

Before Reading

TALKING ABOUT THE COVER

- What is happening in this picture? (*It's a plane with hijackers*)
- Why do people hijack planes? (*To get publicity / To force governments to give them what they want*)
- Can you guess if the hijackers will get what they want in this story?

BEFORE READING ACTIVITIES (PAGE 60)

ACTIVITY 1 BEFORE READING

1 Y 2 N 3 N 4 Y 5 N 6 N

ACTIVITY 2 BEFORE READING

Students can give whatever answers they want, but these are likely or possible answers.

- 1 Sensible, because you will not attract the hijackers' attention.
- 2 Not sensible, because the hijackers will believe that they are right and will be in an excited state.
- 3 Probably not sensible – it might relax the atmosphere, but the hijackers would think that they were losing control of the situation.
- 4 Not sensible, because the hijackers might make an example of you to frighten other passengers.
- 5 Sensible, because this might be helpful to the police later.
- 6 Not sensible – if the hijackers see you doing this, you will be in great danger.
- 7 Not sensible – the hijackers will almost certainly kill you if you try to do this.
- 8 Probably not sensible – the hijackers *might* put you off the plane, but if they think you are a nuisance, they might easily shoot you. Best to keep quiet.

While Reading

CHAPTERS 1 TO 7

CARL'S STORY – CHAPTERS 1, 2, 4, 6 WHILE READING

- 1 *What . . . ?* He was a police officer, and his job was to take care of Carl.
- 2 *What . . . ?* A machine gun.
- 3 *How . . . ?* Three.
- 4 *What . . . ?* The People's Liberation Army.
- 5 *How . . . ?* Thirty years.
- 6 *Why . . . ?* Because he didn't want the hijackers to find out from the passport who Carl was.

- 7 *What . . . ?* He said that Carl was his prisoner, and he was taking him to prison in his country.
- 8 *Who . . . ?* A short fat American man in a grey suit.
- 9 *Who . . . ?* Open answer. (Probably the Prime Minister's husband.)

HELEN'S STORY – CHAPTERS 3, 5, 7 WHILE READING

- 1 *Why . . . ?* Because the phone rang and woke her up, and she had to get up again because something serious had happened.
- 2 *How . . . ?* One hundred and eight passengers and five crew.
- 3 *What . . . ?* They wanted the government to set their two brothers free from prison; they wanted more fuel for the plane; and they wanted to put a message in all the newspapers about the PLA.
- 4 *What . . . ?* They would kill the first passenger.
- 5 *How . . . ?* The girl hijacker shot him with the machine gun.
- 6 *What . . . ?* He wanted to attack the plane with his commandos.
- 7 *Why . . . ?* Because he argued with her when she told him to bring the two prisoners to the airport.
- 8 *Who . . . ?* The American and British ambassadors.

CHAPTERS 8 TO 11

CARL'S STORY – CHAPTERS 8, 10 WHILE READING

- 1 F The girl fired her gun in the plane because an American passenger *shouted at* her.
- 2 T
- 3 F *Carl and the Captain* tried to help Harald when he attacked.
- 4 T
- 5 T
- 6 F Carl argued with the girl because he was *angry*.
- 7 F Carl told her that the man who died was a *businessman*.
- 8 T
- 9 T

HELEN'S STORY – CHAPTERS 9, 11 WHILE READING

- 1 F Helen *disliked* both the ambassadors.
- 2 T
- 3 F Helen *did not think* it was a good idea to attack the plane and 'take it apart'.
- 4 T
- 5 T
- 6 F Helen told the hijackers that she needed another *ten* minutes to get the prisoners.
- 7 T
- 8 F The hijackers wanted Carl and *the pilot* to go with them to another country.

BEFORE READING CHAPTERS 12 TO 15

Encourage students to speculate and to make guesses, but do not tell them the answers. They will find out as they read that the 'yes' answers are numbers 1 and 2. The three hijackers will be killed and the two prisoners will be taken back to prison.

CHAPTERS 12 TO 15 WHILE READING

5, 7, 2, 9, 1, 10, 6, 8, 3, 11, 4

*After Reading***ACTIVITY 1** AFTER READING

- 5 HELEN: We haven't got much time, Colonel. What are we going to do?
- 7 COLONEL: The most important thing for the terrorists is the prisoners. So when they arrive, we'll send one to the plane at once.
- 2 HELEN: Right. And when he's on the plane, they must let one hundred passengers out, as they agreed.
- 9 COLONEL: Yes. We wait until those hundred passengers are on the tarmac. Then we must refuel the plane.
- 6 HELEN: Ah, the refuelling. So you and your men—?
- 1 COLONEL: That's the plan, Prime Minister. We'll wear white coats, like mechanics, and drive the fuel tanker up to the plane.
- 11 HELEN: Excellent! And how will you get inside the plane?
- 3 COLONEL: When they open the door for the second prisoner, we'll throw in grenades, and attack at once.
- 8 HELEN: But what about the passengers still inside?
- 4 COLONEL: They'll be all right. For a few seconds, during the grenade attack, the hijackers won't be able to move. A few seconds is all we need.
- 10 HELEN: Well, good luck, Colonel.

ACTIVITY 2 AFTER READING

Dear Sam

I'm staying in the US *ambassador's* house here, with the other four Americans that were in the *hijack* with me. I'm fine, but all of us still get very *nervous* when we hear a sudden *bang* or there's a *flash* of bright light. It'll take time, I suppose.

It was a terrible thing, Sam. I think the *worst* moment was when they *shot* poor Bill. It was the girl who did it, too. I stood up and *shouted* at her, and she *fired* her *machine* gun at me. I felt the *bullets* going through my hair.

There was one brave man who ran up the *aisle* and tried to *attack* the *hijackers*. He didn't win, of course. They *handcuffed* him to the door and told him he'd be the next to *die*.

When I saw the *fuel* tanker coming, I knew what was going to happen. Those *commandos* were good,

Sam. They came straight in after the *grenades* and got the hijackers *before* they could move. It was all over in *seconds*.

But when we got out of the plane, there was poor Bill's body, just lying on the *tarmac*. I'll never forget that.

I'll see you in a few weeks – I'm coming home by *ship*!

Best wishes,
Jim

ACTIVITY 3 AFTER READING

- 1 Michael, the Prime Minister's secretary, at the end of Chapter 9, just after he gives her the hijackers' message about her husband.
- 2 Harald, in Chapter 8, just before he tries to attack the hijackers.
- 3 Inspector Holm, in Chapter 11, while bringing the prisoners to the airport.
- 4 The British Ambassador, at the end of Chapter 7, just before he goes into the control room to talk to the Prime Minister.
- 5 The girl hijacker, in Chapter 2, just before the hijack begins.

ACTIVITY 4 AFTER READING

- 1 Welcome aboard
- 2 A change of plan
- 3 Mummy is late
- 4 Coffee and – a passport
- 5 The Colonel, the Inspector, and the Prime Minister
- 6 The PLA choose a passenger
- 7 Blood on the tarmac
- 8 Harald is brave
- 9 Meeting the ambassadors
- 10 The girl's story
- 11 Helen agrees with the hijackers
- 12 One brother in a yellow coat
- 13 The passengers leave
- 14 Bang, flash – death
- 15 Helen, Carl and Harald

ACTIVITY 5 AFTER READING

Open answers.