

# Chain Reaction

## Teachers Notes and Key

Dear Teacher,

This BritLit kit was researched and written by two Portuguese teachers of English, Celeste Simões and Helena Oliveira. It was originally designed for presentation at a seminar for teachers, held in Coimbra, Portugal, in October 2009. The seminar was called 'Language and Literature in the Language Classroom' and was run jointly by APPI, the Portuguese teachers' association, and the British Council in Portugal.

The text for the story was donated by writer Louise Cooper, and was a previously unpublished tale, and one that she had written especially for the BritLit project earlier in the same year. While the kit was being prepared and thus before the seminar took place, Louise died suddenly and unexpectedly. The presentation at the seminar was, therefore, something of a tribute to Louise, and the pleasure and encouragement that she has given over the years –and in the years to come – to young readers.

The final version of the kit which is published here was edited by Fitch O'Connell, in line with the latest thinking which underpins the BritLit project, but all the work belongs to Celeste and Helena.

The kit contains four sections, plus an audio of the story being read. The sections are:

**Pre-reading Activities.** This is the essential part of the whole process. If you have no time to do anything else then please do this work!

**Post Reading Activities.** Once the story has been read there are some activities which help to consolidate the context and the language that has been used.

**Supplementary Activities.** This is the largest file, and contains a wealth of additional material to be used, mainly as a resource for follow up (post reading) activities.

**Teacher's Key.** This is the part you are reading! It contains all the answers you will need to the questions, but more importantly a little guidance on how to carry some of them out.

We hope that you enjoy using these resources. If you have any suggestions, such as new activities or want to share the work of your students, then we shall be only too pleased to hear from you.

With very best wishes

Celeste, Helena and Fitch  
Portugal 2009

## Pre-Reading Activities

### Activity 1

Activity 1

Going on a **cruise**

**deck**

**ship**

**sea**

Private cabin

Engine room

Anchor winch

propeller

blades

With the help of the dictionary, match these words with the corresponding image:

- cruise
- sea
- ship
- propeller
- blades
- engine room
- private cabin
- deck
- anchor winch

### Activity 2

- |           |   |             |
|-----------|---|-------------|
| <b>1.</b> |   | <b>2.</b>   |
| 1         | e | F           |
| 2         | g | B           |
| 3         | d | C or E      |
| 4         | c | E or C      |
| 5         | f | D           |
| 6         | a | (A),B,C,D,E |
| 7         | b | A           |

### Activity 3 – Prediction

This is an opportunity for students to create their own stories based on the information they are given. They should not be expected to create the same story as in 'Chain Reaction', in fact part of the joy of this activity is in the diversity of applications the same information can divulge. They should be encouraged to make notes as they go along but not to write the story down as this will change the dynamic. They then have a chance to tell their stories, or predictions, in other groups.

### Post Reading Activities

- The list can be any intelligent guess of what a cruise ship has on board and will no doubt have a lot of translation required. Basics that should be included are: Restaurants; bars; swimming pool(s); cabins; gymnasium; casino; shops; cinema; sun deck.

## 2.

### Excerpt 1

**Carol Thatcher:** There are a lot of wow factor (1) *innovations* on board this ship which I'd never thought I'd see at sea. A stunning ice rink, a boxing rink, 8 (2) *restaurants*, massive chandeliers and I'm delighted to report for the thirsty (3) *passengers* a choice of 13 bars.

**One TV Show:** That's quite a bar crawl you could do there Carol, if you're so minded to. You're a (4) *cruising* type of person yourself?

**Carol Thatcher:** I do enjoy it, I'll tell you why. This ship operates out of Southampton, as many of them do, so you don't have to battle your way to Terminal 5, which is a blast these days. And, you know, you can stop in a few (5) *ports* around the (6) *Mediterranean*. It's actually quite relaxing. There's loads to do; the (7) *entertainment* is quite good; plenty of fresh (8) *sea air*.

### Excerpt 2

**One TV Show:** Carol has been there on (9) *board* all day, so let's take a look at what she's seen so far.

**Carol Thatcher:** This really is a (10) *ship* of extremes. Size and scale allow more on board than any passenger line has seen before. It oozes (11) *luxury*. There were (12) 62430 squares feet of windows. The best view of all is from up here, the (13) *Bridge*. It's crammed full of cutting edge (14) *technology*.

**Carol Thatcher:** Captain, what's this ship like to drive?

**Captain Teo Strazic:** You definitely don't want to scratch it; you don't want to have any dust on it. You keep polishing and making it pretty, but also very careful when you draw it. I have convenient use of the (15) *propellers*. They can turn round 360°. She's quite fast; she can do (16) 24 knots.

**Carol Thatcher:** Not bad when you think it's going to have (17) 4375 guests on board when it's full.

Can you believe it? There's even a (18) *climbing* wall. And this is a true first. Never before has a cruise ship had a surf pool on board.

### Excerpt 3

**Carol Thatcher:** Hello again from the ship's (19) *helipad*. I'm here with the travel journalist, Kelly Ranson, who specialises in (20) *cruising*. Kelly, it seems to me flavour of the month, cruising, at the moment.

**Kelly Ranson:** Cruising is definitely flavour of the month, at the moment, especially there has been a number of other cruise (21) *lines* having high profile launches, and the Passenger Shipping Association have said that this year there's 1.555 million (22) *Brits* expected to cruise, which is a 14% increase on last year's. So it's definitely on the (23) *up*.

**Carol Thatcher:** Quite a number. Why is cruising so popular?

**Kelly Ranson:** I think because it's got everything. You know, it's (24) *accessible* and the cruise lines are putting money into innovation. They really wanna go for (25) *families*.

### Excerpt 4

**Carol Thatcher:** It's got a bit of an (26) *elderly* image, though. Is the average age of passenger's age coming down?

**Kelly Ranson:** It's definitely coming down, the age. On a ship like this is the summer, (...) the average age of around (27) 45 to 55 and you're gonna probably have around a 1000 (28) *children* on a general cruise. That's definitely not just for elderly, no.

**Carol Thatcher:** A 1000 children on board, uh oh! Now then, what about the (29) *cost* of cruising, because it has a bit of a pricey image, doesn't it?

**Kelly Ranson:** Hum well, you know, you get on board this ship and once you pay, pretty much everything is covered: your entertainment, your food and then you get to see all these destinations. You (30) *unpack* once and you travel, like you said, into 5 or 6 different ports.

## Supplementary materials

1. As an introduction to reading the story, this activity may be useful.
  1. 'Cruise' indicates on board a ship
  2. Passengers, possibly crew as well!
  3. Good weather, lots to do, good entertainment etc

Q – General feeling was very positive. No one complained.

### 2. Song – Summer Holiday

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rbNP5yqg7hc>

1. holiday 2. fun 3. sun 4. blue 5. everybody 6. dreams

### 3. Holidays

Free choice, but may include some of the following:

COMPANY: Family; friends (names)

TIME OF YEAR: Summer, Winter, Weekends

WEATHER: Sunny, Snowy

PLACES: Beach, Mountains, lakes (names of resorts)

TRANSPORT: Car, plane, bus, ship

ACCOMODATION: Caravan, hotel, apartment, tent

4.
  1. People did like going on cruises.
  2. The sun did shine
  3. The captain does seem worried
  4. He did want to discover the problem
  5. The chain did become harder to winch in.
5.
  1. was dotted / (was) fringed / broke / shone
  2. past passive / simple past
  3. a) The sea wasn't dotted with small islands nor fringed by white beaches on which waves broke gently. The sun didn't shine from a cloudless sky.  
b) Was the sea dotted .....? Did the sun shine .....
  4. was | could | was | There was | could | swung | was | stood | thought | would | set
6. Monitor use of simple past – but don't discourage use of past continuous or past perfect if they occur naturally!
7.
  - a) would not feel
  - b) had not been
  - c) will write
  - d) were / was
  - e) would have happened
  - f) there will not be