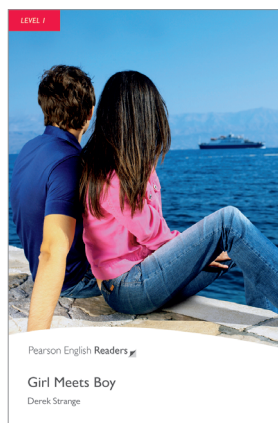


Girl Meets Boy

Derek Strange



Summary

Girls Meets Boy is contemporary fiction. Donna meets Mark on a boat to Spain. She falls in love with him the very first time she sees him. The story is written from three different perspectives.

Pages 1–11 (Donna's story)

Donna was on a boat from Portsmouth to Santander. On the first day of the holiday, she saw a tall, quiet boy. Their eyes just met, but they didn't talk. She wanted to see him again and looked for him. She found him at the disco and they started dancing. Actually the boy she had fallen in love with was looking at her from the entrance of the disco, and she realised that she was dancing with his twin brother. Next day she was hoping to see him again, but with no luck. The boat arrived in Spain.

Pages 12–19 (Mark's story)

Mark was on a boat to Spain with his Spanish teacher and friends. He saw a nice girl on the boat. Once their eyes met, he was attracted to this girl. He was, however, too shy to talk to her. He wanted to see her again and went to the disco to look for her. Then he saw her dancing with his brother. He walked away and thought about her quietly. Next morning he waited in a café hoping to see her there, but she didn't come. The boat arrived in Santander.

Pages 20–26 (The town's story)

A lot of people were visiting Comillas (fifty kilometres from Santander) for their holiday. There was a disco night in the square. Donna was there thinking about Mark, and Mark was there thinking about Donna. Then they found each other again. This time Mark was not shy anymore. He went to her and took her hands. His brother Dave was happy to see that because he had danced with Donna on purpose to motivate his shy brother to talk to her.

Background and themes

Love at first sight: Sometimes people fall in love on their first encounter. One person may or may not be aware that the other person is feeling romantic attraction, and may not even be aware of the other person's presence, but in some cases two people experience this towards each other at the same time when their eyes meet.

Holiday boat trips from England: Quite a few English people take a boat to go to the continent on their holiday. You can get on the boat with your car. Some boat trips are short; others are overnight. Popular boats depart from Portsmouth, Southampton and Dover.

Discussion activities

Before reading

- Discuss:** Talk about the book cover.
Have students look at the cover. Elicit the answers to the following questions:
What can you see in the picture?
Are they holding hands?
What are they doing?
What do you think they are talking about?
- Reading:** Divide the class into three groups. Tell them that each group will read one section of the story. Explain that they need to talk about their part of the story after reading.
Group A, read Donna's story on pages 1–11.
Group B, read Mark's story on pages 12–19.
Group C, read the town's story on pages 20–26.

While reading

- Discuss:** Talk about each picture.
Have students work in the same groups to decide how to retell the story. Have them describe each picture with a simple story. Monitor the groups and help them if needed.

After reading

- Presentation:** Retell the story.
Have each group retell their part of story using pictures in the book.
- Discussion:** Talk about page 3.
Donna says, 'At that moment there was only him and me, me and him. Him and his smile for me. Only the two of us.' What does it mean?
- Pair work:** Talk about these questions.
What do you think about 'love at first sight'?
Do you like Mark? Why?/Why not?
What do you think of Dave's plan for his brother?
What do you think of the whole story?