

# The Big Picture

Sue Leather

## Before reading

1. Look at the cover. What can you see? What do you think the story is going to be about?
2. Now read the blurb on the back cover. Do you know any books or films with a story like this?
3. Look at the maps on page 4. How much do you know about Tokyo and Japan?
4. Look at the people in the story on page 4. Now look at the pictures on pages 9, 10, 13, and 16. Who are the people in the pictures?
5. If you have the cassette, listen to Chapter 1.

## Check your reading

### CHAPTER 1

1. Look at the words in italics. Who is *I*, *he*, *she*, *they*?
  - a *I* take photos of famous people.
  - b *She* always wanted money.
  - c *He* never said 'good morning' and he never said 'please'.
  - d *He* was a famous sumo star in Japan.
  - e *I* had the only photo of Takahanada and Kumiko Okada.

Ken    Sachiko    Kenzaburo Yoshimoto    Takahanada
2. Correct the summary.

Ken is a photographer. He always makes a lot of money. One evening, Ken got a telephone call from his boss. He told Ken to take a photo of Takahanada, the famous actor. Ken took a train into Tokyo. At 9.30, he was at the Tokyo Garden Hotel. There were a lot of photographers by the door of the coffee shop. Ken took a very good photo of Takahanada and Kumiko.

3. Chapter 1 ends: 'But I almost died because of that photo.' What do you think is going to happen?

### CHAPTER 2

1. Put the events in the right order.
  - a Sachiko telephoned Ken.
  - b Ken took his film and left his flat.
  - c Ken saw a man with a gun in the other taxi.
  - d Ken saw Sachiko and talked about money.
  - e Ken went back to his flat again and everything was broken.
  - f Ken wanted to tell Yoshimoto about his photo.
  - g Ken went to his darkroom to make the photo.
  - h The taxi driver drove very fast.
2. True, false or don't know?
  - a Sachiko wanted money.
  - b Sachiko and Ken had a son called Tetsuro.
  - c Sachiko wanted to live in Tokyo.
  - d Ken loved Sachiko.
  - e Sachiko didn't love Ken.
3. What do you think Ken is going to do next?

### CHAPTER 3

1. Match the beginnings and endings.
  - 1 It took Ken a very long time
  - 2 Ken wanted to see his photo of Takahanada
  - 3 Ken didn't want to lose the film
  - 4 The fat man took Ken to a house
  - 5 The fat man tied Ken to a chair
  - a but his boss told him to take more photos.
  - b and he put it in a luggage locker.
  - c and left him in the house.
  - d to put everything back in its place.
  - e and asked 'Where is the film?'
2. Match the numbers and the phrases.
  - 1 3.30
  - 2 4.30
  - 3 93
  - 4 4.10
  - 5 42
  - a the wrong locker number
  - b the number of the locker with the film
  - c the time Ken had to be at Shibura
  - d the time Yoshimoto phoned Ken
  - e the time Ken left Tokyo station

### CHAPTER 4

1. Complete the summary.
 

In the house, Ken slept and had a dream about his ....., Mori-sensei. Mori-sensei said you can ..... see everything with the ..... of a camera. Ken didn't want to ..... When the fat man came back, Ken ..... him, took his ..... and ran away. A ..... driver took Ken to a restaurant near Tokyo. Ken read a newspaper story. In the story, the Japanese mafia ..... a man called ..... in a street. It was the street where he took the photo of ..... and ..... Ken phoned for a taxi and asked the driver for the .....
2. What do you think is in Ken's picture?
3. In Chapter 3, Ken asked himself: 'Why did nobody listen to me?' Do you think the police will listen to him now?

### CHAPTER 5

1. Put the events in the right order.
  - a The policemen pushed the man to the floor.
  - b In the photo, they could see Takahanada and Kumiko Okada.
  - c At Left Luggage, Ken saw the man with the gun.
  - d But they also saw a dead man, and Shioiri with a knife.
  - e The man with the gun was putting a key in all the lockers.
  - f The man was Hiromi Shioiri, the killer of Toru Sato.
  - g Ken and the Chief Inspector went to the darkroom and saw the photo.

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2. Who said what?

- a 'Somebody wants to kill me!'
- b 'But we can do it tomorrow. It's too late now.'
- c 'They're going to find the film. Please come now!'
- d 'Chief Inspector ... that's the man with the gun.'
- e 'And this time you are going to prison for a very long time!'
- f 'And how do you know that I killed Toru Sato?'
- g 'I think it's time for us to have a look at that photo.'

Ken      Chief Inspector Uchikawa      Hiromi Shioiri

## CHAPTER 6

1. Complete the summary.

Chief Inspector Uchikawa was very happy because Shioiri was in prison for ..... years.

Ken sold the ..... to Yoshimoto for .....  
 ..... yen. Now Ken lives in the ..... with  
 ..... and their ....., Tetsuro. Ken loves .....,  
 but he loves his wife more. He didn't take his ..... to the  
 country. He thinks it's too .....

2. Mori-sensei said: 'Maybe there's something you don't see.  
 Maybe you don't see something important.' Is this sometimes  
 true for you?

## After reading

Choose some of these activities.

1. Choose five of the pictures. Write a sentence about each one.
2. Do you think *The Big Picture* is a good title? Think of a new title.
3. Look at pages 26 and 27. Write the conversation between Ken and Chief Inspector Uchikawa when they see the photograph.
4. Look at the conversation on page 28:  
 Ken: 'Live with me again. We can go to the country.'  
 Sachiko: 'Yes. I love you, but you didn't see it.'  
 What did they say next? Write the conversation.
5. Imagine you are a newspaper reporter. Write the story of the Toru Sato killing.  
 Choose two pictures for your story.
6. Write a letter to the author, Sue Leather, telling her why you liked or didn't like the book.
7. What do you think Ken does after the end of the story?
8. Make a quiz for other students to do.  
 e.g. Write some True/False questions.
9. Word search. There are 10 words from the story in this puzzle. How many can you find?

P	C	A	M	E	R	A	K	E	Y
H	X	T	G	Y	Z	I	J	Q	D
O	D	A	R	K	R	O	O	M	A
T	J	I	L	E	N	S	B	C	N
O	P	J	Q	F	I	L	M	O	G
G	R	V	A	X	Z	O	Z	M	E
R	I	N	S	P	E	C	T	O	R
A	S	T	B	L	S	K	Y	K	O
P	O	J	H	B	P	E	Q	N	U
H	N	S	T	A	T	I	O	N	S

10. Here is the blurb from another book at this level.

### John Doe

The man they call John Doe lies in a hospital bed. The doctor wants to know who he is. But John Doe doesn't answer his questions. When John Doe leaves the hospital, the doctor finds out more about him than just his real name.

Do you want to read *John Doe*?