

# The Green Room

Robert Campbell



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# Contents

Meet the Author	6
Before Reading	7

## AUDITIONS

1 Laura	13
2 Nathan	16
3 Marc	18
4 Nathan	22
5 Laura	24
6 Lucy	27
7 Marc	29
8 Nathan, Laura, Lucy, Marc	30

## REHEARSALS

9 Laura, Lucy	36
10 Nathan, Marc	39
11 Bob	41
12 Nathan	44
13 Lucy, Marc	47
14 Bob	49
15 Nathan, Marc	52
16 Laura, Lucy	55
17 Nathan	59
18 Laura	62
19 Marc, Lucy	67

## THE PERFORMANCE

20 Laura, Lucy, Marc, Nathan	70
After Reading	73

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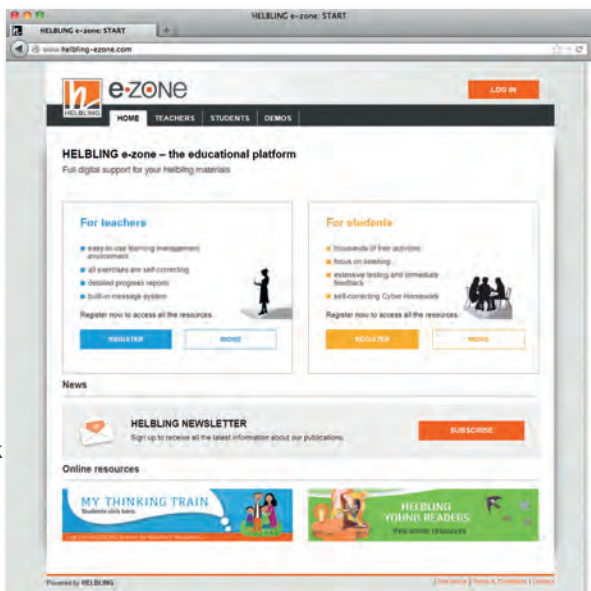


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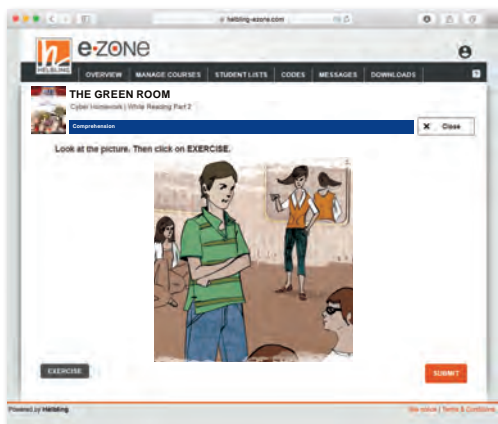
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## MEET THE AUTHOR

---

### Hi, Robert, can you tell us a little about yourself?

I was born in Wales, grew up in Scotland, and then lived in England for many years. Now I live in Spain where I spend most of my time writing. This is the third reader I've written for Helbling Languages.

### Where did you get the idea for this story?

*The Green Room* is about some young people at a summer theatre school. When I was a teenager, I wanted to be an actor so I joined the National Youth Theatre (NYT). The NYT is an organisation that encourages young people aged 14-21 to learn about the theatre. A lot of actors have been members including Orlando Bloom, Daniel Craig, Daniel Day-Lewis, Helen Mirren, and Matt Smith.

The first play I acted in was *Zigger Zagger* which was about football fans. It was an amazing experience so I decided to write a story about teenagers having a similar experience today.

### Did you ever become a professional actor?

No, I wasn't good enough! But a few years later I wrote the music for some NYT plays and became a musical director. I wrote the music and songs for a lot of shows\* before I started writing stories. One of the shows was about the actor James Dean, who is mentioned in the story.

### Does the story have a message?

Yes, it does. But you'll have to read the story to find out what the message is.

- **shows:** plays, musicals, etc.

## BEFORE READING



- 1 Look at the pictures of the main characters in the story and write the correct name in each sentence.



Laura




Lucy



Marc



Nathan

- a ..... is ambitious and likes wearing bright colours.  
b ..... is quite shy and wears glasses.  
c ..... is romantic and has long, dark hair.  
d ..... is ambitious and has fair hair.
- 2 Which of the characters do you think likes drawing? Give a reason for your answer.
- 3  Choose one of the characters and imagine you are him/her. Think about what 'you' are like. Write down adjectives to describe yourself, hobbies, friends, etc. Now in pairs introduce yourselves. Ask and answer questions. See how much information you can find out about the other character.

# BEFORE READING



1 One of the settings of *The Green Room* is inside a theatre. Label the pictures with these theatre words.



- a **audience:** people who watch a show
- b **auditorium:** part of a theatre where the public sits
- c **costumes:** clothes actors wear in a play
- d **foyer:** area near the entrance of a theatre
- e **rehearsal room:** place where actors and musicians practise
- f **scenery:** objects and backgrounds that represent the location of a play
- g **stage:** part of a theatre where the actors perform
- h **wings:** area at each side of the stage that the public doesn't see

2 The 'green room' is another place in a theatre. What do you think it is?

- a  a room where actors change into their costumes
- b  a place where actors can relax
- c  a box where some of the audience sits



3 Read the advertisement and answer the questions.



Do you want to be a star?

Auditions start next week.

'The Green Room' is looking for young people aged between 15 and 17 to take part in our annual summer theatre school. If you love acting, singing or dancing, and would like to spend the summer in London, working with professional directors, actors and dancers, write an email explaining why we should accept you.

**Go to our website for more information and a contact address.**

- a Are you the right age to attend 'The Green Room' summer school?
- b Which area are you most interested in – acting, singing, or dancing?
- c Would you like to do the course? Why or why not?
- d 'Auditions start next week.' What are auditions? How do you say the word in your language?

4 Write an email to 'The Green Room' saying why you want to take part in the summer school.

To:	<input type="text" value="auditions@thegreenroom.com"/>
From:	<input type="text"/>
Subject:	<input type="text" value="Auditions for 'The Green Room' summer school"/>
<input type="text"/>	

# BEFORE READING



1 William Shakespeare (Will) and James Dean (James) both feature in the story. What do you know about them?  
Circle the correct name or names.



- |   |  |      |       |
|---|--|------|-------|
| a | He wrote around 38 theatre plays.                                      | Will | James |
| b | He was an actor.   | Will | James |
| c | He was English.  | Will | James |
| d | He only made three films.  | Will | James |
| e | He was born in 1564.   | Will | James |
| f | He died in 1955.   | Will | James |
| g | He was called the first American teenager.                             | Will | James |
| h | His famous quotes include:<br>'If music be the food of love, play on'. | Will | James |


2 Use the words in the box to complete the titles of some of Shakespeare's plays.

Dream   Errors   It   Juliet   Night   Nothing   Venice   Well

- a All's Well That Ends .....
- b As You Like .....
- c The Comedy of .....
- d The Merchant of .....
- e A Midsummer Night's .....
- f Much Ado about .....
- g Romeo and .....
- h Twelfth .....

3 Look at some of Marc's drawings from the story. What can you see in the pictures? What do you think happens in the story?



4  Read and listen to this text about a play. Then read the sentences below and tick (✓) true (T) or false (F).

The students at 'The Green Room' summer school come together to produce a play. A play has many different elements to it. A play has a plot. The plot of a play is usually based on dialogue, which is what the characters say. A play also has stage directions, which are written instructions given by the playwright. The stage directions give information about the setting of the play. The setting is where and when the play takes place, helped also by the scenery. The stage directions also help the actors understand how to move and act.

- a A play doesn't have a plot.
- b Stage directions are written instructions.
- c The setting of a play is helped by scenery.
- d Stage directions are only about the setting of a play.

T	F
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



## AUDITIONS

1 Laura



‘What am I doing here?’ Laura asked herself, looking over the shoulder<sup>•</sup> of the boy in front of her. There was a long line of teenagers standing outside the theatre<sup>•</sup> and Laura was at the end of the queue<sup>•</sup>. ‘There are at least eighty people here,’ she thought. It was Saturday morning and Laura was feeling nervous as she waited to go inside the theatre. She was also feeling guilty because she had lied<sup>•</sup> to Mum and Dad at breakfast.

‘Where are you going?’ Dad asked.

‘To Lucy’s house,’ Laura said. ‘We have to revise for an exam and then we have swimming practice.’

‘Will you be late?’ Mum asked.

‘I don’t know. I’ll phone. OK?’

Lucy knew about the plan in case Laura’s mum or dad phoned her. Lucy was Laura’s best friend and she always helped Laura out<sup>•</sup>.

When Laura left home in the morning, carrying her sports bag, she started walking in the direction of Lucy’s house but when she reached<sup>•</sup> the main road, she turned left instead of right and walked quickly to the train station. There was a train at 10:03 and the journey to London only took 30 minutes. She could easily reach the theatre before 11:00.

- **helped out:** helped
- **lied:** said something that wasn’t true
- **queue:** line of people waiting
- **reached:** arrived at
- **shoulder:** the part of your body between your neck and your arms
- **theatre:** building used for performing plays

On the train, she took her sports bag to the toilet and changed clothes – a red top to attract attention, her best jeans, and the new shoes she bought with Lucy last weekend. She put on some make-up\* and then looked at herself in the mirror. ‘You can do it!’ she told herself.

Laura felt so confident on the train but now she was standing outside the theatre and she felt nervous and guilty. ‘What am I doing here?’ she asked again. But this time she realised she said it aloud because the boy in front turned round and looked at her.

‘Are you talking to me?’ said the boy in glasses.

Now Laura was feeling nervous, guilty *and* stupid. She wanted to run back to King’s Cross station and take the first train home. But then she saw the notebook in the boy’s hand. He was drawing a picture of the queue of teenagers standing outside the theatre.

Laura smiled.

‘That’s a really good drawing\*,’ she said.

‘Thanks,’ he said.

‘I’m Laura,’ she said.

‘I’m Marc,’ the boy said. ‘Marc with a *c*. Like Marc Chagall.’ When Laura didn’t react, Marc added, ‘The painter?’

‘I know who Marc Chagall is,’ Laura lied.

Marc smiled and Laura felt positive again. ‘He believed me,’ she thought. ‘Maybe I really am a good actor.’

- **drawing:** picture made with a pencil
- **make-up:** products you put on your lips, eyes and face to change your appearance



## 2 Nathan

2

The doors finally opened at 11:05 and the teenagers started walking into the theatre. Nathan, who was near the front of the queue, looked around him, trying to see Marc. Where was he? They agreed to meet at the theatre but Nathan couldn't see him.

Inside the theatre auditorium, Nathan sat down in the front row and breathed in deeply. He loved the smell of the theatre. Every time he visited a theatre, he had the same feeling. It was a difficult feeling to describe. It was like coming home after being away for a long time. For Nathan, this was the most exciting place in the world. Anything could happen here.

After a few minutes, a woman walked onto the stage and everyone started applauding. It was Dame Helen, director of 'The Green Room', and one of the country's most famous actors. She raised her hand and suddenly there was silence.

'Thank you for coming to audition for "The Green Room" summer school theatre,' she said. 'As I'm sure you know, each year we audition hundreds of young people between the ages of fifteen and seventeen from all around the country. If you are successful today then you will spend your summer holidays here in London, working with professional directors, actors and musicians. You will learn about acting, dancing and singing, and you will perform in this year's production in this theatre, on this stage, in front of a real audience.'

- **acting:** performing
- **audience:** people who watch a show
- **audition:** give a short performance to get an acting job
- **auditorium:** part of a theatre where the audience sits
- **Dame:** title given to a woman who has done something special, (here) actress
- **production:** show
- **row:** line of seats
- **stage:** part of a theatre where the actors perform



For a moment, Nathan could see himself standing on the stage next to Dame Helen, performing in front of hundreds of people.

‘Over the years,’ Dame Helen continued, ‘many of today’s most successful theatre, film and music stars have started their careers\* here, sitting where you are sitting now, and waiting nervously for their first audition.’

Dame Helen paused for a moment and Nathan was sure she smiled at him.

‘An audition is like meeting someone for the first time,’ she said. ‘You want to make a good impression\* but it’s not always possible. We’re all different. If you aren’t lucky this time, then don’t give up hope. Learn from the experience and believe in yourself. Good luck.’

Dame Helen smiled and everyone applauded\* and cheered\* as she left the stage. Then four assistants appeared and divided everyone into four groups. The groups were taken to different parts of the theatre. Nathan followed his group out of the auditorium, down a corridor and up a staircase that twisted\* and turned all the way up to the very top of the building where there was a big metal door with a ‘No Entry’ sign on it. ‘This is it,’ he thought as he walked through the door.

## Auditions

What are the teenagers auditioning for?

Have you ever been to an audition?

Do auditions make you feel nervous?

- **applauded:** clapped their hands
- **careers:** jobs related to a profession
- **cheered:** shouted in approval
- **impression:** the opinion people have of you
- **twisted:** turned round and round

### 3 Marc



In another part of the theatre, Marc was standing in a large crowded<sup>o</sup> room. A young man with red hair and a red beard was standing on a chair.

‘Listen, everyone!’ said the young man. ‘Find some space<sup>o</sup> on the floor and sit down.’

Marc chose a space at the back of the room and sat down with his back against the wall. The room was bare<sup>o</sup> apart from some tall mirrors on one wall. Marc put on his glasses and looked around for Nathan but he couldn’t see him. Maybe he was with one of the other groups in another part of the theatre. Then he saw Laura sitting in the middle of the room. He waved<sup>o</sup> to her but she didn’t see him. The red-haired man clapped his hands to attract everyone’s attention.

‘Listen, everyone!’ he said, ‘My name is Bob.’ He waited for everyone to be quiet and then he continued, ‘First, I want each of you to stand up and tell the rest of us who you are and why you are here.’

Marc tried to be invisible. He didn’t like talking about himself. He took out his notebook and started to draw a picture of the first person who stood up. She was a fifteen-year-old girl and her name was Jan. She was there because she wanted to be a dancer more than anything in the whole world. Marc could see how nervous the girl was because of the way she stood with her hands together, her eyes looking at the floor.

- **bare:** empty
- **crowded:** full of people

- **space:** empty place
- **waved:** moved his hand



Then Laura stood up. She was more confident\* than Jan. First, she looked straight into Bob's eyes and then at all the people around her. After waiting a few seconds, she started speaking.

'My name is Laura. I live with my mother in Pinewood. My father's dead. We live in Pinewood to be near the film studio. I'm here because I want to be a famous actor like my mother.'

Everyone was suddenly interested in Laura.

'Who is your mother?' Bob asked Laura.

'I'd prefer not to say,' Laura said.

## Confidence

How is Laura more confident than Jan?

Are you confident?

Do you think confidence is important?

Bob smiled and nodded\*. A boy stood up and introduced himself. Soon all the other people in the room took it in turn to stand up and introduce themselves until there was just one person left.

'And who are you?' Bob asked.

Marc got nervously to his feet\*.

'I'm Marc,' he said quietly.

'And why are you here, Marc?' Bob asked.

'Because Nathan told me to come,' Marc said.

Everyone in the room started laughing. Marc felt his face burning red. He looked at Laura. She was laughing too.

'And do you do everything that Nathan tells you to do?' Bob asked.

- **confident:** sure of herself
- **got to his feet:** stood up

- **nodded:** moved his head up and down to say 'yes'

Bob walked over to where Marc was standing and took the notebook from him. He started turning the pages of the notebook, looking at the drawings.

‘These are good. Where did you learn to draw?’ Bob asked.

‘I taught myself,’ Marc said.

Bob nodded his head, then clapped his hands and spoke loudly.

‘OK everyone! I want you to get into groups of three. I’m going to give you a situation and I want you to prepare a scene\* to perform for Dame Helen. OK?’



- **scene:** part of a play

## 4 Nathan

3

In the room at the top of the theatre, Nathan was with his group, performing his audition for Dame Helen. For the audition scene, he was acting with a girl. They had to improvise\* a scene in which they were a mother and father, arguing about their teenage daughter. It was eleven o'clock in the evening and the mother and father were waiting for their daughter to come home.

Nathan wasn't sure how to start but the girl knew exactly what to say.

'I'm the one who always has to clean up the mess\*,' she said angrily to Nathan.

'What do you mean?' Nathan asked. He was surprised. The girl sounded and acted like a real mother. The girl continued.

'You work all day. You come home and fall asleep in front of the television. You don't talk to me and you never talk to your daughter!'

'That's not true,' Nathan said.

'Did you talk to her when she played truant from school\*?' the girl said. 'Did you talk to her when the police brought her home? When did you last talk to her?'

Nathan didn't know what to say. He opened his mouth but no words came out. Luckily, everyone thought he was acting. Then he had an idea.

'The problem is that you talk too much,' he said. 'You never know when to stop. You always criticise her and tell her what *not* to do and where *not* to go and what *not* to wear and who *not* to see. You need to give her some space to breathe. You need to give both of us some space!'

- **improvise:** invent things without any preparation
- **played truant from school:** didn't go to school without permission
- **mess:** (here) confusion; problems



There was a pause. Then the girl spoke.

‘I’ll talk to her when she comes home,’ she said.

‘No!’ Nathan shouted.

Everyone in the room applauded at the end of the scene and Dame Helen smiled and said, ‘Well done!’

Nathan sat down with the girl. He was shaking<sup>•</sup> with excitement.

‘You were amazing<sup>•</sup>,’ he said to the girl. ‘You were *so* real.’

‘Thanks,’ the girl said. ‘You weren’t bad either.’ A buzzing sound<sup>•</sup> was coming from her bag. She took out her phone and read a message. She looked worried.

‘Is everything OK?’ Nathan asked.

‘Yeah,’ she said. ‘It’s a message from my best friend. She doesn’t know I’m here. I don’t think she’s going to be happy when she finds out.’

• **amazing:** really good

• **buzzing sound:** continuous low sound

• **shaking:** trembling; moving quickly

## 5 Laura



At the end of the audition, Laura sent a text message to her best friend, Lucy, ‘All cool. CU<sup>•</sup> soon,’ she wrote. The audition went well. Laura made an impression by talking about her famous mother, and Bob and Dame Helen liked her audition scene. As she followed Marc and the others down the corridor, she could feel people looking at her and she heard someone say, ‘Who do you think her mother is?’

In the theatre foyer<sup>•</sup>, all the teenagers were talking about the auditions and laughing and joking. Laura took out her phone to read Lucy’s reply to her message. ‘CU sooner than you think!’

At first, Laura didn’t understand the message. But then she looked across the foyer and saw a familiar face. She walked quickly through the crowd to where Nathan was standing with the girl from his audition scene.

‘Lucy! What are you doing here?’ Laura asked the girl.

Lucy didn’t know what to say. Then she smiled nervously.

‘Hi Laura,’ she said.

‘Lucy? What are you doing here?’ Laura repeated.

‘I was jealous<sup>•</sup>,’ Lucy said. ‘You are always talking about the auditions. I wanted to come for myself.’ She turned to Nathan and said, ‘See? She’s not happy, is she?’

Marc walked over to where they were all standing.

‘Hi Nathan,’ Marc said.

‘Marc! Where have you been?’ Nathan asked. ‘I was looking for you.’

- **CU:** see you
- **foyer:** the area near the entrance of a theatre or hotel
- **jealous:** unhappy because Laura was doing something Lucy wanted to do





Marc turned to Laura and said, 'Hi Laura. This is my friend, Nathan.'

'The famous Nathan,' Laura laughed, forgetting about Lucy for a moment. 'You told Marc he had to come to the auditions.'

'*You're* the famous one,' Marc said to Laura.

'Famous?' Nathan said, suddenly interested in Laura.

'Her mother's a famous film star,' Marc said.

Laura blushed\* and looked at Lucy.

'I told them about my mother in the audition,' Laura said.

Lucy nodded her head slowly and said, 'I see.'

Laura wanted to change the subject. She introduced Lucy to Marc.

'Marc? This is Lucy, my best friend,' Laura said. 'I didn't know she was coming to the auditions.'

'Sur-prise!' Lucy said, trying to be funny.

'Lucy is an amazing actor,' Nathan said.

'Do you live in Pinewood, too?' Marc asked Lucy.

But before Lucy could answer, Laura said they had to go.

'If we don't leave now, we'll miss the train,' she said nervously. She said goodbye, grabbed\* Lucy's hand, and the two girls walked out of the theatre.

'What did I say?'

Marc asked.

Nathan shrugged\*.

'I don't know,' he said.

## Meeting new friends

Lucy, Laura, Marc and Nathan all meet for the first time.

Who introduces who? What do they say?



In groups of four practise introducing your friends to each other.

- **blushed:** was embarrassed and became red in the face
- **grabbed:** took quickly and with some force

- **shrugged:** moved his shoulders up and down to say he didn't know the answer

▶ MP3

Lucy sat on the train, staring out of the window. Laura was in the toilet, changing back into her normal weekend clothes and taking off her make-up. Lucy couldn't stop thinking about Nathan. Did he really say she was an amazing actor? He was amazing, too, she thought. She smiled as she remembered how Nathan introduced himself to everyone. 'Hi. My name's Nathan. I'm just a normal person. I live a normal life in London with my dad. I'm here because I love the theatre and I want to be an actor.'

Laura came back and sat down opposite Lucy. For a while, the two friends stared at each other without speaking. Then Laura said, 'I still can't believe it, Lucy. Why did you go to the auditions? I told my parents I was with you.'

'I have dreams, too,' Lucy answered.

'No, you don't,' Laura said.

'How do you know?' Lucy asked.



‘Because I know you,’ Laura said. ‘You’re my best friend. I know you better than you know yourself.’

‘No, you don’t,’ Lucy said angrily. ‘You don’t know anything about me. The only thing you know about is yourself. The only thing you ever talk about is yourself. Everything is always about you, you, and more *you*.’

Lucy looked out of the window again. For a moment she thought she saw Nathan’s reflection in the glass. Then he disappeared. Lucy looked back at Laura.

‘What exactly did you tell them about your mother?’ Lucy asked.

‘Nothing,’ Laura said. ‘I just told them that she was famous.’

‘What else did you tell them?’

‘I said we lived in Pinewood,’ Laura said.

‘Where’s Pinewood?’ Lucy asked.

‘I don’t know,’ Laura said. ‘It’s the place where the film studios are. They make all the James Bond films there.’ She paused.

‘And I think I said my dad was dead.’

‘Oh, Laura,’ Lucy said. She sounded disappointed\* in her friend.

A few minutes later the train arrived at Hitchin station and the two girls got off. They walked along the main road together until Laura turned right to go home.

‘See you,’ said Laura.

‘See you,’ said Lucy.

Lucy watched her friend walk down the street. Why did Laura lie\* about her mother? Why did she say her father was dead? And why did she lie about where she lived? Was Laura really so unhappy with her real life? Laura didn’t know how lucky she was, Lucy thought. Laura’s life was a thousand times better than hers. Lucy started walking home. She hoped her parents weren’t arguing\* again.

- **arguing:** speaking angrily
- **disappointed:** unhappy because Laura was not as good as she hoped

- **lie:** not tell the truth

## 7 Marc

5 It was two o'clock in the morning and Marc was asleep when his mobile phone rang. He was in the middle of a dream. In his dream, he was walking down a street where everything was made of paper. The buildings were made of paper. The cars were made of paper. Even the people were made of paper. Marc looked down at his hands and they were made of paper too. Then a paper phone rang and Marc woke up. He reached for<sup>•</sup> his phone.

'Hello?' Marc looked to see who was calling, but he couldn't read the name without his glasses. 'Who is it?'

'I can't sleep,' Nathan said on the phone.

'Why have you woken me up? To tell me you can't sleep?' Marc said.

'No. I want you to tell me about Laura,' Nathan said.

'What about her?'

'I don't know. What's she like?'

'Laura?' Marc said, thinking about the girl in the queue outside the theatre, the girl talking about her famous mother, the girl running out of the theatre with Lucy. 'I don't know. I think she's a bit... odd<sup>•</sup>.'

'Odd?' Nathan said. 'I like her. I can't stop thinking about her.'

Marc laughed.

'It's because of her famous mother, isn't it?' Marc said.

'No, it's not that,' Nathan lied. 'Well, maybe, just a little.'

'You've found a soulmate<sup>•</sup>.' Marc said.

'What do you mean?' Nathan asked.

'Someone who's in the same situation as you.'

'You won't tell them, will you?' Nathan said. 'Marc? Are you there? It's our secret, right? Promise?'

'I promise,' Marc said. 'Go to sleep, Nathan.'

- **odd:** strange
- **reached for:** put his hand out to get
- **soulmate:** someone who shares the same feelings and beliefs

## 8 Nathan, Laura, Lucy, Marc

6 Three weeks later, Nathan was making breakfast in the kitchen of his London home.

‘Dad!’ he shouted. ‘Breakfast’s ready!’

Nathan’s dad wasn’t very good with food. He could eat it but he couldn’t make it. Jacquie usually cooked lunch and dinner but Nathan always made breakfast. Jacquie was his dad’s number one fan\*. She was always saying, ‘I’m your number one fan.’

‘Good morning, Nathan,’ Dad said as he walked into the kitchen. ‘That smells good.’

‘Hi, Dad,’ Nathan said. ‘Fried eggs on toast. Your favourite.’

‘Why aren’t you at school?’ Dad asked.

‘It’s Saturday, Dad.’

‘Saturday? Oh yes.’ Nathan’s dad sat down at the table and started opening the small pile\* of letters. ‘Have you been in the net yet?’ he asked.

‘It’s *on* the net, Dad. You go *on* the net.’

‘Then why is it called *internet* and not *onternet*?’

‘Very funny, Dad,’ Nathan said. ‘I printed out your emails. They’re on your desk.’

‘Why can’t people leave me alone?’ Nathan’s dad asked, opening one of the letters.

‘Because they love you, Dad,’ Nathan said, sitting down at the table to eat breakfast.

‘This letter’s for you,’ Dad said, looking at the next envelope he picked up. ‘It’s from “The Green Room”.’

Nathan’s dad held out the envelope but Nathan didn’t take it.

‘You open it, Dad,’ Nathan said. ‘I’m too nervous.’

• **fan:** someone who likes a famous person a lot

• **pile:** several things placed on top of each other



Nathan's dad opened the envelope and took out the letter inside. He started reading and his expression changed. Dad looked serious.

'Well?' Nathan asked. 'What does it say?'

'It's bad news, I'm afraid,' Dad said.

'Oh,' Nathan said, feeling disappointed.

'I'm sorry, Nathan. You have to spend the summer in London. You've been accepted on the theatre course! You did it, Nathan!'

'Dad!' Nathan shouted not knowing what to believe.

Nathan took the letter and started reading. Dad was right. Nathan had passed his audition and had a place at 'The Green Room' summer theatre school.

Fifty-five miles away in Hitchin, Laura ran to the front door to pick up the post as it fell through the letterbox\*. Every morning she did the same thing, waiting for the letter to arrive from ‘The Green Room’. She didn’t want her parents to see it. They didn’t know about her trip\* to London. She was sure they didn’t want her to go on the summer course.

‘The Green Room’  
Bedford Square  
London

Wednesday, 2 May

Dear Laura,

Many thanks for coming to London to audition for ‘The Green Room’ summer theatre school. I am very pleased to inform you that your application to join us has been accepted. Congratulations.

You will find more information about the summer schedule\* on our website as well as information about accommodation\* in London, if you need it.

In order to take part in ‘The Green Room’, you must bring a letter from your parents, giving their consent\*. Bring the letter with you when you come on the first day of rehearsals\*.

We all look forward to seeing you in London in the summer.

Best wishes,  
Bob Harrington  
Associate Director

Today the letter finally arrived. She picked it up off the floor, put it in her pocket, and ran upstairs to her room. As she was opening the envelope, her phone started to ring. It was Lucy.



- **accommodation:** places to stay
- **consent:** permission
- **letterbox:** hole in the door of a house for letters to be delivered
- **rehearsals:** practice sessions before a performance or show
- **schedule:** timetable
- **trip:** short journey



'Hi, Laura. Have you got the letter?' she asked.

'I'm opening it now. And you?'

'Me too,' Lucy said.

Laura took the letter from the envelope and started reading quickly.

'What does your letter say?' Lucy asked.

'It's a YES! I'm going to London!' Laura said, trying to be quiet so that her parents didn't hear.

'Me too!' Lucy shouted down the phone.



‘I’m going to be late for work,’ Marc’s Mum said, looking at the envelope on the kitchen table. ‘Aren’t you going to open it?’

‘What’s the point?’ Marc said. ‘I know what it’s going to say. I’m not an actor.’

It was true. Marc wasn’t an actor. He didn’t want to be an actor. It was Nathan who wanted to be an actor. Marc went to the audition because Nathan asked him to go. He remembered his conversation with Nathan.

‘I don’t know how to act,’ Marc said.

‘Of course you do,’ Nathan laughed. ‘Everyone acts all the time.’

‘I don’t,’ Marc said.

‘Don’t you ever tell lies?’ Nathan asked. ‘That’s the same as acting.’

‘No, I don’t lie,’ Marc said.

‘I don’t believe you. You’re lying!’ Nathan laughed.

‘It doesn’t matter if you can’t act,’ Mum said. ‘You’re an artist, a very talented artist.’

‘Thanks, Mum.’

Marc’s mum looked at herself in the mirror.

‘How do I look?’ she asked.

Marc looked at his mum in her smart\* black and white police uniform.

‘Dangerous,’ Marc said with a big smile.



His mum kissed him on the cheek\* and left to go to work. After he heard the front door close, Marc carefully opened the letter.

- **cheek:** the soft part on each side of your face
- **smart:** clean and tidy

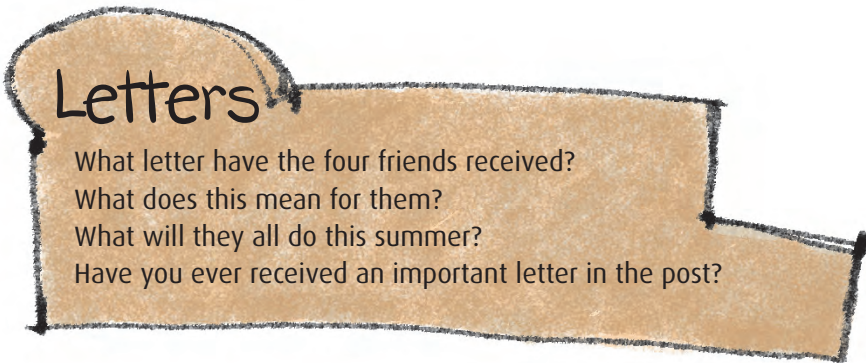


Dear Marc,

Many thanks for coming to London to audition for 'The Green Room' summer theatre school. I am sorry to inform you that your application to join us as an actor has not been accepted. I hope you're not too disappointed. However, we were extremely impressed with your drawings and would like to offer you a place on our technical team to help design the scenery\* and costumes\* for the summer production. I hope you will accept this offer.

Marc couldn't believe his eyes. He read the letter again. They were asking him to go to London.

'Yes!' he shouted.



## Letters

What letter have the four friends received?

What does this mean for them?

What will they all do this summer?

Have you ever received an important letter in the post?

- **costumes:** the clothes actors wear in a play
- **scenery:** the objects and backgrounds in a theatre

## REHEARSALS

9 Laura, Lucy



It was the first day of rehearsals and Laura and Lucy were on the train to London.

‘What did you tell your parents?’ Lucy asked.

‘I told them the school was organising a swimming competition with other schools around the country,’ Laura said. ‘I told them I had to practise every day and travel to different places.’

‘And they believed you?’ Lucy said.

‘Of course they did,’ Laura said. ‘I’m an actor.’

‘What about the letter?’ Lucy asked. ‘The letter we have to take from our parents.’

Laura smiled and produced an envelope from her sports bag.

‘Mum wrote a letter giving her consent for me to take part in the swimming competition,’ she said. ‘I copied it last night and changed the swimming competition to the theatre school. It’s a good forgery\*.’

‘I don’t understand why you don’t tell your parents the truth,’ Lucy said.

‘Because they won’t understand,’ Laura said. ‘They only understand their own boring lives and they want me to live the same boring life. I want to be different. I want to be special. Did *you* tell *your* parents?’

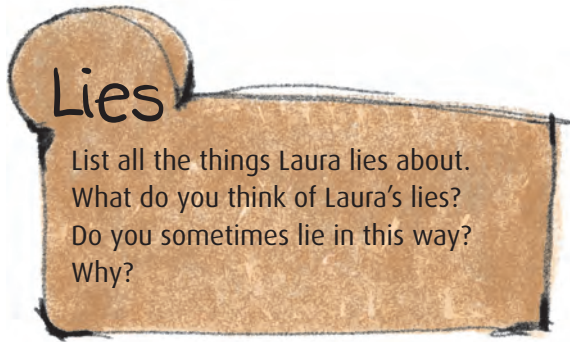
Lucy looked out the window.

‘Yeah. But they don’t care what I do,’ she said. ‘They’re happy I’m going to be out of the house all summer. They’ll have more time to fight and argue with each other.’

‘Sometimes I wish my parents argued more often,’ Laura said.

‘Don’t say that,’ Lucy said. ‘Don’t ever say that. I like your mum and dad. They seem really happy together. You should tell them the truth. One day your lies are going to get you into trouble.’

- **forgery:** illegal copy



Laura looked at her friend with a serious expression. 'You won't say anything, will you?' she said. 'If anyone asks, I live with my famous mother in Pinewood. And my father is dead.'

'Do you think people will really think you're more special if you have an imaginary famous mother?' Lucy said. 'What's her name anyway? Jones – like you?'

'She changed her name when she became famous,' Laura said. 'And don't forget that you live in Pinewood, too.'

'No,' Lucy said. 'I'm not going to lie about my life. You can live in Pinewood if you want but I live in Hitchin.'

'But you're my best friend. It will look suspicious<sup>•</sup> if we live in different places.'

'No,' Lucy said. 'N O.'

They were arriving in London. Lucy looked out the window at the houses passing by.

'I wonder where Nathan lives?' she thought to herself.

- **suspicious:** wrong in a strange way



## 10 Nathan, Marc

8

When Nathan and Marc arrived at the theatre, they went through to the auditorium. There were about thirty teenagers there. Nathan and Marc recognised some of the people from the audition but other faces were new.

‘Where is she?’ Nathan asked, looking around. ‘Where’s Laura?’

‘Maybe she didn’t pass the audition,’ Marc said. He took out his notebook and started to draw a picture of Nathan, standing on the stage, holding a broken heart. Then he drew a big broken heart and wrote ‘N loves L’ beside it.

‘I don’t *love* her,’ Nathan said, looking at the picture.

‘No?’ Marc said. ‘You haven’t stopped talking about her since the auditions.’

‘There’s something different about her,’ Nathan said. ‘She’s... different.’

‘You’re different, too, remember?’ Marc said. ‘You’ll have to tell her one day.’

‘Tell her what?’ Nathan asked.

‘About your dad,’ Marc said.

‘That’s our secret,’ Nathan said angrily. ‘Don’t tell anyone. You promised.’

Laura and Lucy walked into the auditorium and Nathan’s face suddenly lit up. He waved to them and the two girls came and sat down next to the boys. They all smiled and laughed and talked about the letters they received. Then Lucy saw Marc’s notebook and the drawing of Nathan.

‘What are you drawing?’ Lucy asked Marc.

‘Nothing,’ Marc said, closing his notebook quickly.

But it was too late. Lucy saw Nathan’s broken heart with ‘N loves L’ written beside it. ‘Nathan loves Lucy,’ she thought.

Then Bob, the young man with red hair from the auditions, appeared on the stage and welcomed the students to ‘The Green Room’.

‘Today you’re all going to set off on a journey,’ he said. ‘It’s not going to be an easy journey and we will probably lose some of you on the way. But if you are prepared to work hard and work together then this will be a journey you will remember for the rest of your lives. Are you ready to start?’

Everyone in the auditorium shouted back, ‘Yes!’

‘I can’t hear you!’ Bob shouted.

‘Yes!!’ everyone shouted again.

## Journey

What is the journey Bob is talking about?

Have you ever been on a similar journey?

Think of another word to describe this ‘journey’?





## 11 Bob

▶ MP3

Bob enjoyed shouting. The first few days at ‘The Green Room’ summer theatre school were like being at a military school. The days started at 9 o’clock with a physical warm-up<sup>•</sup> session. First, everyone had to stand and shake their bodies to wake themselves up. Then Bob shouted orders for everyone to do press-ups<sup>•</sup> and sit-ups<sup>•</sup>.

Then there were breathing and voice exercises. Bob liked doing these because he could shout orders and make strange sounds at the same time. Everyone had to move their mouths into strange shapes and imitate<sup>•</sup> the noises that Bob made. Then everyone shouted and sang and made more strange noises until Bob shouted, ‘Stop!’

After the warm-up session, there were drama classes. For the drama classes, the students were divided into three groups. Bob took one group and two other teachers took the others. In the first week they did a lot of ‘trust<sup>•</sup> exercises’. Bob said it was very important for actors to trust each other. Bob’s favourite trust exercise was called ‘The Chickie<sup>•</sup> Run’.

‘OK, everybody,’ Bob said. ‘We need a lot of space for this.’ Everyone moved the chairs to the side of the room. It was a long room with mirrors on both sides. The mirrors made the room look even bigger. First, he told everyone to stand against one of the end walls. Then he asked for a volunteer. Nathan stepped forward.

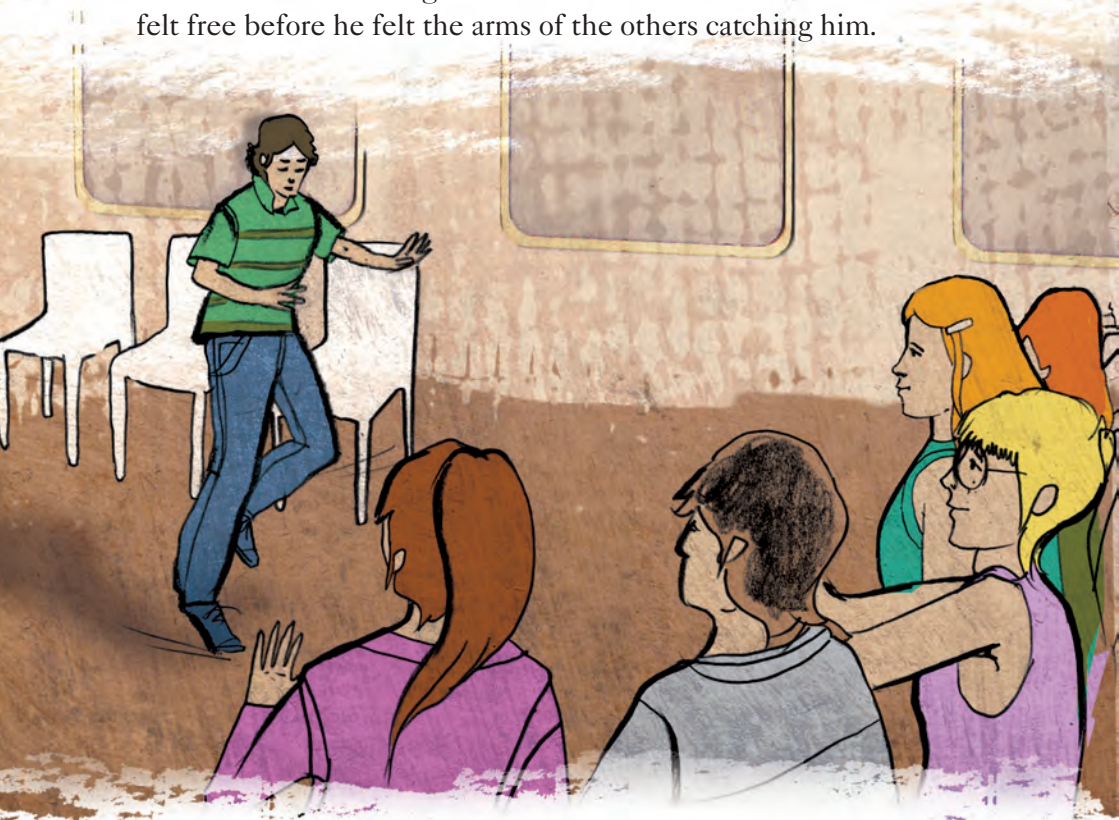
‘Very good, Nathan,’ Bob said. ‘I want you to go to the other end of the room.’

Nathan walked to the end of the long room and looked back at everyone standing along the opposite wall.

- **Chickie:** chicken
- **imitate:** copy
- **press-ups/sit-ups:** two types of physical exercises
- **trust:** when you have confidence in someone
- **warm-up:** to prepare for something by doing exercises

‘Now, listen carefully, Nathan,’ Bob said. ‘I want you to close your eyes and run as fast as you can towards the wall at the other end of the room. Nothing will happen to you. We’re going to catch you before you hit the wall.’ He looked at the others. ‘Isn’t that right? We’re going to catch\* Nathan.’ He looked back at Nathan. ‘All you have to do, Nathan, is keep your eyes closed, run as fast as you can, and trust everyone. Can you do that?’

Nathan wasn’t sure if he trusted everyone but he knew he had to do it. So he breathed in, closed his eyes, and started running. It felt strange to be running with his eyes closed. At first he thought he would hit something or someone. But then for a few seconds he felt free before he felt the arms of the others catching him.



• **catch:** (here) hold/take in their arms

Bob told them that he called the exercise ‘The Chickie Run’ because of a scene from an old film called *Rebel Without a Cause*. In the film, two teenagers drive their cars towards the edge of a cliff\* and have to jump out before the cars go over the cliff. One of them jumps out but the other one doesn’t.

‘The film starred James Dean,’ Bob said. ‘He was a method actor. Does anyone know what method acting is?’

Nathan raised his hand.

‘It’s an acting technique,’ Nathan said. ‘The actor *becomes* the character they are playing.’

‘That’s right,’ Bob said. ‘You don’t just read the lines\* in the script\*. You become the person who is speaking those lines. You think like that person. You behave like that person.’

A girl at the back of the room laughed.

‘What happens if your character is a killer?’ she asked. ‘Do you have to kill people?’

‘Of course not,’ Bob said. ‘But you have to get inside the mind of the killer. You have to find out why that person became a killer. What happened in his or her life? Sometimes it can be a frightening experience. That’s why you have to trust each other.’

## Acting

What do actors have to do when they act?

Who do they have to trust?

Have you ever done any acting?



- **edge of a cliff:** the point where a high piece of land ends suddenly
- **lines:** the words an actor speaks
- **script:** the written words of the play

## 12 Nathan



In the afternoons, all the students worked on the show they were going to put on\*. Marc went with the technical team to design the sets\* and costumes while the others rehearsed. This year's Green Room production was called *What You Will*\*. Dame Helen told everyone about it on the first afternoon.

'*What You Will* is the alternative title of William Shakespeare's play\* *Twelfth Night*,' she said. 'And we are going to produce an alternative version of his play. We are going to start with Shakespeare's story and characters and we are going to add\* our own words, music and dance.'

Dame Helen also said that tomorrow was the day for casting\* the play. She told them that casting was another important part of being an actor. When directors *cast* a play or a film, they look for the right actors for the different characters or parts\*.

Nathan knew that if he wanted a good part in the show, he needed to do some homework. When he got home that evening, he went to his room and downloaded Shakespeare's original version of *Twelfth Night*. Then he did some research. He discovered that Shakespeare wrote the play around 1601.

The play is a comedy about mistaken identities\* and starts with one of Shakespeare's most famous lines – 'If music be the food of love, play on'. These first words are spoken by a character called Orsino. When Nathan started reading the script, he knew immediately that he wanted to play the part of Orsino.

- **add:** include
- **casting:** choosing actors to play characters
- **mistaken identities:** characters who are not sure who is who in the story
- **parts:** people played by actors
- **play:** a piece of writing performed in a theatre
- **put on:** produce
- **sets:** (here) pictures to show where the action of the play happens
- **what you will:** what you want



The next afternoon, Dame Helen and Bob asked the students to read extracts<sup>•</sup> from Shakespeare's play. Some of the students found it difficult to read Shakespeare's English. People spoke differently in the 1600s. A lot of the words seem old today and Shakespeare wrote in verse<sup>•</sup>.

Lucy was good, Nathan thought. And Laura was better. Then it was time for Nathan to speak.

'If music be the food of love, play on,' he said. 'Give me excess<sup>•</sup> of it, that, surfeiting<sup>•</sup>, the appetite may sicken, and so die.' Nathan knew the whole speech<sup>•</sup> by heart<sup>•</sup> and everyone applauded when he reached the end.

'I think we've found our Orsino,' Dame Helen said.

The next morning, the cast list<sup>•</sup> was stuck to the noticeboard<sup>•</sup>. Nathan had the part of Orsino, Laura had the part of Viola, and Lucy had the part of Olivia. The three friends had the three most important parts in the play.

- **by heart:** by memory
- **cast list:** list of characters and actors
- **excess:** too much
- **extracts:** pieces of a book or play
- **noticeboard:** place on wall where notices are fixed
- **speech:** part of a play when one actor speaks for a long time
- **surfeiting:** having too much
- **verse:** rhyming phrases; poetry



### 13 Lucy, Marc

10 On the fourth day, Lucy was going to rehearsals when she saw Marc in the coffee shop next to the theatre. She went inside and sat down opposite him. Marc was busy drawing in his notebook.

‘Hi Marc,’ Lucy said. ‘How’s it going?’

Marc looked up and smiled when he saw Lucy.

‘Hi, Lucy,’ he said. ‘How are you?’

‘Not bad,’ she said. She looked out the window for a moment and then said, ‘Tell me about Nathan.’

Marc was surprised by the question.

‘What do you want to know?’ he asked.

‘I don’t know,’ she said. ‘He never talks about himself. Where does he live? What do his parents do? How did you meet him?’

Marc didn’t know what to say. He couldn’t tell Lucy the truth. He had promised Nathan, he couldn’t say anything about his dad or his life in London. But Marc was not a good liar\*. So he told Lucy the truth.

‘I’m sorry, Lucy,’ he said. ‘I can’t tell you.’

‘Why not?’ Lucy asked. ‘Is it a secret?’

Marc blushed.

‘It *is* a secret,’ Lucy said. Then she laughed.

‘What’s funny?’ Marc asked.

‘You can’t tell me about Nathan because it’s a secret and I can’t tell you about Laura because it’s a secret,’ she said.

Marc looked at Lucy. He wanted to ask about Laura’s secret but he knew Lucy couldn’t tell him. And he couldn’t tell her Nathan’s secret.

• **How’s it going?:** How are you?

• **liar:** person who tells lies and not the truth

‘Why do you want to know about Nathan?’ he asked.

‘It’s a secret,’ Lucy said, laughing again. ‘What are you drawing?’

‘It’s an idea for the set,’ Marc said. ‘I’m still working on it.’

‘Can I see?’

Marc gave the notebook to Lucy and she looked at the drawing.

‘It’s good,’ she said. ‘I like it.’

‘Really?’

Lucy started turning the pages of the notebook and stopped when she saw the picture of Nathan standing on the stage with the broken heart. Marc could see her looking at the writing beside the drawing – ‘N loves L’. ‘Oh, no,’ he thought. ‘Does she think L is for Lucy?’

‘Thanks,’ Lucy said, closing the book and giving it back to Marc.

Marc didn’t know what to say. He didn’t want to hurt Lucy’s feelings and tell her the truth. So he didn’t say anything. He was sure that Lucy could see the expression on his face and realise that L wasn’t for Lucy. L was for Laura. But sometimes people don’t see what they should see. They only see what they want to see.

‘Nathan’s lucky,’ she said, ‘having you as a friend. Tell me about *your* life. Or is that a secret too?’

‘There’s not a lot to tell,’ Marc said. ‘I live in South London with my mum. She’s a police officer. My dad lives in Manchester so I don’t see him much. They divorced. Then he re-married. So now he has another family. What about you? Do you have any brothers or sisters?’

But Lucy wasn’t listening. She was thinking about Nathan.

## Secrets

What are some of the secrets in the story?

Who secretly likes who?

Do you secretly like anyone?



11 On the first afternoon of the second week, Bob asked all the actors to meet him on the stage of the theatre. This was their first time on the stage and they were all excited. They looked up at the lights above them and then out at all the empty seats in the auditorium. There was one person sitting in the middle of the auditorium. It was Bob.

‘Lights!’ Bob shouted.

All the lights in the theatre suddenly went out apart from one spotlight\* at the front of the stage. Everyone stopped talking and there was silence for a moment.

‘I want you to think back to your auditions,’ Bob said. ‘At your auditions, we asked you to stand up and introduce yourselves. Remember? Well, now I want you to take it in turns to stand in the spotlight and introduce your character to the audience in your own words. I want to know who you are in the show and how you feel. OK? When you’re ready...’

Nobody moved for a moment. Then Laura walked to the front of the stage and stood in the spotlight.

‘My name is Viola,’ she said. ‘I was in an accident. I don’t remember much about it. I was in a ship with my twin brother, Sebastian, and the ship sank\*. I don’t know what happened to Sebastian. He probably drowned\*. After the accident, I was scared to be alone as a woman so I dressed as a man and called myself Cesario. Then I met the Duke.’

- **drowned:** died under the water
- **sank:** disappeared under the water
- **spotlight:** a light that shines on a small area

Laura looked at Nathan who walked into the spotlight.

‘Hi. I’m the Duke,’ he said. ‘Duke Orsino of Illyria. I’m also a poet. When I first saw Cesario, I thought he looked honest. So I gave him a job. You see, I’m in love with Olivia who lives near here. She says she doesn’t love me but I don’t believe her. Anyway, she refuses to speak to me so I’ve asked Cesario to speak to her and put in a good word\* for me.’

Lucy walked into the spotlight.

‘He’s talking about me. I’m Olivia. My brother died recently and I don’t have time for the Duke. He’s self-centred\* and stupid. I don’t feel anything for him. So when he sends this young man, Cesario, to see me, my first reaction is to tell him to get lost\*. But Cesario is very good-looking. I think I am falling in love with Cesario, but not with the Duke.’

‘Very good!’ Bob shouted from the auditorium.



- **get lost:** go away
- **put in a good word:** say something nice
- **self-centred:** only thinks about himself

All the other actors introduced themselves and helped to tell the story of *What You Will*. When they reached the end of the story, Bob came onto the stage and told everyone to sit down.

‘So what is our show about?’ he asked the actors.

‘Illusion’, said Lucy. ‘I fall in love with Cesario and I don’t realise that he’s a woman.’

‘Deception’, Laura said. ‘I’m pretending to be a man when I’m really a woman.’

‘Love,’ Nathan said. ‘I’m in love with Olivia, who is in love with Cesario, who is in love with me!’

‘You’re all right,’ Bob said. ‘It’s about the mad things we think, see and do when we are in love. Even the title of the play is mad. *What You Will* means “whatever you want”. In fact, if Shakespeare were alive today, he’d probably call it *Whatever*.’

The actors laughed as Bob imitated a surly teenager shrugging his shoulders and saying the word that parents hate most – *whatever*.

## Whatever

Can you think of a word in your language that is similar to ‘whatever’?

At the end of rehearsals, Nathan went to speak to Laura.

‘I googled you last night,’ he said.

‘You did *what*?’ Laura said.

‘I searched for you on the internet,’ Nathan said. ‘Do you know how many Laura Joneses there are in the world?’ Laura didn’t reply. ‘Anyway, I didn’t find you or your famous mother.’

‘She changed her name,’ Laura said, walking away.

- **deception:** making someone believe that something false is true
- **illusion:** false belief that something is true
- **surly:** rude
- **whatever:** anything or everything

## 15 Nathan, Marc

12 When Nathan told Marc about his search for Laura on the internet, Marc told him that she had a secret.

‘How do you know?’ Nathan asked.

‘Lucy told me,’ he said. Marc didn’t tell Nathan about the other things that Lucy said.

‘Let’s follow them to Pinewood on Monday,’ Nathan said.

‘Maybe we can find out what Laura’s secret is and who her famous mother is.’

Marc didn’t think this was a good idea.

‘That’s spying\*,’ Marc said. ‘I don’t think we should.’

But Marc always did what Nathan told him to do. On Tuesday afternoon, after rehearsals, the two friends followed Laura and Lucy from the theatre to King’s Cross station.

Nathan and Marc often saw people following other people in spy films and TV series but it was more difficult in real life. They nearly lost the girls as they crossed Euston Road and disappeared into King’s Cross Station. Inside, the station was busy. Nathan and Marc looked around but they couldn’t see Laura and Lucy. Then they saw them in the distance, walking towards platform\* 2.

‘We need tickets,’ Marc said.

They went to the ticket office and asked for two return tickets to Pinewood. The woman in the ticket office laughed.

‘Pinewood isn’t a place,’ she said. ‘If you want to go to Pinewood Film Studios, you need to go to Denham. Trains to Denham leave from Marylebone Station.’

‘Where is the train on platform 2 going?’ Nathan asked.

‘Peterborough,’ she said.

‘Then we’ll have two return tickets to Peterborough, please,’ he said.

- **platform:** the place where you get on a train
- **spying:** secretly watching someone



They walked quickly to platform 2 and got on the train to Peterborough. They could see Laura and Lucy sitting at the end of the carriage\*.

‘Have they seen us?’ Nathan asked as the train left the station.

‘I don’t think so,’ Marc replied.

Half an hour later they saw Laura and Lucy get off the train. They followed them out of Hitchin station and down the main road to the corner where Laura turned right.

‘Now what do we do?’ Marc asked, watching Lucy and Laura go in different directions.

‘You follow Lucy and I’ll follow Laura,’ Nathan said. ‘We’ll meet at the station in twenty minutes.’

- **carriage:** part of the train where passengers sit

One minute later Nathan watched as Laura opened the front door to her house and walked inside.

‘Mum? Dad? I’m home!’ she shouted as she closed the front door behind her.

Nathan stood on the pavement looking at the house. It was an ordinary semi-detached\* two-storey house\* with a small front garden and a garage with a car parked outside. ‘It doesn’t look like a film star’s house,’ he thought. ‘And we’re not in Pinewood. And her dad isn’t dead.’

At the same time, Marc was following Lucy down a narrow\* road. There were trees on either side of the road and several large detached\* houses. Lucy stopped outside one of the houses. She looked up at the house and Marc thought she was going to go inside. But Lucy changed her mind and continued walking down the road. Marc walked to the house and looked up at the windows. He could see and hear a man and woman arguing inside. ‘They must be Lucy’s parents,’ Marc thought. He stared at the house for a while and then turned and walked back in the direction of the station.

‘I told you this was a bad idea,’ Marc said when he saw Nathan.

‘Let’s go home,’ Nathan said.

The two boys didn’t say anything all the way back to London.

## The truth

What do Marc and Nathan find out about Lucy and Laura?

Do they like what they find out?

Do you think following people is a good idea?



Discuss with partner

- **detached:** houses that aren’t attached to others
- **narrow:** opposite of wide
- **semi-detached:** a house attached to another house on one side
- **two-storey:** with two floors

## 16 Laura, Lucy



At rehearsals the next day, Bob asked the actors to read through the final act\* of the play.

During the play, Viola (Laura) falls in love with the Duke (Nathan). Meanwhile, Viola's twin brother, Sebastian, arrives. He didn't drown in the accident. Olivia (Lucy) thinks Sebastian is Cesario (Viola dressed as a man) and asks him to marry her. When the Duke discovers that Cesario is not a man but really a woman (Viola), he realises that he is in love with her.

'Stop!' Bob shouted before they reached the end. 'This is a comedy, not a tragedy\*.'

Bob was looking at Nathan who was acting strangely today. He was forgetting his lines and he looked unhappy. When his character had to tell Viola that he loved her, he spoke the words without any emotion.

'What's wrong with you, Nathan?' Bob asked. 'Has someone died?'

Nathan looked at the floor. He was thinking about yesterday and he couldn't concentrate on his acting.

'It's a stupid play,' Nathan eventually said.

'Of course it's stupid,' Bob said. 'It's a comedy.'

Everyone laughed except Nathan.

'I don't understand why I fall in love with her,' Nathan said, without looking at Laura. 'She lied to me. She pretended to be a boy.'

'I don't know why I love *you* either,' Laura laughed. 'You're moody\* and self-centred\* and you were in love with *her* until five minutes ago.'

Nathan looked up. Laura was pointing at Lucy.

'At least I didn't pretend to be someone else,' Nathan said to Laura.

- **final act:** last section
- **moody:** constantly changing emotions
- **self-centred:** think only of yourself
- **tragedy:** a sad play in which people usually die

Bob could sense<sup>•</sup> that something was wrong. He told everyone to take a break and leave the room, apart from Nathan and Laura.

‘What’s wrong with you two?’ Bob asked when they were alone. When neither of them spoke, Bob said, ‘I’m going to leave you both alone. Talk to each other and sort out<sup>•</sup> the problem. I need to believe that you love each other.’

Bob left the room. Laura looked at Nathan. She knew that he was angry about something.

‘What’s wrong?’ she asked.

‘I know your secret,’ Nathan said.

‘Are you talking to me or to Viola?’ she asked.

‘To you,’ he said. ‘I’m talking to Laura, if that’s your real name.’

‘Of course it’s my real name. What are you going on about<sup>•</sup>?’

‘I know your secret,’ Nathan said again.

‘What secret?’ she asked nervously.

‘You lied. You lied to all of us.’

Laura looked away.

‘I don’t know what you’re talking about,’ she said.

‘You don’t have a famous mother,’ Nathan said. ‘Your father isn’t dead. And you don’t live in Pinewood. In fact, Pinewood doesn’t exist. It’s just the name of a film studio.’

‘How did you find out?’ Laura asked. ‘Was it Lucy? It was Lucy, wasn’t it?’

‘It’s not important how I found out,’ Nathan said. ‘Why did you lie?’

Laura suddenly felt embarrassed and angry. She turned and walked out of the rehearsal room.

Lucy was waiting for Laura in the corridor.

‘Is everything all right?’ Lucy asked.

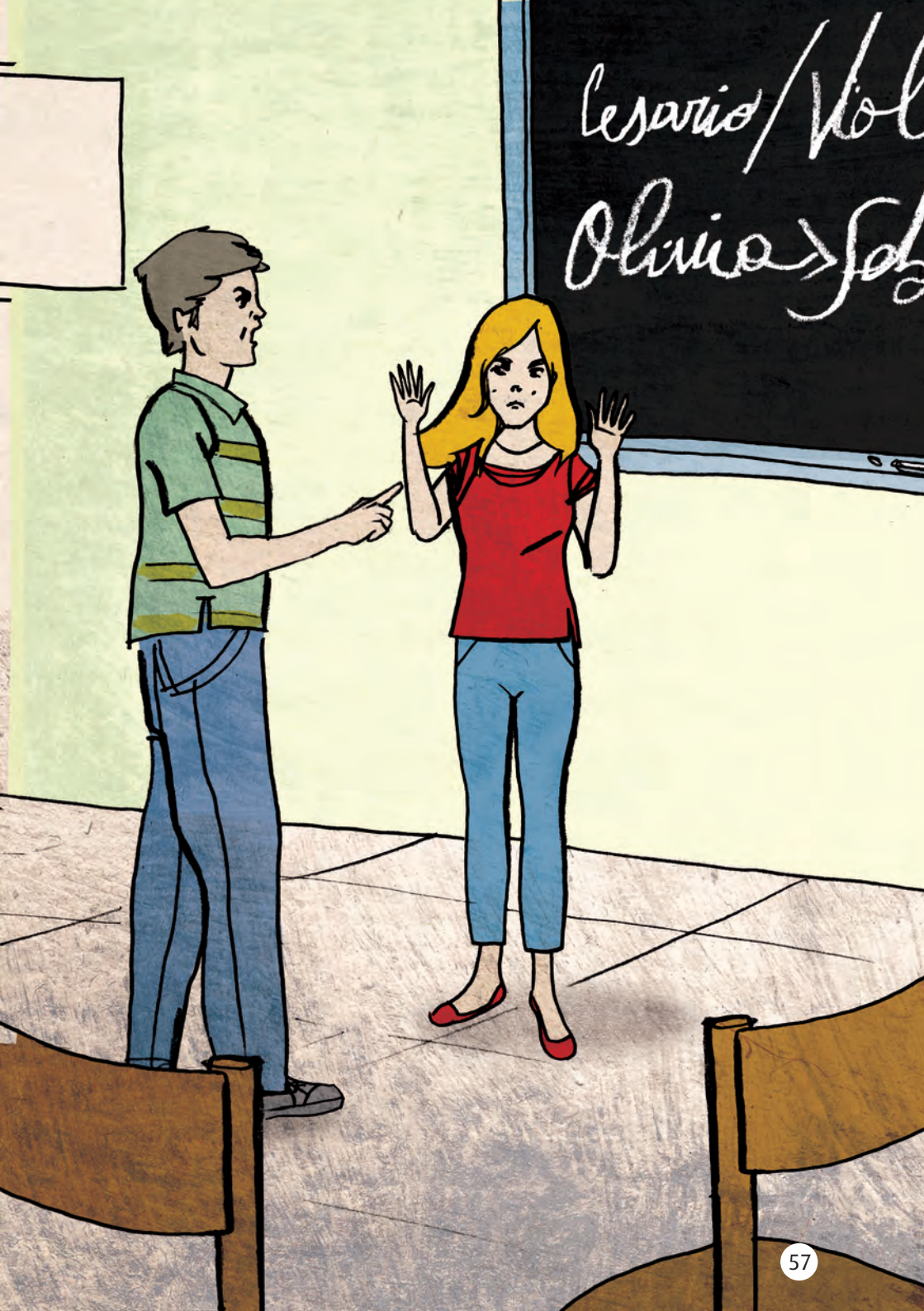
‘How could you do that to me?’ Laura said angrily. ‘I thought you were my friend.’

‘Do *what*?’ Lucy asked, surprised.

- **sense:** feel
- **sort out:** find a solution to

- **what are you going on about:** what are you talking about





‘Don’t pretend you don’t know,’ Laura said. ‘And don’t *ever* talk to me again!’

Laura walked down the corridor and disappeared round the corner. Lucy didn’t know what to do. Should she follow her friend or talk to Nathan? She walked into the rehearsal room and saw Nathan sitting in the corner with his head in his hands.

‘What happened?’ Lucy asked. ‘What’s wrong with Laura? Is she jealous?’

‘Jealous?’ Nathan looked up at Lucy. ‘What do you mean?’

Lucy sat down next to Nathan.

‘Did you tell her about us?’ Lucy said.

‘Us?’ Nathan said, feeling even more confused\*.

‘Don’t worry,’ she said. ‘I feel the same as you.’

‘How do you know what I feel?’ Nathan asked.

‘I saw the drawing,’ she said. ‘Marc showed it to me.’

‘Marc? What are you talking about?’ Nathan suddenly remembered Marc’s drawing of Nathan holding a broken heart with ‘N loves L’ written beside it.

‘Oh no,’ Nathan said. ‘You think I...’

But before he could finish the sentence, Bob walked into the room, followed by all the other students.

‘OK!’ Bob shouted. ‘Listen, everyone! Let’s start again from the beginning of the final act. Take your places\*!’

Nathan didn’t have to say anything more. Lucy understood. ‘How could I be so stupid?’ she thought. ‘L was for Laura – not Lucy!’

Lucy ran out of the rehearsal room, with Nathan calling after her.

‘Lucy! Come back!’

- **confused:** unable to understand
- **take your places:** get into position

## 17 Nathan

13 When Marc phoned Nathan that evening, Nathan didn't answer. He didn't want to talk to Marc. 'Why did Marc show Lucy the drawing?' Nathan asked himself. 'He probably told her my secret, too. Now everyone will know about Dad.'

'Dinner's ready!' Jacquie shouted from downstairs.

Nathan didn't talk much at the dinner table that evening. Dad looked at his son as Jacquie took away the pasta bowl and brought the dessert\* – chocolate brownies\* with ice-cream.

'My favourite,' Dad said when he saw the brownies.

'I know,' said Jacquie. 'I'm your number one fan, remember? I know everything about you.'

'I thought fried eggs on toast was your favourite,' Nathan said.

'That's his favourite breakfast,' Jacquie said. 'Brownies are his favourite dessert. It was in issue 145 of *Greatest Hits* magazine.'

Jacquie left the room to make a phone call. Nathan stared at the wall. 'It isn't easy being the son of one of the most famous rock musicians in the world,' he thought.

### Are you famous?

Why do think being the son of a famous rock star is not easy?



Discuss with a partner.



• **brownies:** type of cake

• **dessert:** pudding

‘How’s “The Green Room” going?’ Dad asked Nathan. ‘Have you made any new friends or met anyone special?’

‘Why do you ask?’ Nathan said.

‘Because you look miserable\*,’ Dad said. ‘Come on, Nathan. Talk to me.’

Nathan put down his dessert spoon and took a deep breath.

‘Don’t be angry, Dad,’ Nathan began. ‘I think you’re amazing, really, I do. But sometimes I feel as if I don’t exist.’

‘Go on,’ Dad said.

‘At school, all the other kids only want to know me because of you. They want to be my friends so they can come home and meet my famous dad. Nobody’s interested in me.’

‘Not everybody,’ Dad said. ‘Marc has always been a good friend.’

‘Exactly,’ Nathan said. ‘Marc didn’t know who I was when I met him. That’s why I liked him. That’s why I trusted him.’

‘Trusted – in the past? What has Marc done?’

‘He showed a drawing to a girl and now she thinks I’m in love with her. But I’m not in love with her. It’s her friend that... I like... a lot.’

‘And the friend’s name is...?’

‘Laura,’ Nathan said. ‘She told everyone that she was the daughter of a famous film star. I believed her. I thought we could be real friends because we both have famous parents. But then I discovered it was a lie.’

‘Ah!’ Dad laughed. ‘And how does Laura feel about your famous dad?’

‘She doesn’t know,’ Nathan said. ‘When I auditioned for “The Green Room”, I didn’t tell anyone who I was or who my dad was. I wanted to get into the school because I’m a good actor. Not because my dad is a famous star. And I did it. I got into the school. Then I met this girl, and now everything’s a mess\*.’

• **mess:** (here) situation with a lot of problems

• **miserable:** very unhappy

‘Let me tell you what I think,’ Dad said. ‘I think you’re hurt. A person you like very much has told a lie. That’s the problem. If you like her then it’s not important who her parents are. She probably lied because she wanted to be different – to be special. You did the same, pretending to be someone you’re not.’

‘That’s different,’ Nathan said. ‘I just wanted to be normal.’

‘You *are* normal, Nathan. Even I am normal, believe it or not. Do you think people are different because they are famous?’

‘No.’

‘There will always be people who will want to know you because of your famous dad or because you’re famous. But give people time. You’ll soon discover who your real friends are. I’m speaking from experience.’

‘So what should I do?’ Nathan asked.

‘You know what to do,’ Dad said. ‘But first, you can check my emails.’




## Advice

What advice does Nathan’s dad give him?

Do you agree with this advice?

Imagine you are Nathan, what would you do next?

 The next morning, Lucy didn't meet Laura at Hitchin station so Laura took the train to London alone. 'Maybe Lucy took an earlier train to avoid seeing me,' Laura thought. As she sat on the train, looking out the window, Laura thought she saw Nathan's reflection in the glass. Then he disappeared.

Was it really possible that Nathan liked her? Well, if he did like her, he probably didn't like her anymore. 'I wish I hadn't lied,' Laura said to herself. She was a good actor. She didn't need to lie. She didn't need a famous mother to be successful or popular. Look at Nathan. He was one of the most popular students at the theatre school and he was just a normal person.

As the train arrived in London, Laura looked out the window at the houses passing by. 'I wonder where Nathan lives,' she thought to herself.

All morning, Laura tried to avoid Nathan. She didn't know what to say to him or how to act. So she stood at the back of the rehearsal room for the morning exercise sessions and pretended not to hear him when he called to her at the end of the class.

'Laura! I need to talk to you!'

She managed to lose him in the crowd of students going to the cafeteria. Then she walked out of the building and waited in the street until the morning break ended. She was going back inside when Marc walked past.

'Hi, Laura,' he said. 'Have you seen Lucy?'

'No,' Laura said. 'Why?'

'It's probably nothing,' Marc said. 'I saw her leaving the theatre yesterday and she looked really upset. I tried to talk to her but she ran away. Then I phoned Nathan in the evening but he didn't answer my calls. I haven't seen Lucy today so I thought... Did anything happen yesterday?'



## Friends

Why are all the four friends avoiding each other?

Do you ever avoid your friends?

Why?

Before Laura could answer, Bob appeared.  
'Laura?' he said. 'Dame Helen wants to talk to you – *now*.'

Laura walked down the corridor to Dame Helen's office. She was nervous. What did Dame Helen want to talk to Laura about? Did Nathan tell her about the lies? Had something happened to Lucy? She knocked on the door and waited.

'Come in!' Dame Helen called.

Laura opened the door and got the shock of her life. Sitting in the room with Dame Helen were her mother and father.

'Mum? Dad? What are you doing here?' she asked.

Before they could answer, Dame Helen told Laura to come in.





‘The good news,’ said Dame Helen with a smile, ‘is that your father is alive. The bad news is that neither he nor your mother knew you were here.’ She held up the letter that Laura brought with her on the first day. ‘I understand that this letter is a forgery.’

‘Why didn’t you tell us?’ Laura’s dad said. ‘Why did you lie to us and tell us you were going to swimming practice?’

‘Because you wouldn’t understand,’ Laura said.

Dame Helen laughed.

‘I find that very hard to believe,’ she said.

‘Why? What do you mean?’ Laura asked.

‘Your mother understands a lot about the theatre,’ Dame Helen said. ‘Isn’t that right, Rose?’

Laura’s mum smiled at her daughter.

‘I’m sure you’ll find this hard to believe,’ her mum said, ‘but I wanted to be an actress when I was your age.’

Laura couldn’t believe it.

‘In fact,’ she continued. ‘I also studied here at “The Green Room”. This is where I met Helen... and your father.’

‘Dad?’ Laura said. ‘You wanted to be an actor, too?’

## Hard to believe

What does Laura discover about her parents?

Have you ever discovered anything new about your parents?



Tell a partner about it.

Laura's dad laughed.

'I wasn't as good as your mother,' he said. 'She was the one with the real talent\*.'

'Why didn't you tell me?' Laura asked.

'You never talk to us, Laura,' her dad said.

'And we never thought you were interested,' said her mum. 'You spent all your time at swimming practice. Well, that's what we thought.'

'Your mother was destined to become a star,' Dame Helen said. 'But she decided that having a family was more important.'

'How did you find out that I was here?' Laura asked. 'Did Lucy tell you?'

'Your friend, Lucy, is completely innocent,' said Dame Helen. 'When I first saw you, I thought your face was familiar\*. Then, when I saw you act the part of Viola, I knew for sure. That's when I phoned my old friend, Rose.'

'So, what's going to happen?' Laura asked. 'Do I have to leave the theatre school?'



• **talent:** ability

• **your face was familiar:** I recognised your face

## 19 Marc, Lucy



Marc got off the train at Hitchin station and followed the road into town and on to Lucy's house. Marc knew something was wrong. Why did Lucy run away from him yesterday? Why didn't Nathan answer his calls? Why did Dame Helen want to talk to Laura? And why didn't Lucy come to 'The Green Room' today?

Marc reached the house but he knew Lucy wasn't inside. He continued along the road, following the steps that Lucy took the other day. There was a park at the end of the road and Marc went inside. There were some tennis courts in the park, some benches\* and a bandstand\*. Marc could see someone sitting on the floor of the bandstand, listening to an MP3 player. He walked closer and recognised Lucy.

'Hello,' Marc said, looking down at Lucy. She didn't hear him at first but she got a shock when she looked up and saw him.

'Marc! What are you doing here?' Lucy asked, switching off the music. 'How did you find me?'

Marc sat down beside her.

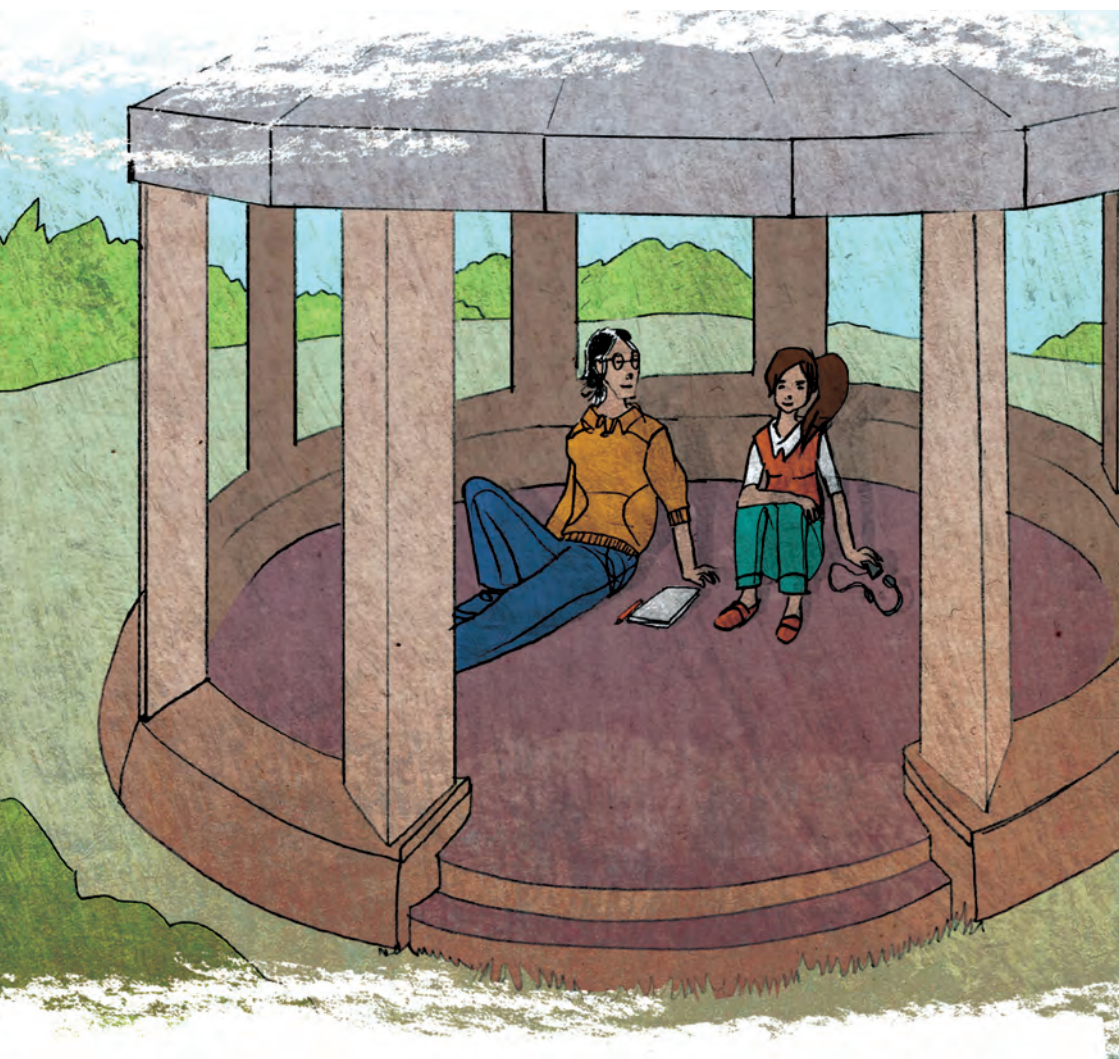
'My parents fought a lot before they got a divorce,' he said. 'I had a place like this. A place to go when I didn't want to go home or when they started fighting.'

'But how did you know where I live?' Lucy asked.

Marc told Lucy about the other day. He told her how they followed her and Laura to King's Cross station and onto the train to Hitchin. He told her how Nathan followed Laura and how he followed Lucy.

- **bandstand:** place where musicians play in a park
- **benches:** long seats in a public place

‘Why did you follow us?’ Lucy asked angrily. ‘That’s creepy•.’  
‘It was Nathan’s idea,’ Marc said. ‘People do stupid things  
when they’re in love.’



- **creepy:** behaving in a frightening way

‘I feel such an idiot,’ Lucy said. ‘When I saw the drawing in your notebook, I thought L was for Lucy – not Laura!’

‘I know,’ Marc said apologetically. ‘I should’ve told you. I’m sorry.’

‘Why didn’t you tell me?’

‘You looked so happy,’ Marc said. ‘I didn’t want to hurt you.’ They looked at each other for a few seconds and then Lucy smiled.

‘Promise me that next time you’ll tell me,’ Lucy said. ‘No more secrets.’

‘I promise,’ Marc said.

‘Good. So now you can tell me how you met Nathan and what his big secret is,’ Lucy laughed.

‘That’s not fair,’ Marc said.

But he told her the story. He told her that Nathan’s dad was a famous rock star. A few years ago Nathan’s dad received a phone call from a stranger\*. The stranger said he would kidnap\* his son if he didn’t pay a lot of money. His dad contacted the police. Marc’s mum was a police officer and Nathan came to stay at their home for a few weeks while they tried to catch the kidnappers. Nathan went to school with Marc and they spent a lot of time together but Nathan couldn’t say anything about his family or his past. They became great friends. It was a surprise when Marc discovered who Nathan’s father was.

‘That’s a big secret,’ Lucy said. ‘I’d love to see Laura’s face when she finds out!’

‘Let’s go to London now,’ Marc said. ‘We can still get to the theatre in time for the afternoon rehearsals. And you can see Laura’s face when Nathan tells her his secret.’

• **kidnap:** take someone illegally

• **stranger:** someone he didn’t know

## THE PERFORMANCE\*

20 Laura, Lucy, Marc, Nathan

15

It was the evening of the first performance and Dame Helen called everyone to the green room. Every theatre has a green room. It's the room where actors wait and relax before or during a performance. No one knows why it's called the green room. Some people think it's because of the colour of the walls but the walls of this green room were blue.

When Dame Helen and Bob entered the room, all the actors and technicians applauded. Dame Helen looked at everyone and smiled.

'This is an important night,' she said. 'You've all worked extremely\* hard and I know the show that you have created will be a success. You're all very talented people and you should be proud of what you've achieved\*. We have helped you as much as we can but now it's up to you\*. Once the performance starts, our job is over.'

Marc took out his notebook and started drawing the scene.

'Before you go on stage, I'd like to say one other thing,' Dame Helen said. 'I wanted to talk to you here in the green room because this is the place where actors are real people.'

Dame Helen continued, 'On stage you may be a duke, a shipwreck\* survivor, a clown\*, or a sea captain. But here in the green room, you're real people with real lives. Sometimes I think we expect our lives to be as dramatic and perfect as in a play. But our lives aren't written by William Shakespeare. And our stories don't always have happy endings. I want you to remember – the person you are in the green room is much more important than the person you are on the stage. And the people you share your

- **achieved:** arrived at a successful conclusion
- **clown:** someone who does funny or stupid things
- **extremely:** very
- **performance:** officially presenting a play to people
- **shipwreck:** accident when a ship hits rocks
- **up to you:** you are on your own; it is just you



life with are more important than the characters you share the stage with. Now go out there and break a leg\*!’

Laura, Nathan, Marc and Lucy walked down the stairs and along the corridor to the stage. They took it in turn to look through the curtains at the audience. Marc’s mum was there. Laura’s mum and dad were sitting near the front. Nathan’s dad was signing autographs. Even Lucy’s mum and dad had agreed to stop arguing for one evening and come to the theatre.

‘This is your three-minute call\*,’ the stage manager shouted. ‘Take your positions for Act I Scene I.’

‘Let’s meet in the green room in the interval,’ Nathan said.

‘Good idea,’ Laura said.

‘Is anyone else nervous?’ Lucy asked.

‘I am,’ Marc said. ‘My hands are shaking and I’m not even acting!’

The four friends laughed. Marc took a last look at the scenery he had designed and painted. Nathan got in position for his entrance in the opening scene. And Laura and Lucy went to wait in the wings\*. They heard the audience grow quiet as the lights dimmed\*. Then there was a moment of total silence before the curtain rose\*. Nathan walked onto the stage and spoke his first line.

‘If music be the food of love, play on.’



- **break a leg:** an expression that means ‘good luck’ in the theatre
- **dimmed:** became darker
- **call:** warning

- **rose:** went up
- **wings:** the area at each side of the stage that the audience doesn’t see



## AFTER READING

### TALK ABOUT THE STORY



- 1 What did you think of the story? Write a paragraph describing your reaction to it.
- 2 Which of the four friends did you like most and why?
- 3 Did you think the characters were realistic?
- 4 Did you guess the end of the story before you finished reading?
- 5 Why do you think the story is called *The Green Room*?
- 6 Does the story remind you of any other books you have read or films or TV series you've watched? If so, which ones, and why?
- 7 Is there anything you would like to change in the story?




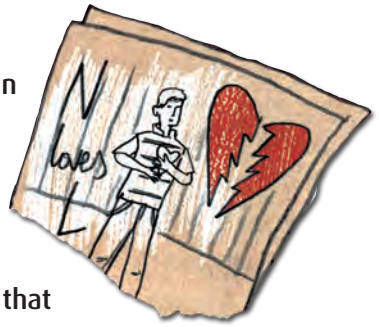
## AFTER READING

### COMPREHENSION



- 1 Which of these adjectives describe Laura's feelings while she was waiting outside the theatre for her audition? Can you explain why?
  - a  nervous
  - b  funny
  - c  guilty
  - d  sad
  - e  stupid
  
- 2 For Nathan, what is 'the most exciting place in the world'?
- 3 At the audition, why was everyone suddenly interested in Laura?
- 4 Who did Nathan do his audition scene with?
- 5 Why did Laura blush when Marc told Nathan that her mother was a famous film star?
- 6 Why did Laura change clothes on the train home?
- 7 Who phoned Marc in the middle of the night and why?
- 8 Where were Nathan, Laura and Marc when they received the good news from 'The Green Room'?
- 9 Who was Lucy thinking about on the train to London on the first day of rehearsals?
- 10 Which picture did Marc draw in the auditorium before the rehearsals?
- 11 How did each day start during the rehearsals?
- 12 Why did some students find it difficult to read Shakespeare's words?
- 13 When was Lucy sure that Nathan was in love with her?

- 14 What did the students have to do when they met Bob on the stage for the first time?
- 15 Why did Marc and Nathan follow the girls on the train?
- 16 How did Lucy react when she discovered that Nathan didn't love her?
- 17 According to Nathan, why do the other kids at school want to be his friends?
- 18 What did Laura discover when she talked to her parents in Dame Helen's office?
- 19 How did Marc know how to find Lucy in the park when he went back to Hitchin?
- 20  With a partner write and act out the conversation between Marc and Lucy in the park.



# AFTER READING

## CHARACTERS



### 1 Choose the correct option.

- a Lucy went to the audition because she was **jealous/proud** of her friend.
- b Marc went to the audition because **he wanted to/Nathan told him to go**.
- c Lucy thought that Laura's life was **a thousand times better/worse than hers**.
- d In Marc's dream, everything was made of **paper/plastic**.
- e When Nathan's dad read the letter, he told his son it was **good/bad** news.
- f Marc **wanted/didn't want** to be an actor.
- g Nathan **was/wasn't** in love with Lucy.

### 2 What 'secrets' do Laura and Nathan want to keep? Why?



### 3 In what ways are Lucy and Marc's lives similar?



**3** Who says the following things? When do they say them and who do they say them to?

**a** “ The person you are in the green room is much more important than the person you are on the stage. ”

**b** “ I don’t understand why you don’t tell your parents the truth. ”

**c** “ I think you’re amazing, really, I do. But sometimes I feel as if I don’t exist. ”

**d** “ I want you to close your eyes and run as fast as you can. ”

**e** “ You’re my best friend. I know you better than you know yourself. ”

**f** “ I taught myself. ”

**g** “ You are normal, Nathan. Even I am normal, believe it or not. ”

**4** What can you remember about these characters? Write at least two things about each person.

- a** Jacquie
- b** Bob
- c** Marc’s mum
- d** Laura’s mum

# AFTER READING

## VOCABULARY



### 1 Put a sign (\*) where the word in bracket goes in each sentence.

- a She was there because she wanted to be a dancer more than anything in the world. Marc could see how nervous the girl was because of the way she stood with her hands together, her eyes looking at the floor. (whole)
- b 'What am I doing here?' she asked again. But this time she said aloud because the boy in front turned round and looked at her. (it)
- c 'I don't know why I fall in love with her,' Nathan said, without looking at Laura. 'She lied to me. She pretended to be a boy.' - 'I don't know why I love *you*,' Laura laughed. 'You're moody and self-centred and you were in love with *her* until five minutes ago.' (either)
- d 'There will always be people who will want to know you because your famous dad or because you're famous. But give people time. You'll soon discover who your real friends are. I'm speaking from experience.' (of)
- e There were some tennis courts in the park, some benches and a bandstand. Marc could see someone on the floor of the bandstand, listening to an MP3 player. He walked closer and recognized Lucy. (sitting)


### 2 Use five of the words in the box to complete the phrases.

spotlight    buzzing    sort    acting    familiar    good    odd    miserable

- a If a face is ....., it is easy to recognize it.
- b A ..... sound coming from a phone.
- c To put in a ..... word for someone.
- d To ..... out a problem means to solve it.
- e ..... means very sad.

**3** Complete the questions from the text using *How*, *Why* or *What*.

- a '..... could you do that to me?'
- b '..... did you know where I live?'
- c '..... else did you tell them?'
- d '..... aren't you at school?'
- e '..... have you woken me up?'
- f '..... is it going?'
- g '..... am I doing here?'
- h '..... do I look?'
- i '..... did she say her father was dead?'
- j '..... happened?'
- k '..... did you find out that I was here?'

**4**  Complete the word formation table below. Make sentences with a partner.

ADJECTIVE	NOUN
EMPTY	EMPTINESS
EXCITED	.....
.....	PRODUCTION
AMAZING	.....
.....	TRAGEDY
BUZZING	.....
.....	MISERY

# AFTER READING

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## LANGUAGE



### 1 Complete the sentences using the nouns below.

fan   heart   impression   make-up   set   soulmate   tragedy

- a When Marc talks to Nathan about Laura, he says, 'You've found a .....'
- b Jacque is Nathan's dad's number one .....
- c On the train, Laura put on some ..... and then looked at herself in the mirror.
- d Dame Helen said, 'An audition is like meeting someone for the first time. You want to make a good .....'
- e Nathan knew the whole speech by ..... and everyone applauded when he reached the end.
- f The opposite of a comedy is a .....
- g Marc had the job of designing the .....

### 2 Nathan's dad doesn't know if you 'go on the net' or 'go in the net'. Write the missing prepositions in these sentences.

- a Nathan searched for Laura ..... the internet.
- b Laura picked ..... the post as it fell through the letterbox.
- c Dame Helen told them to never give ..... hope.
- d Marc took ..... his notebook and started to draw a picture.
- e Laura came back and sat ..... opposite Lucy.
- f They took it ..... turns to stand in the spotlight and introduce their character.



**3 Read and complete this extract from the story using either the noun or verb forms of 'act' or 'lie'.**

“ ‘I don't know how to **a** ..... ;  
Marc said. ‘Of course you do,’ Nathan laughed.  
‘Everyone **b** ..... all the time.’  
‘I don't,’ Marc said.  
‘Don't you ever tell **c** ..... ?’ Nathan asked? ‘That's  
the same as **d** ..... ’  
‘No, I don't **e** ..... ,’ Marc said.  
‘I don't believe you. You're **f** ..... !’  
Nathan laughed. ”

**4 Write the verbs in brackets in the correct form.**

- a** When Laura ..... (leave) home in the morning, carrying her sports bag, she started walking towards Lucy's house.
- b** ‘Over the years,’ Dame Helen continued, ‘many of today's most successful theatre, film and music stars ..... (start) their careers here.
- c** At the end of the audition, Laura ..... (send) a text message to her best friend, Lucy.
- d** In his dream, Marc ..... (walk) down a street where everything was made of paper.
- e** The play is a comedy about mistaken identities and ..... (start) with one of Shakespeare's most famous lines.
- f** Nathan and Marc often ..... (see) people following other people in spy films and TV series but it was more difficult in real life.
- g** Laura suddenly ..... (feel) embarrassed and angry. She turned and walked out of the rehearsal room.
- h** ‘It ..... (not be) easy being the son of one of the most famous rock musicians in the world,’ he thought.

# AFTER READING

## PLOT AND THEME



1 Tick (✓) true (T) or false (F).

- |   | T                        | F                        |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| a Nathan is in love with Lucy.  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b Laura lives in Pinewood.  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c <i>Twelfth Night</i> and <i>What You Will</i> are both titles of the same play. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d Marc's parents are getting divorced.  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| e At first, Laura doesn't realise that Nathan is in love with her.                | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| f Lucy told Dame Helen about Laura's lies.  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| g Dame Helen knew Laura's parents when they were younger.                         | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

2 In what way do Nathan and Laura change during the story?

3 Do you think the story has a message? If so, what is it?

4 Write the missing word in Bob's description of *Twelfth Night*.

“It's about the mad things we think, see and do when we are in .....”

5 In what way is the plot of *Twelfth Night* similar to the main plot of the story?

- 6 Match this extract from the story with the Shakespeare quote that is closest in meaning.

“

But sometimes people don't see what they should see.

They only see what they want to see.”

- a  'If music be the food of love, play on. Give me excess of it.'
- b  'Shall I compare thee to a summer's day? Thou art more lovely and more temperate.'
- c  'But love is blind and lovers cannot see the pretty follies that themselves commit.'

7 What is method acting?

- a  A type of acting in which an actor becomes the character they are playing.
- b  A type of improvisation when an actor doesn't use a script.
- c  A type of acting exercise in which actors have to trust each other.

- 8 Who are your favourite female and male actors? Why do you like them?

- 9 What do you think are the advantages and disadvantages of having a famous parent?

- 10 Imagine you are the son or daughter of a famous person. Which famous person would you choose? How would your life be different?



# AFTER READING

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## CAMBRIDGE ENGLISH EXAMS



### **P** B1 Preliminary English Test Reading Part 5

1 Read the sentences below and choose the best word (A, B, C, or D) for each space.

- a Lucy was Laura's best friend and she always helped Laura .....  
A out                      B too                      C up                      D with
- b The boys didn't say anything ..... the way back to London.  
A all                      B in                      C during                      D to
- c Every time he visited a theatre, he ..... the same feeling.  
A felt                      B had                      C thought                      D left
- d 'You want to ..... a good impression, but it is not always possible.'  
A have                      B make                      C get                      D let
- e '..... anything happen yesterday?'  
A Has                      B Was                      C Did                      D Had
- f Everyone had to use their mouths and imitate the noises that Bob .....  
A made                      B shouted                      C heard                      D did
- g 'Talk to each other and ..... out the problem!'  
A take                      B leave                      C solve                      D sort
- h 'We have helped you as much as we can but now it's ..... to you.'  
A only                      B on                      C just                      D up
- i The green room is the place where actors are ..... people.  
A the                      B only                      C real                      D really
- j 'Your application has not been accepted. I hope you are not too .....'  
A lost                      B disappointment                      C confident                      D disappointed

**P B1 Preliminary English Test Reading Part 1**

**2** Look at the text in each question. Circle the correct answer 1, 2 or 3.

**a** What does it say?

- 1 You may not queue before the theatre opens.
- 2 Please queue inside the theatre.
- 3 You may queue outside the theatre until it opens.



**b** What should Lucy do?

- 1 Buy Laura's ticket and wait on the platform.
- 2 Meet Laura on the train with her ticket.
- 3 Not buy Laura's ticket but wait on the platform.

See you at the train station. I will be late so please buy my train ticket and I'll meet you on the platform. Laura

**c** What does Bob say?

- 1 The students are happy working in the normal place.
- 2 The students would like to try working in a smaller room.
- 3 The students would like to have more space.

Can we use the stage for rehearsals today? The students want to practise with more space.

Bob

**d** When is a good time to buy tickets?

- 1 On Monday morning.
- 2 At lunch time.
- 3 On Saturday afternoon.

Tickets to 'The Green Room' summer school's production can be bought from the ticket office, open Monday to Friday from 9am to 6pm.

*Closed for lunch from 1pm to 2pm.*

# AFTER READING

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## EXIT TEST




**1** Complete the second sentence so that it means the same as the first.

- a Every theatre has a green room.  
All .....
- b Bob asked the students to read extracts from Shakespeare's play.  
The students .....
- c I was happy after reading the letter.  
Reading the letter .....
- d She lied to me. She pretended to be a boy.  
She lied to me. She said .....
- e Marc didn't know who I was when I met him. That's why I liked him.  
I liked .....
- f Believe it or not, I am a normal person.  
You may .....
- g When did you last talk to her?  
When was .....?
- h The problem is that you talk too much!  
You .....
- i You can find more information on our website.  
More .....
- j Bob took one group of students, and two other teachers took the others.  
One .....
- k Please let me tell you what I think.  
Please allow .....

**2 P** Read the extract from the story and choose the correct word for each space (1, 2, 3 or 4).

Marc **a** ..... Lucy that Nathan’s dad was a famous rock star. A few years ago Nathan’s dad **b** ..... a phone call from a stranger. The stranger said he would **c** ..... his son if he didn’t pay **d** ..... money. His dad contacted the police. Marc’s mum was a police officer and Nathan came to stay at their home **e** ..... a few weeks while they tried to catch the kidnappers. Nathan went to school with Marc and they spent a lot of time together but Nathan **f** ..... say anything about his family or his past. They became **g** ..... friends. It was a surprise when Marc discovered **h** ..... Nathan’s father was.

- |          |            |              |             |             |
|----------|------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|
| <b>a</b> | 1 says     | 2 said       | 3 tell      | 4 told      |
| <b>b</b> | 1 made     | 2 received   | 3 was       | 4 get       |
| <b>c</b> | 1 kidnap   | 2 kidnapping | 3 to kidnap | 4 kidnapped |
| <b>d</b> | 1 a lot of | 2 very       | 3 many      | 4 a lot     |
| <b>e</b> | 1 with     | 2 since      | 3 from      | 4 for       |
| <b>f</b> | 1 could    | 2 not        | 3 couldn’t  | 4 never     |
| <b>g</b> | 1 very     | 2 so         | 3 great     | 4 with      |
| <b>h</b> | 1 why      | 2 who        | 3 where     | 4 which     |

**3**  In pairs choose two different pictures in the book. Take turns telling each other what you can see in your picture.



## AFTER READING PROJECT



### 1 **Improvise**

In groups of three, prepare an audition scene in which two of you are parents and one of you is their teenage son or daughter. It is twelve o'clock at night and the son or daughter has just arrived home. The parents don't know where their son or daughter has been and they have been worried.

### 2 **WEB** **Read**

Download Act V Scene I from *Twelfth Night* from our website. In groups of three, choose one of the parts and read from the script. Perform the scene in class.



### 3 **Write**

What happens to the characters in *The Green Room*? Imagine it is five years later and Laura, Nathan, Lucy and Marc meet again. Where do they meet? What do they say to each other? What has happened to them? Write a short scene, then rehearse and perform it in front of the other students in the class.

