are two bad characters in the story. Which one do you think is worse, and why?
- 9. Make a quiz for the other students to do (e.g. write some true/false questions).
- 10. Write a sentence for each of these words: Internet, diamond, police, jewellery, gun.