

The Girl at the Window

 Antoinette Moses

Before reading

1. What do you understand by the title *The Girl at the Window*?
In what situation is somebody *at a window*?
2. What ideas do you get about the book from the cover picture?
3. Look at the 'People in the story' on page 4. What relationships do you find between the people?
4. Look at the dates next to Grace and Sue. What does this tell you about the story?
5. Look at the map on page 5. What part of the UK do you think the story happens in?
6. If you have the recording, listen to Chapter 1.

Check your reading

CHAPTER 1

1. When does Chapter 1 happen, and who is the main person in it?
2. Where is Tommy going?
3. Look at the picture on page 6. There are three people. Who are they and what are they doing?
4. In the picture on page 7, which two people is Grace thinking about?
5. What happens to Grace's baby and why?
6. What do you find out about Grace on page 10?

CHAPTER 2

1. When does Chapter 2 happen, and who is the main person in it?
2. Look at page 11. Who is Sue telephoning? How does she feel and why?
3. Who do you think the man is in the picture on page 11?
4. What can you see on the wall in the picture on page 11? What does this tell you about the house?
5. What do you find out about the house from the text and the picture on page 12?
6. Look at page 13. True or false?
 - a Sue and Sammy love the house.
 - b Pete is coming to live with Sue and Sammy.
 - c Pete doesn't have a job.
 - d Pete drinks too much.
 - e Sue's mother likes Pete.
 - f Sue doesn't love Pete now.
7. How does Sammy feel about the picture?

CHAPTER 3

1. Who is talking in this chapter?
2. Match the beginnings and endings.
 - 1 Grace doesn't want
 - 2 In the room there is
 - 3 When people come into the room
 - 4 People don't like the cold room and
 - 5 Sammy can hear
 - a so they go away from the house.
 - b the picture of Grace and a window.
 - c other people to come and live in the house.
 - d Grace talking to her from the picture.
 - e Grace blows and makes it feel cold.
3. Why is the last word in the chapter (YES) in capital letters?
4. Why is Grace pleased about Sammy being in 'her room'?

CHAPTER 4

1. Who is talking in this chapter?
2. How does Sue feel on page 20? Why?
3. On page 21, why does Sue take Sammy out of the room?
4. Look at the picture on page 22. What seems to be happening and why?
5. Look at page 23. Which of these things make Sue feel bad?
 - a The house is not a happy house.
 - b The wiring is really bad.
 - c Mr Price isn't there to work today.
 - d Sammy is crying.
 - e Pete doesn't give her any money.
 - f Her mother is angry with her.

CHAPTER 5

1. Who is talking in this chapter?
2. On page 24 Grace feels sad and happy. Why?
3. Look at page 25. What is the noise Grace hears?
4. What does Grace do?

CHAPTER 6

1. True or false?
 - a There is a fire in Sue's house.
 - b Grace calls the firemen.
 - c The house is in the village of Westham
 - d Sue is in the living room.
 - e Sue can't get Sammy because the door's on fire
2. What can you see happening in the pictures on pages 26 and 27?
3. What do you think is happening to Sammy?

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CHAPTER 7

1. Complete these sentences with the adjectives in the box.

hot beautiful bad

- a Grace says that nothing is going to happen to Sammy.
b Grace thinks that Sammy is a baby.
c The fire in the bedroom is very
2. What does Grace do to keep the baby happy?
3. Who does Grace think the fireman is?
4. Why does she say 'I can leave now. Everything's all right.'
Look at the pictures on pages 28–29 to help you.

CHAPTER 8

1. Where are Sue and Sammy in this chapter?
2. What problem does Sue have because of the fire?
3. What happened to the house and why?
4. What doesn't Sue or the fireman understand? What is the answer?
5. What is going to happen to Sue and Sammy?

After reading

1. What do you think of this story? What did you like? What didn't you like?
2. Write an email to the author, Antoinette Moses, saying what you feel about her story.
3. Can the kinds of things which happened in this story really happen? Discuss your ideas with some other students.
4. Work with a partner. Write the dialogue between Sue and her mother when she arrives at the hospital. Perform it for other pairs.
5. Write a newspaper report about the fire for the local paper.
6. What happens to Sue when she leaves the hospital. Make some notes about how you imagine her future life. Compare your ideas with a partner.
7. Choose one of the pictures and write a description of everything you can see in detail. Give your description to another student and see if they can decide which picture it is.
8. Work with a partner and make up some quiz questions about the story for the other students to answer (e.g. True/False questions or correct/incorrect sentences).