

Parallel

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Before reading

- Look at the front cover. Do you understand the title, *Parallel*? If not, find it in your dictionary.
 - Read the blurb on the back cover. What does Max do?
 - Match the chapter titles with the sentences from each chapter.
 - Chapter 1 The first phone call
 - Chapter 2 A visitor
 - Chapter 3 Photographs
 - Chapter 4 The job
 - Chapter 5 Parallel world
- There was a man outside his front door – a tall man in an expensive suit.
 - I know it's difficult to understand, but there are many, many worlds, not just this one.
 - 'Dad. Where are you?'
'I'm outside the station. I'm going to get him.'
 - 'Don't you know the face, Max? It's *you*. It's *your* face.'
 - I want you to do something for me and I can give you a lot of money.
- If you have the cassette, listen to the Prologue and Chapter 1.

Check your reading

PROLOGUE

- Put these sentences in the order that they happened.
 - The train came into the station.
 - The man pushed the woman.
 - A woman walked down the platform.
 - The man stood behind the woman.
 - The woman fell in front of the train.
- Why did the man push the woman under the train?

CHAPTER 1

- 'I'm outside the station. I'm going to get him.' – Who is '*him*' do you think?
- 'We made our decision. We have to do this.' What are Julie and her father going to do?

CHAPTER 2

- Complete the summary.

Max that someone was outside his flat. He looked out of the window but there was in the street. On the , he saw a man outside his front door. The man was , and wore an suit. Max put his inside his trousers and opened the door. The visitor's name was He said 'I've got a for you, Max. I can give you a lot of' But Max said 'No'. Then, Fairhead said 'I've got some for you.' Fairhead moved his hand to his but Max him hard.

- Max asked: 'Photographs of what?' What do you think?

CHAPTER 3

- Match the beginnings and endings.
 - Max put his hand in Fairhead's pocket
 - In the first photograph,
 - The same man was in
 - Max hit Fairhead because
 - The face in the photographs
 - he thought Fairhead had a gun.
 - and found the photographs.
 - was the other Max Holland.
 - all four photographs.
 - there was a priest outside a church.

CHAPTER 4

- Match Fairhead's answers to Max's questions.
 - What's the job, Mr Fairhead?
 - What's his name? The name of your problem?
 - A woman?
 - What does she know about you?
 - Why don't you give her some money?
 - You put my face in these photographs. Why?
 - Who is he? Why does he look like me?
 - The photographs are real, Max. This is a real man.
 - Yes. Is that a problem for you, Max?
 - I can't buy this woman, Max. But I can buy you.
 - Your usual kind of job, Max. You see, I have a problem.
 - Good questions, Max. I can answer them, but it's going to be difficult to understand.
 - Her* name.
 - I'm a careful man too, Max. I'm not going to tell you that.
- Fairhead said: 'Well, Max. This man is you. But he doesn't live in this world.'
Which world is Fairhead talking about?

CHAPTER 5

- The same but different. Complete the sentences.

The two Max Hollands ...

- live in
- come from
- had a father called and a mother called
- had a sister called

But ...

- one Max Holland is a
- and the other Max Holland is a

CHAPTER 6

- Match the questions to the answers.
 - What makes a difference to our lives?
 - What makes a difference to other peoples' lives and the world we live in?
 - Where can we find different Max Hollands?
 - What do the other Max Hollands do?
 - Are the other Max Hollands the same?

- a They make different decisions.
 - b In parallel worlds.
 - c Our decisions.
 - d They are the same, but different.
 - e Our decisions.
2. Max said: 'That's very interesting. I like it. But the question is: Are you right?'
Do you think Fairhead is right?

CHAPTER 7

1. Look at the words in italics. Who or what are *me, we, it, she, you?*
- a Take *me* to this other world.
 - b *We're* going to a parallel world by train!
 - c *It* went down and down. For three minutes, four minutes, five minutes.
 - d Did *she* fall in front of the train or did you push her?
 - e *You* know too much about me.
 - f *You* do this job for me and I won't tell anyone about you.
 - g *It* started slowly but then went faster.

CHAPTER 8

1. Complete the sentences with words from Chapter 8.
- a The street lights were very
 - b There was on the streets, no cars or buses.
 - c People did not go out at night because the city was not
 - d All the bars, shops and restaurants were
 - e A man in the street was of Max.
 - f The police liked to the streets, day and night.
 - g It was a different London, a world.

CHAPTER 9

1. Put the events in the right order.
- a Max asked: 'Does she live with anyone?'
 - b Max wanted to know why he was different from the priest.
 - c Max wanted to see the other Max Holland, and then talk about the job.
 - d Fairhead didn't want to talk about the job.
 - e Fairhead asked: 'Are you going to do the job?'
 - f Fairhead took Max to the woman's house.

CHAPTER 10

1. What do you think Max is going to do? Write YES, NO or ? after the sentences.
- a He is going to talk to the priest.
 - b He is going to kill the priest.
 - c He is going to change.
 - d He is going to do 'the job' for Fairhead.
 - e He is going to kill Fairhead.

CHAPTER 11

1. How did Max Holland, the priest, feel ...
- a after his family died?
 - b after he heard his mother's voice?
2. How did Max Holland, the killer, feel ...
- a after his family died?
 - b after he killed the car driver?
3. How does Max feel now?
4. Do you think Max is going to change?

CHAPTER 12

1. Who said?
- a 'But how can you be here? You're dead. I killed you.'
 - b 'You pushed a different Julie under a train in your world.'
 - c 'I came here to tell Julie about you. I didn't come here to kill her.'
 - d 'Yes, but we're not killers. . . . We're not him. Dad, we can't do this!'
 - e 'It's too late to change, Max.'
 - f 'You have the gun. You decide. Are you going to kill me?'
2. Complete the paragraph with these verbs from Chapter 12: did sleep feels leaves understand pushed go die feels died
- 'When you the Julie in your world under the train, the Julie in my world felt her And that feeling doesn't away. It never us. Julie still can't at night because she afraid. Do you ? The Julie in your world But my Julie still afraid. Because of you. Because of what you
3. What decision is Fairhead going to make?

CHAPTER 13

1. What do you think?
- a The priest heard a voice in his head. Who spoke?
 - b Where did the voice come from? This world or a parallel world?
 - c Why did the priest not feel afraid any more?

After reading

Choose from some of these activities.

1. Choose five pictures from the story. Write one sentence about each picture.
2. Do you think there really are 'parallel worlds'?
3. The priest says: 'It's never too late to change.' What do you think?
4. Write a report on *Parallel* for the classroom notice board. Say what you liked or didn't like about the story.
5. What do you think Max is going to do after he returns to his world?
6. Fairhead said: 'Our decisions make a difference to our lives.' What important decisions are you going to make in your life?
7. Make your own activities for other students to do, e.g. Put the events in the right order.
8. Here is the blurb from another book at this level.

Inspector Logan

'When did your wife go out?' asked Jenny Logan. She looked at the man across the table from her.
'Yesterday,' he replied.
'And she didn't come home last night?' said Logan.
'That's right,' said the man.
It was Jenny Logan's first day in her new job. She was an inspector in the Edinburgh police. It was also her first murder.

Do you want to read *Inspector Logan*?