



THE GREEN ROOM

Robert Campbell

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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 organisation that encourages 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 I acted in was *Zigger Zagger* which was about football fans. It was an amazing experience so I decided to write a story about teenagers having a similar experience today.

Did you ever become a professional actor?

No, I wasn't good enough! But a few years later I wrote the music for some NYT plays and became a musical director. I wrote the music and songs for a lot of shows¹ 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 shows: plays, musicals, etc.

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.

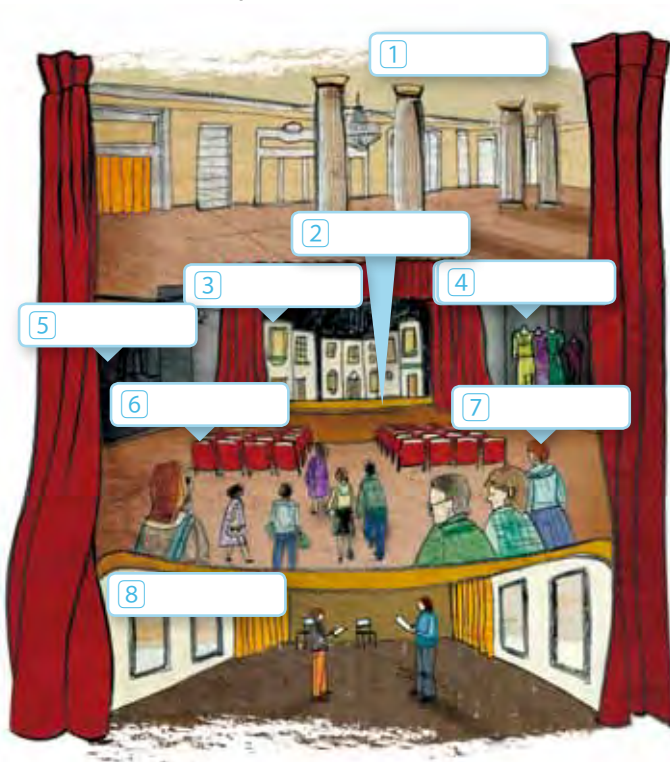


- 3 Choose one of the characters and imagine you are him/her. Think about what "you" are like. Write down **adjectives** to describe yourself, hobbies, friends, etc.

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.

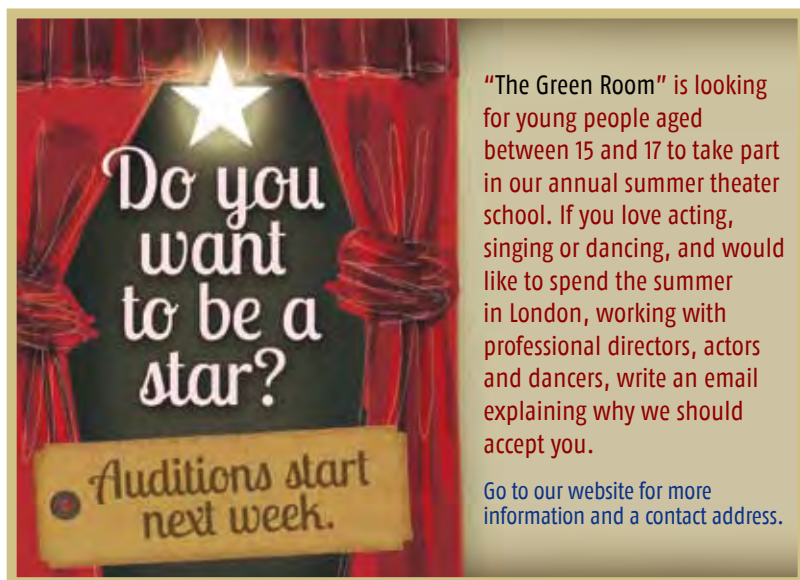
- | | | |
|-----|----------------|---|
| (a) | audience | people who watch a show |
| (b) | auditorium | part of a theater where the public sits |
| (c) | costumes | clothes actors wear in a play |
| (d) | foyer | area near the entrance of a theater |
| (e) | rehearsal room | place where actors and musicians 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.



“The Green Room” is looking for young people aged between 15 and 17 to take part in our annual summer theater school. If you love acting, singing or dancing, and would like to spend the summer in London, working with professional directors, actors and dancers, write an email explaining why we should accept you.

Go to our website for more information and a contact address.

- ☐ 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

- | | | | |
|-------------|--------------|------------------------------|---|
| Will | James | <input type="checkbox"/> (a) | He wrote around 38 theater plays. |
| Will | James | <input type="checkbox"/> (b) | He was an actor. |
| Will | James | <input type="checkbox"/> (c) | He was English. |
| Will | James | <input type="checkbox"/> (d) | He only made three films. |
| Will | James | <input type="checkbox"/> (e) | He was born in 1564. |
| Will | James | <input type="checkbox"/> (f) | He died in 1955. |
| Will | James | <input type="checkbox"/> (g) | He was called the first American teenager. |
| Will | James | <input type="checkbox"/> (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 shoulder² of the boy in front of her. There was a long line of teenagers standing outside the theater³ and Laura was at the end of the queue⁴.

"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 because she had lied⁵ to Mum and Dad at breakfast.

"Where are you going?" Dad asked.

"To Lucy's house," Laura said. "We have to revise 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 Laura's mum or dad phoned her. Lucy was Laura's best friend and she always helped Laura out⁶.

When Laura left home in the morning, carrying her sports bag, she started walking in the direction of Lucy's house but when she reached⁷ 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 to London only took 30 minutes. She could easily reach the theater before 11:00.

¹ **audition:** short performance to get an acting job

² **shoulder:** the part of your body between your neck and your arms

³ **theater:** building used for performing plays

⁴ **queue:** line of people waiting

⁵ **lied:** said something that wasn't true

⁶ **helped out:** helped

⁷ **reached:** arrived at