

The Beast

Carolyn Walker

Before reading

1. Look at the cover and read the back cover blurb. What sort of story do you think this is going to be?
2. Look up the word 'beast' in your dictionary. Now read the first paragraph of Chapter 2. What do you think the beast in the story is?
3. Look at the glossary of animals on page 60. Can you find these animals in your country?
4. Read pages 3, 4 and 5 (contents, list of characters and map). Can you say what might happen in the story?
5. If you have the cassette, listen to Chapter 1.

Check your reading

CHAPTER 1

1. Which sentences about Susie are *not* correct?
 - a She wanted to start work as soon as possible.
 - b Her father had recently died.
 - c She was not worried about her dreams.
 - d On the train, she couldn't remember her father's face.
 - e She had felt alone since her father's death.
 - f She had always wanted to have a child.
 - g She was still frightened by her father's stories about the man-wolf-vampire.
2. 'She felt sure that the animal wanted to tell her something.' (page 9) Do you think Susie imagined this?

CHAPTER 2

1. Complete the summary

The Beast does its work in If you listen to its voice, you are sure to The Beast, half and half , has been in the world since the beginning of time. Men have tried to kill it with silver , but it changes into the The Beast kills anything for and dead You never know if you meet the Beast; it might look like a black or a beautiful

CHAPTER 3

1. Is it Susie or Charlie? Which character ...
 - a has dark eyes, short dark hair and a white face?
 - b is much taller, with thin blond hair?
 - c doesn't understand everything about the other person?
 - d thought a child might be what they needed in their lives?
 - e thought of taking a holiday in order to have more time together?
 - f said how cold it was in the holiday house?
 - g often wanted to cry?
 - h felt the air moving around inside the house?

CHAPTER 4

1. Match the events to the dates.
 - 1 1899
 - 2 a few years later, in the 1900s
 - 3 during the twentieth century
 - 4 1988
 - 5 1999
 - a The beast lived secretly in the woods of Eastern Europe.
 - b The beast became careless and was seen in Germany.
 - c After the farmer died, nobody believed the story he had written about that night.
 - d The beast returned to its home, Wales.
 - e The son of a rich family left the area after shooting himself in the leg.
 - f One night, on Brynmawr Hill, a farmer shot a strange thing that was killing his sheep.

CHAPTER 5

1. Look at the words in italics. Who or what is *he*, *she*, *they*, etc.?
 - a *He* had dark, greying hair and very white skin, like a plant that has grown without light.
 - b *She* had an uncomfortable feeling that she knew him from somewhere.
 - c 'Looked terrible, *they* did. Tongues gone, ears and noses bitten off.'
 - d '*It's* a werewolf, everyone knows that. Half man, half wolf.'
 - e *It* was a quiet little village with only a few shops.
 - f *He* remembered the words, 'a hunter's moon' from when he was a child.

Susie Richard Charlie Llandafydd
Tom Lloyd's sheep the Beast of Brynmawr

2. How would you explain the deaths of Tom Lloyd's sheep?

CHAPTER 6

1. Put the sentences in the right order to make a paragraph.
 - a He was interested in the woman because she had met death in her life.
 - b His plan was to leave a present for her.
 - c Then he put on his special belt, felt his body become strong and went out into the night.
 - d Also, he was sure he had seen her somewhere before.
 - e The beast had watched the visitors arrive on Brynmawr hill, and had seen them in the pub.
 - f These were the reasons why the beast wanted her to enter his world.
2. Chapter 6 ends with the words, 'I will know what to do when the moment comes.' What do you think the beast is going to do?

The Beast

Carolyn Walker

CHAPTER 7

1. Match what Susie says with Charlie's replies.

- 1 'Charlie, there's something outside.'
 - 2 'Charlie, Charlie!'
 - 3 'What is it, Charlie?'
 - 4 'Do you think that someone is trying to play some sort of terrible joke on us?'
 - 5 'Do you think the Beast of ... ?'
- a 'It's a dead sheep.'
 - b 'Um, what? Go back to sleep, there's nothing there.'
 - c 'No ... I don't. Forget about it. There's no such thing.'
 - d 'What on earth is the matter?'
 - e 'Susie, you mustn't think about it. It was probably just a fox or something.'

CHAPTER 8

1. Match the beginnings and endings.

- 1 Susie and Charlie went for a walk on Brynmawr Hill
 - 2 Charlie decided to walk around the hill while
 - 3 Charlie realised the dead sheep had died somewhere else
 - 4 When it started to rain heavily
 - 5 Charlie was surprised to see Susie lying on the ground
 - 6 When Susie woke up, she explained that
 - 7 Charlie thought Susie must be ill
- a she had felt very strange and had heard animal noises, like wolves.
 - b because there had been no blood coming from the animal.
 - c just as if she was asleep.
 - d when she asked him if she was going mad.
 - e Charlie returned to find Susie.
 - f because it was a beautiful day.
 - g Susie was taking some photos.

CHAPTER 9

1. Fact or possibility?

- 1 On the way to the pub, Charlie was thinking about the dead sheep.
- 2 Susie saw something in the middle of the road just before the accident.
- 3 The car ran off the road and hit a tree.
- 4 Susie saw the beast among the trees just after the accident.
- 5 Charlie was not too badly hurt in the accident.
- 6 Richard had recently moved to the area.
- 7 The dead sheep that Susie found belonged to Tom Lloyd.

2. Why do you think Tom Lloyd needed a silver bullet?

CHAPTER 10

1. The beast says, *I'm patient and I think of everything*. Find some examples in Chapter 10 which show how the beast works patiently.
2. Find three adjectives which the beast uses to describe Susie.

CHAPTER 11

1. Who did what? Which character ...

- a was kind and helpful after the accident?
 - b would have to stay in hospital for at least a week?
 - c thought that a werewolf might be killing the sheep?
 - d realised that the dangers were not real but imagined?
 - e made Susie feel that her conversation was important and interesting?
 - f thought that Richard was very good-looking?
2. Whose voice do you think Susie heard in her dream?

CHAPTER 12

1. True, False or Don't know?

- a Richard took Susie to the hospital to see Charlie.
- b Susie would prefer not to work, like Richard.
- c The men with guns were looking for the sheep killer.
- d Susie felt relaxed and comfortable in Richard's house.
- e Richard let Susie use his phone.
- f Richard began to change as Susie went to sleep.
- g Susie was going to enter the world of the beast.

CHAPTER 13

1. Look at the words in italics. Choose the correct one in each sentence.

- a Susie woke up in Richard's house, feeling *awful* / *great*.
- b She remembered having a *whisky* / *coffee* with Richard.
- c She escaped by breaking the *door* / *window*.
- d She heard a terrible *shout* / *scream* on the hill.
- e Tom shot at the animal *once* / *twice* / *three* times.
- f Susie was sure that she had seen a *man* / *werewolf*.

2. Match the beginnings and endings.

- 1 Its eyes
 - 2 It began to make a strange and terrible noise,
 - 3 It was moving
 - 4 Its lips were pulled back
 - 5 Its large dangerous teeth
- a were white in the moonlight.
 - b in a terrible smile.
 - c were burning like fires.
 - d like a wolf.
 - e faster than the wind.

CHAPTER 14

1. 'They looked at each other. They both knew that what they were thinking was impossible.' (page 56) Make a list of the 'impossible' things that have happened to Susie.

2. Can you imagine how the story will end in the next chapter?

CHAPTER 15

1. What happened after Tom Lloyd shot at the beast? Put the events in order.

- a Nobody saw him because his body became a stone.
- b So he returned to Wales as a red kite to hunt and kill.
- c Then, he had to find blood again in this world.
- d The silver bullet did not kill him
- e He became one of the undead in the world of darkness.

2. At the end of the story, the beast says: *I will return to take what is mine*. What do you think he means?

After reading

Choose some of these activities.

1. On page 58, the beast talks about stories of strange animals from different countries. Do you know of any stories like these?
2. Stories about werewolves and vampires are found in many different countries. Did people believe in these stories in the past? Do you think people take these stories seriously today?
3. Have you read any other books or seen any films with a story like *The Beast*?
4. Imagine there is an extra, final chapter called *2000 – The Millennium*. Talk about what might happen in this chapter.
5. Imagine a film is going to be made of *The Beast*. Which film stars would you choose to play the characters?
6. On page 59, the Beast says 'For the camera does not lie, but shows the world as it really is.' How true do you think this idea is?
7. 'Susie found herself talking to Richard as if he was an old friend.' (page 40). Write the conversation between Susie and Richard.
8. Here is a local newspaper headline: THE BEAST OF BRYNMAWR RETURNS. Write the story for the newspaper.
9. Make your own activities for other students to do. e.g. Write some True/False questions.
10. Here is the blurb from another book at this level.

How I Met Myself

One icy winter's evening in Budapest, a man runs straight into John Taylor as he walks home through the narrow streets. John falls over into the snow and looks up at the man's face. 'I felt very afraid. Because what I saw was me. My face looking down at me. My mouth saying sorry.' Who is the man, and how will John's life change?

Do you want to read *How I Met Myself*?