

## MEET THE AUTHOR

### Hi, Robert, can you tell us a little about yourself?

I was born in Wales, grew up in Scotland, and then lived in England for many years. Now I live in Spain where I spend most of my time writing. This is the third reader I've written for Helbling Languages.

### Where did you get the idea for this story?

*The Green Room* is about some young people at a summer theater school. When I was a teenager, I wanted to be an actor so I joined the National Youth theater (NYT). The NYT is an organization that encourages<sup>1</sup> young people aged 14-21 to learn about the theater. A lot of actors have been members including Orlando Bloom, Daniel Craig, Daniel Day-Lewis, Helen Mirren, and Matt Smith.



The first play<sup>2</sup> I acted<sup>3</sup> in was *Zigger Zagger* which was about football fans<sup>4</sup>. It was an amazing<sup>5</sup> experience so I decided to write a story about teenagers having a similar experience today.

### Did you ever become a professional<sup>6</sup> actor?

No, I wasn't good enough! But a few years later I wrote the music for some NYT plays and became a musical<sup>7</sup> director<sup>8</sup>. I wrote the music and songs for a lot of shows before I started writing stories. One of the shows was about the actor James Dean, who is mentioned in the story.

### Does the story have a message?

Yes, it does. But you'll have to read the story to find out what the message is.

- 1 encourage [ɪnˈkʊrɪdʒ] (v.) 鼓舞
- 2 play [pleɪ] (n.) 戲劇
- 3 act [ækt] (v.) 演出
- 4 fan [fæn] (n.) 迷；粉絲
- 5 amazing [əˈmeɪzɪŋ] (a.) 驚人的
- 6 professional [prəˈfeʃənəl] (a.) 職業的
- 7 musical [ˈmjuzɪkəl] (a.) 配樂的
- 8 director [dɪˈrɛktər] (n.) 指導人

## BEFORE READING

- 1** Look at the pictures of the main characters in the story and write the correct name in each sentence.



Laura



Lucy



Marc



Nathan

- a) ..... is ambitious and likes wearing bright colors.
- b) ..... is quite shy and wears glasses.
- c) ..... is romantic and has long hair.
- d) ..... is ambitious and has fair hair.

- 2** Which of the characters do you think likes drawing?  
Give a reason for your answer.

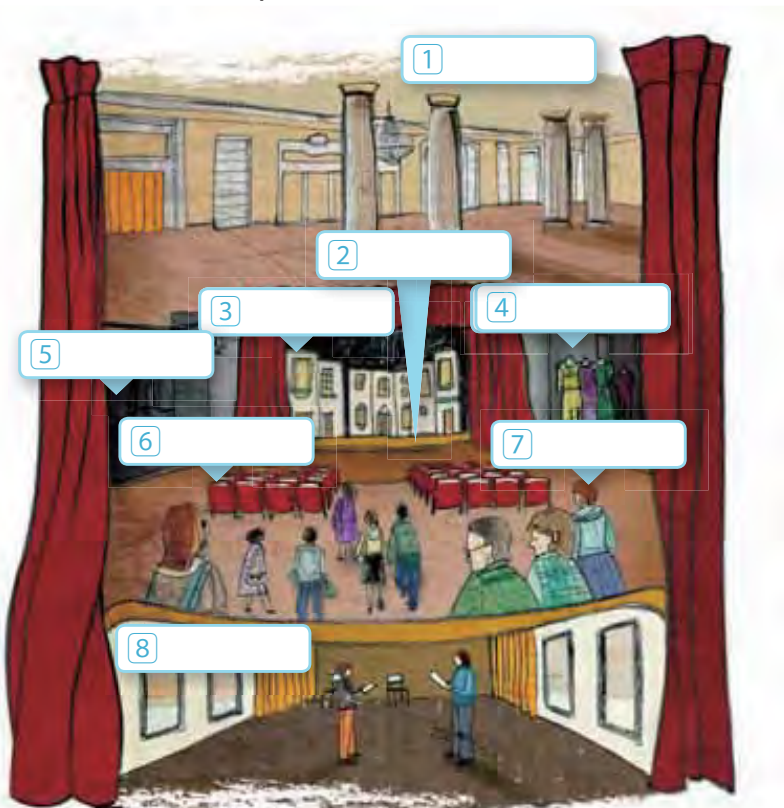


- 3** Choose one of the characters and imagine you are him/her.  
Think about what “you” are like. Write down **adjectives** to describe yourself, hobbies, friends, etc.

Now in pairs introduce yourselves. Ask and answer questions.  
See how much information you can find out about the other character.

- 4 One of the settings of *The Green Room* is inside a theater. Label the pictures with these theater words.

- |     |                |   |
|-----|----------------|---|
| (a) | audience       | people who watch a show                                       |
| (b) | auditorium     | part of a theater where the public sits                       |
| (c) | costumes       | clothes actors wear in a play                                 |
| (d) | foyer          | area near the entrance of a theater                           |
| (e) | rehearsal room | place where actors and musicians practice                     |
| (f) | scenery        | objects and backgrounds that represent the location of a play |
| (g) | stage          | part of a theater where the actors perform                    |
| (h) | wings          | area at each side of the stage that the public doesn't see    |



**5** The “green room” is another place in a theater. What do you think it is?

- ☐ (a) a room where actors change into their costumes
- ☐ (b) a place where actors can relax
- ☐ (c) a box where some of the audience sits

**6** Read the advertisement and answer the questions.

- ☐ (a) Are you the right age to attend “The Green Room” summer school?
- ☐ (b) Which area are you most interested in—acting, singing, or dancing?
- ☐ (c) Would you like to do the course? Why or why not?
- ☐ (d) “Auditions start next week.” What are auditions? How do you say the word in your language?

- 7** Write an email to "The Green Room" saying why you want to take part in the summer school.

To:	auditions@thegreenroom.com
From:	
Subject:	Auditions for "The Green Room" summer school

- 8** William Shakespeare (Will) and James Dean (James) both feature in the story. What do you know about them? Circle the correct name.



William Shakespeare



James Dean

- |             |              |     |   |
|-------------|--------------|-----|---|
| <b>Will</b> | <b>James</b> | (a) | He wrote around 38 theater plays.                                   |
| <b>Will</b> | <b>James</b> | (b) | He was an actor.  |
| <b>Will</b> | <b>James</b> | (c) | He was English.   |
| <b>Will</b> | <b>James</b> | (d) | He only made three films.   |
| <b>Will</b> | <b>James</b> | (e) | He was born in 1564.  |
| <b>Will</b> | <b>James</b> | (f) | He died in 1955.  |
| <b>Will</b> | <b>James</b> | (g) | He was called the first American teenager.                          |
| <b>Will</b> | <b>James</b> | (h) | His famous quotes include: "If music be the food of love, play on." |

- 9** Use the words in the box to complete the titles of some of Shakespeare's plays.

Dream   Errors   It   Juliet  
Night   Nothing   Venice   Well

- (a) All's Well That Ends \_\_\_\_\_
- (b) As You Like \_\_\_\_\_
- (c) The Comedy of \_\_\_\_\_
- (d) The Merchant of \_\_\_\_\_
- (e) A Midsummer Night's \_\_\_\_\_
- (f) Much Ado about \_\_\_\_\_
- (g) Romeo and \_\_\_\_\_
- (h) Twelfth \_\_\_\_\_

- 10** Look at some of Marc's drawings from the story.  
What can you see in the pictures? What do you think happens in the story?





- 11** Read and listen to this text about a play. Then read the sentences below and tick (✓) true (T) or false (F).



The students at “The Green Room” summer school come together to produce a play. A play has many different elements to it. A play has a plot. The plot of a play is usually based on dialogue, which is what the characters say. A play also has stage directions, which are written instructions given by the playwright. The stage directions give information about the setting of the play. The setting is where and when the play takes place, helped also by the scenery. The stage directions also help the actors understand how to move and act.

- T F** (a) A play doesn't have a plot.
- T F** (b) Stage directions are written instructions.
- T F** (c) The setting of a play is helped by scenery.
- T F** (d) Stage directions are only about the setting of a play.





"What am I doing here?" Laura asked herself, looking over the shoulder of the boy in front of her. There was a long line of teenagers standing outside the theater<sup>2</sup> and Laura was at the end of the queue<sup>3</sup>.

"There are at least eighty people here," she thought.

It was Saturday morning and Laura was feeling nervous as she waited to go inside the theater. She was also feeling guilty<sup>4</sup> because she had lied to Mum and Dad at breakfast.

"Where are you going?" Dad asked.

"To Lucy's house," Laura said. "We have to revise<sup>5</sup> for an exam and then we have swimming practice."

"Will you be late?" Mum asked.

"I don't know. I'll phone. OK?"

Lucy knew about the plan in case<sup>6</sup> Laura's mum or dad phoned her. Lucy was Laura's best friend and she always helped Laura out<sup>7</sup>.

When Laura left home in the morning, carrying her sports bag, she started walking in the direction of Lucy's house but when she reached<sup>8</sup> the main road, she turned left instead of right and walked quickly to the train station. There was a train at 10:03 and the journey<sup>9</sup> to London only took 30 minutes. She could easily reach the theater before 11:00.

<sup>1</sup> audition [ə'dɪʃən] (n.) 試演

<sup>2</sup> theater ['li:tə] (n.) 劇場

<sup>3</sup> queue [kju:] (n.) 排成行列

<sup>4</sup> guilty ['ɡɒlti] (a.) 內疚的

<sup>5</sup> revise [rɪ'veɪz] (v.) 〔英〕復習

<sup>6</sup> in case 萬一

<sup>7</sup> help out 幫助擺脫困境

<sup>8</sup> reach [ritʃ] (v.) 抵達

<sup>9</sup> journey ['dʒɪni] (n.) 車程時間



On the train, she took her sports bag<sup>1</sup> to the toilet and changed clothes—a red top<sup>2</sup> to attract<sup>3</sup> attention, her best jeans, and the new shoes she bought with Lucy last weekend. She put on some make-up<sup>4</sup> and then looked at herself in the mirror. “You can do it!” she told herself.

Laura felt so confident<sup>5</sup> on the train but now she was standing outside the theater and she felt nervous and guilty.

“What am I doing here?” she asked again. But this time she realized<sup>6</sup> she said it aloud because the boy in front turned round and looked at her.

“Are you talking to me?” said the boy in glasses.

Now Laura was feeling nervous, guilty *and* stupid. She wanted to run back to King’s Cross station and take the first train home. But then she saw the notebook in the boy’s hand. He was drawing a picture of the queue of teenagers standing outside the theater.

Laura smiled.

“That’s a really good drawing<sup>7</sup>,” she said.

“Thanks,” he said.

“I’m Laura,” she said.

“I’m Marc,” the boy said. “Marc with a c. Like Marc Chagall.”

When Laura didn’t react, Marc added, “The painter<sup>8</sup>?”

“I know who Marc Chagall is,” Laura lied.

Marc smiled and Laura felt positive<sup>9</sup> again.

“He believed me,” she thought. “Maybe I really am a good actor.”



1 sports bag 運動包包

2 top 上衣

3 attract [əˈtrækt] (v.) 吸引

4 make-up [ˈmekʰp] (n.) 化妝品

5 confident [ˈkɒnfɪdɪnt] (a.) 有信心的

6 realize [ˈrɪəˌlaɪz] (v.) 了解到

7 drawing [ˈdrɒɪŋ] (n.) 鉛筆畫

8 painter [ˈpeɪntɪ] (n.) 畫家

9 positive [ˈpɒzɪtɪv] (a.) 正面的；

有自信的