

# Staying Together

Judith Wilson

## Before reading

1. Look at the picture on the front cover. What is happening?
2. Read the back cover, contents page and list of characters. What sort of story is this?
3. Look at the maps on page 5. Where do you think the two main characters, Ikuko and Bernard, will meet in the story?
4. If you have the cassette, listen to Chapter 1.

## Check your reading

### CHAPTER 1

1. Ikuko or Hiroshi? Match the description to the person.
  - a tall ... young, with rather untidy hair.
  - b a pale serious face with long straight hair and a pointed chin
2. Ikuko thinks 'Why did the idea of marrying him seem like a door closing on the future?' (page 7). What does Ikuko want to do before getting married?

### CHAPTER 2

1. Ikuko first wrote in her diary: 'Today I arrived in England. It's very exciting.' (page 13). Later she decides to write the truth. What five reasons does she give for feeling unhappy?

### CHAPTER 3

1. Who or what do the words in *italics* refer to?
  - a 'Well ... *it's* sort of grey.'
  - b 'Will I have anything in common with *these people*?'
  - c ... *she's* very lively, and kind, too.
  - d *She* thought of her camera lying unused on the desk in her room.
  - e '*I'm* the one who started the club.'
  - f 'Thanks. *It's* something I really enjoy doing.'

Lucretia students at the hostel Birmingham  
photography Mike Ikuko

### CHAPTER 4

1. Tick (✓) the things Ikuko and Bernard talked about.
 

a Work and study	<input type="checkbox"/>	b English people	<input type="checkbox"/>
c food	<input type="checkbox"/>	d family	<input type="checkbox"/>
e Hiroshi	<input type="checkbox"/>	f the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. What do you know about Birmingham now?

### CHAPTER 5

1. Put the events in order.
  - a At the hostel, Bernard walked with Ikuko to her room.
  - b It began to snow.
  - c On the way home, a van crashed into the minibus.
  - d Bernard took a photo of Ikuko in a church.
  - e Ikuko went on the photography trip with Bernard.
  - f Ikuko realised she had lost the ring in the accident.

### CHAPTER 6

1. True, false or don't know?
  - a Bernard already knew about Ikuko's boyfriend.
  - b Bernard's wife left him and took the children with her.
  - c Hiroshi was very calm when Ikuko told him about Bernard.
  - d Being with Bernard is a new, exciting experience for Ikuko.
  - e Ikuko has decided to leave Hiroshi.

### CHAPTER 7

1. Ikuko asks herself a lot of questions.
 

'Was I really stupid? Didn't I mean anything to him? Maybe he's back with his wife. Or with someone else. But why hasn't he told me?' (page 37)

What do you think has happened?
2. 'Maybe it was time to go home.' (page 37). Is Ikuko making the right decision?

### CHAPTER 8

1. Complete the summary
 

Bernard wrote that Ikuko's letter had been sent to the wrong ..... . Bernard's ..... had died ..... weeks after he arrived home. It was impossible for him to leave the ..... or return to ..... . Also, his wife wanted to ..... him. He said that he understood if Ikuko wanted to ..... someone from Japan, but he was ..... her very much and asked her to come to Zambia.
2. Bernard wrote: 'I don't know if this life would ever be possible for you.' (page 39/40). How do you think Ikuko will find life in Africa?

### CHAPTER 9

1. True or false?
  - a Beatrice spoke good English.
  - b Ikuko loved to eat *nshima*.
  - c Bernard's house had no electricity.
  - d Ikuko left because she didn't like looking after the children.
  - e Ikuko felt that she belonged in Japan.

### CHAPTER 10

1. Complete the information about Joyce Mutanga.
 

a job: .....	b age: .....
c place of birth: .....	d home town: .....
e character: .....	
2. Why was Taka cross with Joyce?

## CHAPTER 11

1. Match the beginnings and endings.
- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1 Sven and Taka thought that             | a rude behaviour towards him.          |
| 2 Joyce didn't have time to talk         | b to go for a swim on her own.         |
| 3 Taka was angry about Joyce's           | c but forgot people's names and faces. |
| 4 Joyce remembered everything about fish | d Joyce's presentation was excellent.  |
| 5 After the presentation, Joyce decided  | e to Sven about underwater film.       |
2. What do you think happened to Joyce?

## CHAPTER 12

1. Who ...
- a heard Joyce's screams?
  - b took the plane to the beach?
  - c carried Joyce out of the water?
  - d had stepped on a stonefish?
  - e took Joyce to hospital?
  - f felt more unhappy than angry?

## CHAPTER 13

1. Put Joyce's memories in the right order.
- a Leaving her home in Zambia with her mother.
  - b A voice that was both soft and angry.
  - c Wearing her best dress.
  - d An argument between her parents.
  - e Getting her new shoes dirty.
  - f Her presentation the day before.

## CHAPTER 14

1. Find adjectives that describe Joyce before and after the accident.
2. Joyce thought about 'the people who had been part of her life there, and what they had meant to her.' (page 63) What do you think Joyce needs in her life now?

## CHAPTER 15

1. 'She'd never told anyone so much about herself before.' What did Joyce tell Taka? Write YES or NO after the sentences.
- a Visiting her mother in the USA. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b Childhood memories of Zambia. \_\_\_\_\_
  - c Her research work on the sea. \_\_\_\_\_
  - d Her grandfather, Bernard Chiluba. \_\_\_\_\_
  - e Her hopes for the future. \_\_\_\_\_

## CHAPTER 16

1. Who said what?
- a 'You won't just disappear? We haven't talked.'
  - b 'Your hair's still too long. Just like your grandfather.'
  - c 'It went really well ... And a good opening presentation by a Zambian researcher.'
  - d 'She's gone back ... To the house where she lived with her grandfather.'
  - e 'I'm sorry about Bernard.'
  - f 'It's a diary I kept for a few months many years ago, before I married your grandfather.'
2. What do you think will happen in the final chapter?

## CHAPTER 17

1. What does Joyce know about her grandfather and the Japanese woman? Write SURE or DON'T KNOW after the sentences.
- a Her grandfather had been to England.
  - b He had met a Japanese girl there.
  - c How they had met.
  - d The Japanese girl had been to Mungwi.
  - e Why she had left him.
  - f What the girl was called.

## After reading

Choose some of these activities.

1. Hiroshi said: 'You can never really understand someone from another culture.' (page 7) Do you agree?
2. Bernard said: 'I couldn't live all my life in Birmingham, even though I loved it.' (page 45) Do you think you could spend your life in another country?
3. '... since I met him it's felt like a door opening – so many new ideas, new experiences.' (page 34) Have you ever felt like Ikuko in a relationship?
4. Compare Joyce's life before and after she met Taka. How did she change?
5. What did you enjoy or dislike in *Staying Together*? Write a letter to the author, Judith Wilson, giving your opinions.
6. Write the last page in Ikuko's diary, when she left Zambia to return to Japan.
7. Imagine there is an extra chapter. Write the conversation between Joyce and Taka when they meet again.
8. Make your own activities for other students to do. e.g. Match the beginnings and endings.
9. Here is the blurb from another book at this level.

### When Summer Comes

Stephen and Anna Martins take a holiday break in a seaside village to escape the stress of London. They love it there and make a new friend, a local fisherman. But when Stephen is suddenly called back to London on business, their lives start to change.

Do you want to read *When Summer Comes*?