



BATMAN BEGINS - EXTRA

Level 2

This level is suitable for students who have been learning English for at least two years and up to three years. It corresponds with the Common European Framework level A2. Suitable for users of CROWN magazine.

SYNOPSIS

This is the story of how Bruce Wayne began his life as Batman. Going back to Bruce's childhood, it follows the events that led him to take on the forces of evil in Gotham City. As the story opens, Bruce is in prison in Bhutan, far from Gotham. He is released by an intelligent and brilliant fighter, Ducard, who belongs to a community of Ninjas high in the icy Himalayas, under the leadership of Ra's Al Ghul. Bruce spends many months there, improving his strength and his fighting skills, and fine-tuning his senses. He then discovers, however, that Al Ghul wants to destroy Gotham and he expects Bruce to help him.

Bruce refuses, escapes and returns to Gotham, now a miserable city run by crime lord Carmine Falcone. And his double life begins. In public Bruce is a lazy, rich man who enjoys the good life. In private he becomes Batman and he pledges to return Gotham to its former glory. Batman teams up with Sergeant Gordon and Bruce's childhood friend, Rachel Dawes, now a city lawyer. Together they take on first Falcone, then Dr Crane of Arkham Asylum and finally the big boss, Ra's Al Ghul, who has followed Bruce to Gotham. His plan is to poison the city with drugs in the water supply. Batman stops him at the last moment and Gotham is saved.

THE BACK STORY

Batman Begins takes the original comic book explanation of why Bruce Wayne becomes Batman and turns it into an epic story of one man's journey to find his destiny in the world. We see Bruce the child's warm family life pointlessly destroyed when

a mugger randomly shoots his parents for a few dollars. The Batman theme of good versus evil runs through this book.

There is a psychological dimension to the story. Bruce has a terrifying experience with bats as a child, which indirectly leads to his parents' deaths, and for which he has always blamed himself. He has wandered the world, looking for answers. He tries to shoot dead his parents' killer but finds that revenge is not the answer. Finally he understands that he is not guilty and that his destiny lies at home in Gotham. He turns his fear of bats into an understanding of them – acknowledging that fear is often based on ignorance. And now he must save Gotham.

Batman's main enemy in this story is Ra's Al Ghul. He leads the League of Shadows, a secret group of highly trained Ninja fighters. His mission is to cleanse the world of people and allow Nature to regain control of the planet.

Another enemy in Gotham is Dr Crane, the head man at Arkham Asylum. Batman's comic book enemies have names like the Penguin and the Joker. Dr Crane is the Scarecrow, because he wears a mask like a scarecrow's head.

Media links

DVD: The film of *Batman Begins* is available on DVD/video. A sequel to the film is planned for 2008.

Internet: Try the official website www.batmanbegins.com and www.imdb.com/BatmanBegins/. For information about Batman comic books, go to www.dccomics.com.

Book: This reader is adapted from *Batman Begins: the Junior Novel* by Peter Lerangis, published by Scholastic (ISBN 0-439-72509-7).

HOW TO USE YOUR SCHOLASTIC ELT MEDIA READER

Choosing and motivating

Is this the right story for your class? How many of your students have seen *Batman Begins*? Motivate them with some background information. Read aloud the first page of the story with dramatic atmosphere.

Organising

Plan a class reading schedule. Decide how many pages to set for reading each week. Select exercises from the back of the reader and extra activities from this resource sheet to go with each chunk of reading. (Answers are on page 4 of this sheet.)

Using the DVD

Try to get the English language DVD of *Batman Begins*. Watch it yourself first to check that it is suitable for your class. Show it in chunks of, say, 20 minutes in parallel with the class reading schedule. Alternatively, just choose one or two scenes to focus on. Or show the whole film in two sessions, perhaps over two lunchtimes when the whole class can get together. The book story is shorter and less complex than the film version – watch for differences with your students.

Glossary and casual language

Go to New Words! at the back of the reader. Translate the words with the class or get students to find meanings using dictionaries at home. Introduce the casual language used in *Batman Begins* (see page 3 of this resource sheet).

Fact Files

Set these as self-study or use for whole class work. The files answer some Batman FAQs, present Batman's gadgetry as a shopping catalogue page and examine the issue of facing personal fears that is explored in the film. Project ideas are on page 4 of this resource sheet.

What did they think?

Get everyone to review *Batman Begins*. Hit or miss? Did you like it? Let us know at readers@link2English.com.

COMPETITIONS AND UPDATES

Check readers@link2English.com for competitions and other activities related to the Scholastic media readers.



BATMAN
BEGINS
- EXTRA

People and places

1 Who are they?

- a) Which two people work at Wayne Enterprises?
.....
- b) Which two people work or worked at Wayne Manor?
.....
- c) Which two people live on a mountain in Bhutan?
.....

2 Tick the boxes. Gotham City has ...

- a tower great jobs for people an asylum
- a manor house dark, frightening streets
- lots of criminals a mountain a train station

3 Are you a Batman fan? Do you know what happened to him when he was a child? Do other students know? Ask them.

Chapter 1: The blue flower

1 Choose the best words in italics to complete these sentences.

- a) Bruce is in prison *near / far away from* Gotham City.
- b) Bruce is *stronger than / not as strong as* the other prisoners.
- c) Bruce will find the answer to his question *in a blue flower / at the top of the mountain*.
- d) When he was little, he *fell into / climbed out of* a well full of water / bats.
- e) When Bruce gets to the top of the mountain, Ducard welcomes him with a *fight / cup of tea*.

2 Use these words to complete the sentences.

fault ready bats fighter money play

- a) Bruce is frightened of
- b) Bruce and his parents leave the early because Bruce is frightened of the bats.
- c) Joe Chill takes Bruce's parents' and then kills them.
- d) Bruce thinks it is his
- e) Ducard teaches Bruce to be for anything.
- f) Bruce is now a very good

Chapter 2: Bats everywhere

1 Put these events from Bruce's life in the right order.

- a) Bruce comes back to Gotham City when he is 20.
- b) Bruce falls down a well when he is 8. /
- c) Bruce goes to lots of different schools and universities.
- d) Bruce is in prison in Bhutan some years later.
- e) Bruce joins Rā's Al Ghūl and his Ninjas.
- f) Joe Chill comes out of prison and a blonde woman kills him.
- g) Joe Chill kills Bruce's parents.

2 Correct these sentences.

- a) Bruce is ~~still~~ ^{not} frightened of ~~bats~~ ^{now} bats.
- b) The roof falls on Ducard and kills him.
- c) Ducard saves Bruce's life at the edge of the icy mountain.
- d) William Earle is not surprised to see Bruce.
- e) Lucius Fox's office is always very busy.

Chapter 3: A man of the night

1 Who ...

- a) is everyone in Gotham frightened of?
- b) escapes before Batman flies into Falcone's office?
- c) doesn't escape?
- d) doesn't want any help from Batman?
- e) had plans to make a lot of money before Bruce came back to Gotham?

2 Where ...

- a) do a lot of Gotham people live now?
- b) does Batman introduce himself to Rachel?
- c) is Falcone when the newspapers take pictures of him?
- d) does Crane give drugs to Falcone?
- e) is he going to take him?

3 Work with two friends. One of you is a police officer. The others are ship workers. The officer is giving the workers a small white bag. Have their conversation.

Chapter 4: The white smoke

1 Make sentences.

- a) The Narrows are dangerous i) is the same as the smoke from the blue flower in Bhutan.
- b) Rachel thinks Bruce ii) maybe Batman is dangerous.
- c) Crane's white smoke iii) streets in Gotham City.
- d) Bruce sleeps for two days iv) is rich and lazy.
- e) Rachel thinks that v) after he smells the drug.

2 Rachel learns that Dr Crane has moved Falcone to the asylum. Why is she worried, do you think?

RESOURCE SHEET STUDENT ACTIVITIES

3 Dr Crane asks a ship worker, 'What are the boss's orders?' Who do you think 'the boss' is? Talk to a partner.

4 The Narrows is a dangerous part of town. Is there a place like this where you live? Write about it.

Chapter 5: 'Rā's Al Ghūl is dead'

Write in the missing question words.

How	Why	Where	Who	What
-----	-----	-------	-----	------

- a) are the people in white coats making drugs?
- b) can't Rachel escape?
- c) does Batman do to Crane?
- d) is Crane's boss?
- e) does Batman save Rachel?

Now answer the questions in an exercise book.

Chapter 6: A surprise guest

1 Write Yes (Y), No (N) or Maybe (M) next to these statements.

- a) There is a dangerous drug in Gotham's drinking water.
- b) The strange machine can kill everyone in Gotham.
- c) Ducard is Rā's Al Ghūl.
- d) Bruce says terrible things to his guests because he hates them.
- e) The Ninjas set fire to Bruce's home.
- f) The police officers blow up the wall of the asylum and push the machine outside.
- g) Part of the roof falls on Rā's Al Ghūl.

2 Work with a partner. You are guests at Bruce's party. Bruce has asked you to leave. You are in the car going home. Talk about Bruce. Remember – you are upset and angry.

Chapter 7: CRRRAASSSSHHHH!!!

1 Find words to complete these sentences.

- a) The have escaped from the asylum.
- b) Rachel gives Gordon the
- c) Batman gives Gordon the to the Batmobile.
- d) The railway line is high the road and the river.
- e) Rā's fights Batman on the train with his
- f) The crashes and catches fire.

2 Imagine that Batman *doesn't* stop Rā's. What will the future hold for Gotham? Talk to other students.

Final Tasks

1 The film makers asked the singer Marilyn Manson to be Dr Crane. Was that a good idea, do you think? Choose your favourite singers and/or actors for the main parts: Bruce Wayne, Rachel Dawes, Ducard/Rā's Al Ghūl's and Carmine Falcone. Compare choices with other students.

2 Choose one of the photographs in the book. Write about it.

VOCABULARY BUILDER

Look at the New Words! at the back of *Batman Begins*.

1 Find the best word for each of these definitions.

- 1. Mardi Gras! Halloween! You can wear this to hide your face.
- 2. It's hot. There's too much sun. Put some of this in your drink. Cool it down.
- 3. People lived in these before they learned to make houses.
- 4. You're angry, you're a comic book character, this comes out of your ears ... whooooshh!
- 5. If you're standing on top of this, don't look down! Whoah!
- 6. He lives on the streets. He doesn't have one of these over his head.
- 7. Some people in the countryside get their water from here.
- 8. It's small, dark brown, has small eyes and long teeth ... it's one of these.
- 9. When one of these happens, there's a big noise and clouds of glass and bits.
- 10. This is long, it's made of metal, it's quite heavy, it's dangerous. Don't touch it! Ouch!

2 There are wrong words in each of these sentences. Find the right New Words.

- 1. Bruce Wayne wears a skirt when he goes to Wayne Industries for the first time.
- 2. Ducard makes a cup of tea from the blue flower that Bruce brings.
- 3. Carmine Falcone is Gotham's most famous footballer.
- 4. This story ends in a prison in Bhutan.
- 5. Rachel is a top detective.

Casual language

- **'Wow!'** Bruce says this to himself when he sees Rachel for the first time in ten years. He can't believe it. She looks fantastic.
- **'No way!'** Bruce says this to Lucius when Lucius wants him to slow down in the Batmobile. That is not going to happen!
- **'Who says?'** William Earle doesn't believe that Lucius is the boss of Wayne Industries. Bruce says, 'I say.'
- **'I can't stop.'** Bruce says this to a guest at his party. He means he can't stay and talk – he's in a hurry.

Choose an expression to respond to these statements.

- 1. 'I'm giving you orders from now on.'
'.....'
- 2. 'Hey, Sam. We're just going for a coffee. Come and join us.'
'.....'
- 3. 'I'm going for a run. Do you want to come?'
'.....'
- 4. 'Look at those shoes! They're £300!'
'.....'

BATMAN FAQs (pages 46-7)**Quiz**

Everyone reads the Batman FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions). Students prepare 5 questions on the information in the spread and then quiz each other. Do they have any FAQs of their own about Batman? Can anyone in the class answer them?

Research

Ask students to research answers to specific questions about other super heroes, using the Internet or the library, e.g.

Catwoman: How does Patience Philips become Catwoman in the Halle Berry film? (She dies; a magical cat brings her back to life.) Catwoman first appeared in a Batman comic. Where and when? (Gotham City, 1940)

Superman: What is Superman's home planet called? (Krypton) What's the name of the newspaper that Clark Kent works for? (The Daily Planet) When was the first Superman comic published? Is he older or younger than Batman? (1938; he's one year older than Batman)

Mr Incredible: Who is Mr Incredible married to? (Elastigirl) What does he have on the front of his superhero suit? (The letter "i")

Spider-man: Which of Spider-Man's enemies is a brilliant scientist? (Doctor Octopus) How did Peter Parker become spider-man? (A GM (genetically modified) spider bit him)

BATMAN'S GADGETS (pages 48-9)**Adverts**

Students choose one of the gadgets and write a radio advert for it. They can give it a name, a price, say where it is available and think of a sentence that will make you want to buy it.

Inventions

Students think of a gadget that would make their lives easier. It can be as practical or as fantastic as they like, e.g. one remote control for all the electronic equipment in their house (you can already get these) or a dematerialiser that can transport you from one place to another in a second. They can describe their idea (they don't have to know how it works) to the class. The class can vote on the best gadget.

FACING OUR FEARS (pages 50-1)**Survey**

Students prepare a survey based on the list of scary things or their own ideas, asking e.g. *How frightened are you of spiders? 5 (very) 4 (quite) 3 (a bit) 2 (hardly at all) 1 (not at all)*

They can ask people in and outside the classroom, noting the age and sex of each interviewee. They can then present their results to the class, e.g. *Boys aged 14 to 16 are not afraid of anything. Ten per cent of girls aged 13 to 15 are afraid of global warming.*

DVD FOLLOW-UP**Atmosphere**

After students watch the first part of the film, ask them to think of words to describe the atmosphere and feel of it, e.g. *dark, unfriendly, cold, icy, scary, frightening, black, dangerous, poor, homeless, hopeless*. Put the words on the board. Students can use them in descriptions of the places Bruce travels through.

Observing

Choose a short scene before class and prepare questions on it. Tell students to watch and observe details about clothes, where people are, etc. Play the scene a couple of times and then ask your questions, e.g. *Are the people inside or outside? Is it raining? How many people hit Bruce? What colour is the prison officer's shirt?* Play the scene again for students to check answers.

ANSWER KEY**Self-Study Activities (pages 52-5)**

- 1 a) cave b) ice c) suit d) sword e) bat f) roof
 2 a) tower b) well
 3 a) hole b) exploding c) mental d) begin
 4 a) lawyer b) criminal c) criminal, prison
 6 a) The guard opens the door.
 b) Because he fell into a well full of bats when he was 8.
 c) A criminal called Joe Chill kills them with a gun.
 d) To use his ears and eyes and to think quickly.
 e) Because a blonde woman kills him first.
 f) He remembers the worst days of his life.
 g) The roof falls on him.
 h) No. He says he is but he isn't really.
 8 a) machines b) steam c) drugs d) mask
 10 a) The ship workers work for Carmine Falcone; Falcone works for Dr Crane; Crane works for 'the boss'. b) Batman
 c) Because Falcone knows too much.
 d) He can't sell Wayne Enterprises. He's lost one of his biggest ships. It's carrying an expensive machine.
 11 a) Bruce b) Alfred c) Lucius d) Sergeant Gordon e) Rachel
 12 The correct order is: e, f, d, c, g, b, a.
 14 a) have > have not b) doesn't know > knows
 c) Ducard is Rā's Al Ghūl. d) he doesn't like them > they're in danger and they have to get out fast e) Bruce sets > The Ninjas set f) Rā's Al Ghūl > Bruce g) doesn't escape > escapes
 15 a) She gives him the antidote. b) He's going to turn all the water in the city river into steam. His machine is on the train.
 c) Guns are no good against the batsuit. d) He throws Rā's Al Ghūl's sword under the wheels. e) Lucius Fox f) No.

Resource Sheet Activities**People and places**

- 1 a) Lucius Fox, Richard Earle b) Alfred Pennyworth, Rachel Dawes's mother c) Ducard, Rā's Al Ghūl
 2 Gotham City has a tower, an asylum, a manor house, dark, frightening streets, lots of criminals and a train station.

Chapter 1: The blue flower

- 1 b) stronger than c) at the top of the mountain d) fell into, bats
 e) fight (Bruce wanted a cup of tea, though!)
 2 a) bats b) play c) money d) fault e) ready f) fighter

Chapter 2: Bats everywhere

- 1 The correct order is: b, g, c, a, f, d, e.
 2 b) Ducard > Rā's Al Ghūl
 c) Ducard > Bruce, Bruce's > Ducard's d) not > very
 e) always > never; busy > busy these days

Chapter 3: A man of the night

- 1 a) Carmine Falcone b) Dr Crane c) Falcone
 d) Sergeant Gordon's boss e) William Earle
 2 a) on the streets by the river b) in her bedroom c) lying across a big light by the river d) at the police station
 e) Arkham Asylum

Chapter 4: The white smoke

- 1 a) iii b) iv c) i d) v e) ii

Chapter 5: 'Rā's Al Ghūl is dead'

- a) Where; In a large room at the asylum. b) Why; Because Crane has locked the door. c) What; He pulls off Crane's mask and holds the smoke under his nose. d) Who; Rā's Al Ghūl. e) How; He carries her to the roof of the asylum.

Chapter 6: A surprise guest

- 1 a) M b) M c) Y d) N – he says it because they have to leave
 e) Y f) Y g) N – it falls on Batman

Chapter 7: CRRAAASSSSHHHHH!!!

- 1 a) criminals b) antidote c) keys d) above e) sword f) train

Vocabulary Builder

- 1 1. a mask 2. some ice 3. caves 4. steam 5. tower 6. a roof
 7. a well 8. a bat 9. explosion 10. a sword
 2 1. skirt > suit 2. cup of tea > drug 3. f ootballer > criminal
 4. ends > begins 5. detective > lawyer

Casual language

1. 'Who says?' 2. 'I can't stop.' 3. 'No way!' 4. 'Wow!'