

# Carapace

## Introduction

'Carapace' was the ninth resource kit to be produced for the BritLit project.

**This Kit.** The materials presented here are based on Romesh Gunsekera's short story 'Carapace'. Like the other BritLit kits, it is intended for the development of language skills and intercultural perceptions rather than as a source of literary study. This edition was revised in 2010.

There are three parts: **Pre-reading Activities**, **After Reading Activities** and **Word Work**, and there is also a **teachers key**. As with all other BritLit productions, this is called a 'kit' to emphasise the fact that you, the teacher, are expected to assemble the component parts yourself, using the parts you require in the order you prefer. This is not, therefore, a course, simply a resource which can be picked over with some items used and others discarded. However, we would make the following suggestions:

- We strongly advise that all the work in the section '**Pre Reading Activities**' is done before the students are asked to read the complete text. This section is designed to assist students to gain a creative foothold into the story before they read it and thus to assist in the process of reading. If you only have time to do one part of this kit then advise that this should be the section to concentrate on.
- Some worksheets provide links to sites that are relevant to the work being presented and it is assumed that teachers will develop their own materials from these links. Please note, however, that some material may be subject to copyright restrictions, over which the BritLit Project has no control. Please help us by reporting any broken or disused links.
- Copyright permission has been obtained where applicable. All BritLit material is photocopiable.

We very much welcome your contribution to the project. Much of the material in the current kit has been contributed by state school teachers working in collaboration with the project team and we invite you to contribute your ideas and experience so that future versions of this material will present an even wider choice of opportunities for students to explore language and culture through literature.

**The story** 'Carapace' is a simple story of a Sri Lankan girl whose mother expects her to marry a stranger. The situation is complicated by two factors: she has a boyfriend, who has a very relaxed attitude to what is happening; she doesn't want to make any decisions. Does she really have a choice anyway? Or is she looking to Vijay to help her make a choice?

### **Acknowledgements**

This short kit has been assembled by Fitch O'Connell, with support and ideas from the staff and students at APEL and Escola Secundária Francisco Franco, Funchal, Madeira.

Section	Worksheet or Activity	Content	CEF
<i>Pre-reading</i>	Story building	Answering questions to build a narrative	A2-C2
	The Narrator and Vijay	Quotes from some of the dialogue introduce us to the two principle characters	B1/2
<i>After Reading Activities</i>	Recipes (1)	Some of the activity in the story centres around food and cooking it. Here are some of the recipes mentioned.	A2/B2
	Recipes (2)	The language of food preparation, and talking about food are explored with references to English and the students' own culinary experiences.	B2
	Arranged Marriages	Two texts about arranged marriages lead to a discussion on the topic	B1/2
	Agony Aunts	Answering questions and giving advice	A2/B2
	Comprehension Check	Students have to design a dust-jacket plus blurb for the story	A2/B2
	Small ads	Writing advertisements for newspapers	A2/B2
<b>Word Work</b>	Language in Use	Use of 'would' and 'will' to talk about habitual behaviour, using text as a source	B1/2
	Glossary	Contextualised meanings of some key words.	A2/B2