

Within High Fences

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Before reading

1. Look at the front cover. What does it show?
2. Where do you think the 'high fences' in the title are?
3. Read the blurb. What do you find out about Nancy and George?
4. Now read *People in the story* on page 4. What else do you find out about Nancy and George.
5. Look at the map on page 4. Where does the story take place?
6. If you have the recording, listen to Chapter 1.

Check your reading

CHAPTER 1

1. True or false?
 - a Nancy wears a uniform to work.
 - b Tom is older than Nancy.
 - c Nancy is a writer.
 - d Tom doesn't think Nancy is intelligent.
 - e Nancy thinks her job is great.
2. What do you learn about Nancy and Tom's relationship? Which of these sentences are correct?
 - a Tom doesn't like Nancy having a job.
 - b Tom and Nancy don't have much money.
 - c Tom didn't want Nancy to be a writer.
 - d Tom and Nancy got married when Nancy left school.
 - e Nancy likes not needing Tom for everything.
3. Nancy wears a uniform to work. What other jobs do you wear a uniform for?

CHAPTER 2

1. What is ...
 - a an identity card?
 - b an asylum seeker?
2. Which of these things does it say in the book about rules?
 - a You need rules when many people are together in one place.
 - b Rules are important and good.
 - c Nancy agreed with all the rules.
 - d Nancy had to make sure everyone followed the rules.
 - e The little boy was afraid of the rules.
 - f The tall man followed the rule about the biscuits.
3. How do the asylum seekers feel about the people in uniform?
4. How does Nancy feel about the tall man and what he does?

CHAPTER 3

1. Read page 11. Which of these things are true about Nancy?
 - a She finishes work at eight o'clock in the evening.
 - b She buys some fruit at the supermarket.
 - c She keeps thinking about the tall asylum seeker.
 - d She's sorry that Tom is not at home.
 - e She's happy to have lots of beautiful things at home.

2. Who said what?
 - a 'We all have to follow rules.'
 - b 'When I gave the boy the biscuits I wanted him to feel better.'
 - c 'Hamid and his mother will get help here.'
 - d 'I wanted to be a writer, but I left school early.'
 - e 'You can do anything, if you really want to.'
3. How does Nancy feel about her life?

CHAPTER 4

1. Put these events in the correct order.
 - a Nancy tells Harriet about George in the kitchen.
 - b Back at home, Nancy doesn't talk to Tom.
 - c Nancy gets dressed to go out.
 - d Tom talks angrily about asylum seekers at dinner.
 - e Nancy wonders if she still loves Tom.
 - f Nancy and Tom go to Harriet and Steve's house for dinner.
2. What does Tom say about asylum seekers coming to Britain?

CHAPTER 5

1. Match the beginnings and endings.
 - 1 Nancy doesn't smoke
 - 2 George took some photos
 - 3 The police locked George up
 - 4 George showed Nancy
 - 5 Nancy tells George
 - a but the police didn't like them.
 - b that the lawyers will help him.
 - c his terrible scars.
 - d but she doesn't mind smoking.
 - e and they hurt him.

CHAPTER 6

1. What does Nancy do that is against the rules?
2. Do you think this is dangerous? Why?

CHAPTER 7

1. How does Nancy's life change after George leaves the centre?
2. What makes Nancy smile for the first time since George left?

CHAPTER 8

1. What does Nancy know after she gets the letter from George?
2. Which of these sentences are true?
 - a Nancy is in a market when she gets George's text message.
 - b George is in Greenwich.
 - c Nancy texts George to meet her in a café.
3. What does George do at the end of the chapter that shows his feelings for Nancy?

CHAPTER 9

- Who said what?
 - 'What will you do without me?'
 - 'Things are different now.'
 - 'I'm leaving because I'm learning to think ... for myself.'
 - 'I can't believe how stupid you are.'
 - 'I'm never coming back to live with you.'
- Why does Nancy leave Tom?
 - Because she doesn't love him any more.
 - Because of George.

CHAPTER 10

- Put the events in order.
 - Nancy stays with Harriet for a week.
 - Nancy and George see each other every day.
 - Nancy leaves Tom.
 - She moves into her own flat.
 - Harriet meets George at the new flat.
- What does Nancy decide to do in the future? Why?
- What do you understand from the sentence 'Or that's what I thought' at the end of the chapter?

CHAPTER 11

- Match the beginnings and endings.
 - Nancy is going by train
 - George says he will be at the station
 - When Nancy gets back to London
 - When Nancy gets into her flat
 - Nancy shouts for George
 - George isn't waiting at the station.
 - her things are everywhere.
 - to Harriet's wedding in Scotland.
 - but George isn't there.
 - when her train arrives back on Sunday.
- Make a list of Nancy's things which are not in her flat when she gets home.

CHAPTER 12

- True or false?
 - Nancy thinks only George and Harriet have keys to her flat.
 - A policeman visited Nancy and asked some questions.
 - Nancy's passport is where she left it.
 - Nancy doesn't tell the police where George is.
 - Nancy gets no answer when she phones George.

CHAPTER 13

- Complete each sentence with one word.
 - Nancy slept badly at night because she was thinking about
 - Harriet and Steve had a lovely holiday in
 - Nancy tells Harriet that the police think that George is a
 - That night Harriet and Steve are having a
 - Nancy wants to go home because she feels
- What happens when she is thinking about leaving the party?

CHAPTER 14

- Put the events in order.
 - Nancy finds her gold watch while Tom is making coffee.
 - Nancy drinks too much champagne and feels ill.
 - Nancy goes back to Harriet's and phones the police.
 - Nancy meets Tom again at Harriet's party.
 - Tom tells Nancy he took her things to try and get her back.
 - Tom and Nancy walk back to Tom's house.

CHAPTER 15

- Choose answer **a** or **b**.
 - The police find Nancy's things ...
 - in George's flat
 - in Tom's garage
 - The night after the party, Nancy sleeps ...
 - at Harriet's house
 - Tom's house
 - Later on Harriet drives Nancy ...
 - to Tom's house
 - to George's flat
 - Nancy says Tom always wanted ...
 - to help her do things
 - to stop her doing things
 - Nancy asks the children ...
 - if George lives there
 - if they know George
 - George tells Nancy he saw her flat and felt ...
 - afraid
 - happy
 - Nancy says she had a big house and money before she met George ...
 - and she was very happy
 - but she wasn't happy
 - Nancy and George know that being together ...
 - isn't going to be easy
 - is going to be easy

After reading

Choose some of these activities.

- Which character(s) did you like best and least in *Behind High Fences*?
- What do you think happened to George and Nancy next?
- Write the conversation between the police and Tom (Chapter 15).
- You are a film director making a film of *Behind High Fences*. Which actors will play the main characters?
- Look at the pictures on pages 9, 33, 35 and 43. Write some sentences about each one.
- Think of another title for *Behind High Fences*.
- Harriet's husband decides to talk to Tom about how to live with a woman. What things does he tell him?
- You are the judge who listens to George's story and decides if he can stay in Britain or not. What do you think of him, and what is your decision?
- Make up some true/false quiz questions about the story for other students to do.