

LITERATURE – 4B

Fenella and her grandmother are going to travel to Picton by boat. Fenella, her father and her grandmother are at the port.

START THINKING ...

1 Work in pairs. Discuss the questions.

- Do you think long journeys are boring? Why / why not?
- What's the best way to travel?
- What's the best journey you've ever been on?



Katherine Mansfield
1888–1923

THE VOYAGE (1921) Katherine Mansfield

The Picton boat was due to leave at half-past eleven. It was a beautiful night, **mild, starry** with a light wind. It was dark in the port, very dark. There were lamps here and there but their light wasn't bright enough in all that dark.

Fenella's father walked quickly. Beside him, her grandma walked along in her long, black coat. They walked very fast and Fenella ran to stay near them. As well as her **luggage**, Fenella carried her grandma's umbrella.

'First **whistle**,' said her father, and at that moment they saw the Picton boat. You could see the boat in the dark night because it was covered in golden lights: it looked ready to travel among the stars, not in the cold sea. People walked along the **gangway**. First her grandma, then her father, then Fenella. An old **sailor** helped people down onto the **deck**. There they were. They moved out of the way of the other passengers and stood under the stairs and began to say good-bye.

10 'There, Mother, there's your luggage!' said Fenella's father, giving Grandma another bag.

'Thank you, Frank.'

'And have you got your cabin tickets safe?'

'Yes, dear.'

'And your other tickets?'

15 Grandma felt inside her pocket and showed him the tickets.

'That's right.'

He sounded angry, but Fenella saw that he looked tired and sad. They heard the second whistle above their heads, and a voice shouted, 'Any more for the gangway?'

'You'll give my love to Father,' Fenella heard him say. Grandma was a little worried and answered, 'Of course I will, Frank.'

20 Go now. You'll be left on the boat. Go now, Frank. Go now.'

'It's alright, Mother. I've got another three minutes.' To her surprise, Fenella saw her father take off his hat. He held Grandma in his arms. 'God bless you, Mother,' she heard him say.

And Grandma put her hand on his face and she cried, 'God bless you, my own son.'

This was so awful that Fenella turned her back on them and looked at the little green star high up on the ship. She turned round again because her father was about to leave.

25 'Good-bye Fenella. Be a good girl.' Fenella held onto his coat.

'How long am I going to stay?' she **whispered**. He didn't look at her but he said kindly, 'We'll see about that. Here! Where's your hand?' He gave her a **shilling**. 'That's for the journey.'

A shilling! That was a lot of money. 'Am I going away **forever**?' thought Fenella. 'Father!' Fenella cried. But he was gone. He was the last person off the ship.

Glossary

mild when the weather isn't very cold, or isn't as cold as usual

starry lit by stars

luggage all of the bags you take with you when you're travelling

whistle an object you blow through to make a loud, high sound

gangway a bridge that people use to get on or off a ship

sailor a person who works on a ship

deck an area outside on a boat to walk on

whisper to speak very quietly so that only the person close to you can hear you

shilling a unit of money used in Britain until 1971

forever for all the time

2 **4B.1** Read the text and listen.

3 Read the text again. Complete the summary with the words in the list.

worried | family | busy | realizes | bags | light
 Three members of the same ¹_____ have arrived at a port. It's late at night and there isn't much ²_____. The grandmother and granddaughter, Fenella, have some ³_____ with them. When they get on the boat, it's very ⁴_____. The man, Fenella's father, is ⁵_____. He doesn't want to leave his mother and daughter. Fenella is very upset when her father leaves. She ⁶_____ that she won't see him for a long time.

4 **READ BETWEEN THE LINES** Circle the sentence that cannot be true.

- a The boat is leaving soon.
- b It's a very busy scene.
- c Fenella's grandfather is on the boat.
- d Fenella's father doesn't want to answer her question.

5 **VOCABULARY** Complete the sentences with the correct words from the glossary.

- 1 They got out of their tent and looked at the _____ night sky.
- 2 We knew the team had lost before we heard the final _____.
- 3 It usually snows here in December, but it's very _____ this winter.
- 4 You can only take one piece of hand _____ with you on the plane.
- 5 A bag of sweets only cost one _____ when my grandmother was a child.
- 6 Mark didn't want to be a _____; he was often sea sick.

6 **ROLE PLAY** Work in pairs. Student A is the sailor on the boat, Student B is Fenella. Put the sentences in the correct order. Then act it out.

- ___ FENELLA My father isn't coming with us. I don't know when I'll see him again.
- ___ FENELLA Sorry, what did you say? It's very noisy.
- ___ FENELLA Thanks.
- ___ SAILOR Is this yours? Hey, you look upset. What's wrong?
- ___ SAILOR I'm sorry to hear that, Miss. Poor you.
- 1 SAILOR Sorry, I didn't see you there. Is this your luggage?

7 **LISTENING** **4B.2** Listen to the next part of the story. Write F (Fenella) or G (Grandma).

- 1 She wants to go to the room quickly. _____
- 2 She thinks the sandwiches are too expensive. _____
- 3 She's wearing a black hat. _____
- 4 She's got some fruit to eat. _____
- 5 She sleeps on the top bed. _____
- 6 She has travelled a lot. _____

8 **4B.2** Listen again. Match the questions with the answers.

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| 1 What does the waiter say? | a Two pence each! |
| 2 Who has already met Grandma? | b Have a good journey. |
| 3 Who paid for the room? | c The steward. |
| 4 What does the steward say when she sees their clothes? | d I'm so sorry. |
| 5 What surprises Fenella about Grandma? | e Fenella's father. |
| 6 What does the steward say at the end? | f She can climb to the top bed. |

WRITING Symbolism

9 **WRITING** Write 50–75 words about the importance of objects in the text. Think about the objects in the list.

lamps | coat | whistle | boat | luggage
 green star | shilling

- What do the characters' things tell us about their lives? Are they rich or poor?
- Are objects compared to something else? (What does '(the boat) looked ready to sail among the stars' mean? What is the boat being compared to?)
- Are everyday objects given more importance? (Why is Fenella's shilling so important to her?)
- When you have finished your work read it again. Check your spelling, grammar and punctuation.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Voyage is a short story. Short stories are short works of fiction – they can be just a few sentences long or fifty or more pages. They usually focus on one incident and use lots of descriptive language. Writers who are famous for their short stories include: Mark Twain, Henry James, F. Scott Fitzgerald and Katherine Mansfield.