

A **FREE** RESOURCE FOR TEACHERS!

aboutTime

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/TEAM magazines.

SYNOPSIS

Tim is twenty-one. He lives with his parents and sister, Kit Kat, in Cornwall, in the south-west of England. Shortly after his twenty-first birthday, his dad reveals an amazing family secret. All the men in their family have the ability to travel in time within their own lifetimes.

Tim decides to use his ability to help find him a girlfriend. He falls in love with his sister's friend, Charlotte, but time travel does nothing to help him win her love. Tim then gets a job as a lawyer and moves to London, where he meets Mary. It takes several trips back in time before Tim and Mary begin a relationship. They fall in love and start a family and, for a while, Tim's life seems to be perfect.

Trapped in a toxic relationship, life is not so good for Tim's sister, however, and Tim attempts to use his time travel powers to help her, but with little success. Instead, Kit Kat learns to take control of her own life and finishes with her boyfriend.

When Tim's father is diagnosed with terminal cancer, there is nothing Tim can do to prevent his death. Tim begins to realise that the secret to happiness is spending time with the people he loves and making the most of each new day. The message is clear: we are all travelling through time, every day of our lives, and it is up to each one of us to make the journey as good as it can possibly be.

THE BACK STORY

About Time was written and directed by one of the UK's most famous film writers, Richard Curtis. He has written twelve films in all, including *Four Weddings and a Funeral* and *Bridget Jones's Diary*. *About Time* is the third film he has also directed. Many of his successful films have been romantic comedies, such as *Notting Hill* and *Love Actually*, which are also set in and around London. Curtis has said that this is likely to be his last film and in it he makes some important points about life and living. The film stars Domhnall Gleeson (famous for roles in *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*, *True Grit* and *Anna Karenina*), and Rachel Adams (who has been the love interest of a time traveller twice before in *The Time Traveller's Wife* and *Midnight in Paris*).

MEDIA LINKS

DVD: The film *About Time* is available on DVD.

CD: A recording of *About Time* is available to accompany the Scholastic Reader.

Internet: You can find out more information about the film at www.imdb.com.

HOW TO USE YOUR SCHOLASTIC READER

Choosing and motivating

Is this the right story for your class? Have the students seen the film? Motivate them with background information (see The Back Story above) and by reading 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 Self-Study section at the back of the reader and extra activities from this resource sheet to go with each chunk of reading. (All answers are on page 4 of this resource sheet.)

Using the CD

Students can listen and follow in their books. They can listen and then read. They can read and then listen. All these activities will improve their reading speeds and skills.

Using the DVD

Select the English language option on the DVD. The film is 123 minutes. You could show it in chunks of around 15 minutes,

in parallel with the class reading schedule. Alternatively, show it as a reward when the class have finished the book.

Glossary

Go to 'New Words' at the back of the reader. Translate the words with the class or get students to find meanings at home. The Vocabulary Builder on page 3 of this resource sheet practises the new words in a different context.

Casual language

Introduce the informal expressions used in *About Time* (see Vocabulary Builder on page 3 of this resource sheet). Put them into context. Ask students to look out for them as they read.

Fact File

Set this as self-study or use for whole class work. It provides information on the London locations used in the film.

What did they think?

Get everyone to do a written or spoken review of *About Time*. Compare opinions. Will they go and see the film? Did you like it? Let us know at readers@link2English.com.

RESOURCE SHEET STUDENT ACTIVITIES



aboutTime

People and places

Answer the questions.

- a) Where does Tim's family live?
- b) Who is Tim's sister?
- c) Which two people love reading?
- d) Where does Tim go to live and work?
- e) Who likes fashion?

Chapters 1–2

1 Match the people and their descriptions.

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| a) Tim | i) is good-looking but not very nice. |
| b) Uncle Desmond | ii) is blonde and beautiful. |
| c) Kit Kat | iii) loves playing table tennis with his son. |
| d) Tim's mum | iv) is angry with the world. |
| e) Tim's dad | v) is tall and thin with red hair. |
| f) Charlotte | vi) doesn't show her feelings. |
| g) Jimmy | vii) is always well-dressed and smiles a lot. |
| h) Harry | viii) likes purple clothes. |

2 Complete the sentences with a, the or Ø.

- a) Tim's dad let him win atØ..... table tennis.
- b) They threw stones in sea.
- c) Suddenly pictures stopped.
- d) future was big adventure.
- e) Jimmy was Kit Kat's boyfriend.
- f) I started work as lawyer.
- g) This phone is most important thing in my life.
- h) The play was very clever story about lawyers.

3 Correct the mistakes in the sentences. One sentence is correct.

- a) Charlotte was Jimmy's ^{cousin}sister.
- b) Charlotte asked Tim to pass her the suncream.
- c) Tim stayed with Rory in London.

- d) Joanna was Mary's friend.
- e) Mary gave Tim her phone number on a piece of paper.
- f) An actor in Harry's play was ill on stage.

4 Work with a partner. Imagine you are Tim and his dad. Tim phones his dad to tell him about meeting Mary and helping Harry. Act out the conversation.

Chapters 3–5

1 Write what happened next.

- a) Tim saw Mary at the Saatchi gallery.
Then he talked to her and went round the gallery with her.
- b) Tim spoke to Mary at the party.
Then
- c) Tim saw Charlotte after the play.
Then
- d) Tim went back to Charlotte's hotel.
Then
- e) Tim asked Mary to marry him.
But

2 Who are the people or things in bold?

- a) **She** was standing in front of me and looking at the photograph. (She = Mary).
- b) **It** was at 26 Courtfield Gardens.
- c) **They** were a bit surprised to find me at Mary's flat.
- d) This time **she** looked really pleased to see me.
- e) **They** were very happy when I told them about the wedding.
- f) **It** was a great place for a wedding party.

3 Are these sentences about the wedding true (T) or false (F)? Correct the false sentences in your notebook.

- a) It was in London.
F. It was in Cornwall.
- b) They played Mary's favourite song.
- c) It rained a lot.
- d) They had a party at a hotel.
- e) Tim asked two different men to be his 'best man'.
- f) Kit Kat had a good time.

4 What do you think? At the end of Chapter 5 Tim says, 'I didn't always need time travel.' Why does he say this?

RESOURCE SHEET STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Chapters 6–8

1 Answer the questions.

- a) Why was Kit Kat upset before she had the accident?
Because she and Jimmy had a fight.....
- b) Why did Tim take Kit Kat back to the New Year's Eve party?
.....
- c) What did Kit Kat do when they went back to the party?
.....
- d) What changed in Kit Kat's life after going back to the party?
.....
- e) What lesson did Tim learn from taking Kit Kat back into the past?
.....
- f) What did he and Mary do to help Kit Kat?
.....

2 Complete the sentences with the correct prepositions.

about for from in round up without

- a) We worry a lot ..~~about~~... the little things.
- b) I knew his face that something was wrong.
- c) I put my arm her.
- d) Mary was bed with our new baby.
- e) Are we ready this?
- f) I am completely uninterested in a life your father.
- g) Our children grew and went to school.

3 What do you think?

- a) Why does Tim stop travelling in time?
- b) When Tim has another baby, he can't see his dad anymore. Was he right to have another baby?

4 Tim says his dad always gave him his time. Is this the best thing that a father can give his child?

FINAL TASKS

1 In Chapter 7, Tim lives the same day again, but does it better. Tell your partner how you might change some things that happened yesterday.

2 Work in groups. Imagine you are one of the characters from the story. Tell the group about a day in your life. How quickly can the group guess which character you are?

3 Write a wedding invitation to Tim and Mary's wedding.

4 What do you think happens to these characters after the end of the story? Compare your answers with the class. Vote on the best ideas.

- a) Harry b) Rory c) Charlotte

VOCABULARY BUILDER

1 Choose the correct words from the 'New Words' at the back of your reader.

- 1. You go to this when someone has died. *funeral*
- 2. You watch plays here.
- 3. You find these on the beach.
- 4. You watch this person in a film.
- 5. A lawyer works in this place.
- 6. You sometimes do this when you watch a scary film.
- 7. You may do this when you meet a friend.
- 8. This is one of the most important parts of your body.

2 Complete the sentences with the correct words from the 'New Words'.

- 1. He's very He always knows what to say.
- 2. I'm I haven't seen Lisa for a long time.
- 3. We had a discussion in class about exams.
- 4. You must the bottle before you open it.
- 5. The holiday was a ! It rained all the time.
- 6. It was an film. I want to see it again.

Casual language

- **'guy'** (p.12, p.22). We use 'guy' instead of boy or man. Tim describes himself as 'the tall, thin guy without a girlfriend'.
- **'I can't wait!'** (p.12). We say this when we are really excited about and looking forward to something. Tim says he 'couldn't wait' to live his life as a time traveller.
- **'Sure.'** (p.13, p.17). We use this to agree to something. It is similar to 'of course'.
- **'over'** (p.11, p.20). We use this to say that something is finished. Tim thinks his life is over when he finds out that he hasn't got Mary's phone number.
- **'Can't it wait?'** (p.27). We ask this when we are busy and want to know if something is important or not.

Complete the sentences with the Casual language expressions.

- 1. I'm on holiday next week.
- 2. A: Are you and Belle still going out?
B: No, it's
- 3. A: Can you help me with this homework?
B: Let's look at it together.
- 4. A: I need your advice.
B: I'm really busy.
- 5. There's a new in our class. He's cool.

FACT FILE FOLLOW-UP

ON LOCATION IN LONDON! (pages 50–1)

Pre-reading

Give students these questions before they read the Fact File. How many can they answer? They read pages 50–1 to check their answers.

1. Where do Richard Curtis's films *Notting Hill* and *Love Actually* take place?
2. What takes place in Notting Hill every August?
3. Where does the Prime Minister of the UK work?
4. Is there really a restaurant called *Dans Le Noir*?
5. What is the name of the river in London?

(Answers: 1. London 2. The Notting Hill Carnival 3. at the Houses of Parliament in Westminster 4. Yes, there is. It is one of a group of restaurants which started in Paris, France. 5. The River Thames)

On location

Ask students to imagine that *About Time* is going to be filmed in their own country and capital city. They discuss which locations and buildings could be used and which scenes could be filmed there.

Presentation

Ask students to find out information about and/or watch one of the other Richard Curtis films. They then give a short presentation to the class or group, giving a summary of the story and some facts about the main actors. The class votes on the film they would most like to see.

Tourist guide

Students choose one of the locations in the Fact File and research more detailed information about it. They should think about: location, history, events and interesting stories. They write a section for a tourist guide of London saying why tourists would enjoy visiting this place.

DVD/CD FOLLOW-UP

Observation

Play a scene from the film and ask students to watch carefully. Ask comprehension questions about the scene afterwards. Then play another scene. This time students watch and write at least two questions for other students to answer.

Prediction

Read a chapter with the students and play the relevant part of the film or CD. Stop at some dramatic points and ask what happened next.

Differences

Play a scene from the DVD and ask students to note down things they think are different from the reader. Stop the film after the scene. In pairs, students write down two things which are different and one thing which is the same in the reader and in the film. They then read their list to another pair. The other pair decide which thing is the same.

ANSWER KEY

Self-Study Activities (pages 52–3)

- 1 Open answers.
 2 a) ii b) iv c) i d) iii
 3 a) table tennis b) Kit Kat c) 21 d) a lawyer e) the south-west
 4 a) the day after the New Year's Eve party (NOT *at the New Year's Eve Party*) b) he stands in a cupboard or small dark room (NOT *in the middle of the room*) c) kisses Polly (NOT *shakes Polly's hand*) d) Harry (NOT *Uncle Desmond*) e) It was easy (NOT *It was difficult*) f) to the theatre (NOT *to the court*)
 5 & 6 Open answers.
 7 a) Kate Moss b) Kit Kat c) Mary d) Joanna e) Rory f) Charlotte
 8 a) T b) F. She isn't enjoying it. c) F. Tim moves into Mary's flat. d) F. Tim and Charlotte have dinner. e) T f) F. They love her. g) F. They are going to have a baby.
 9 The correct order is: c, e, a, b, f and d.
 10 a) wedding b) tent c) scream d) worried
 11 a) in a church in Cornwall b) summer c) red d) rainy and windy e) Rory f) his dad g) Jimmy was talking and laughing with other girls.
 12 a) ii b) i c) i d) ii
 13 & 14 Open answers.
 15 a) Tim's mum to Tim and Mary when Tim's dad is ill. b) Uncle Desmond to Tim when Tim's dad is ill. c) Tim to his dad when his dad is ill and he visits him in Cornwall. d) The shop girl in London when Tim relives one day. e) Tim to his dad the last time he sees him.
 16 a) iii b) iv c) i d) ii e) vi f) v
 17 Open answers.

Resource Sheet Activities

People and places

- a) Cornwall b) Kit Kat c) Mary, Tim's dad
 d) London (the City) e) Mary

Chapters 1–2

- 1 b) vii c) viii d) vi e) iii f) ii g) i h) iv
 2 b) the c) the d) the, a e) ∅ f) a g) the h) a
 3 b) put sunscreen on her back (NOT *pass her the sunscreen*)
 c) Harry (NOT *Rory*) d) This sentence is correct.
 e) put her number in Tim's phone (NOT *gave Tim her phone number on a piece of paper*)
 f) forgot his lines (NOT *was ill*)
 4 Open answers.

Chapters 3–5

- 1 Possible answers:
 b) they went for dinner. c) they went for dinner.
 d) ran all the way back to Mary's flat. e) she went back to sleep.
 2 b) It = Joanna's party c) They = Mary's parents
 d) She = Charlotte e) They = Tim's family f) It = the tent
 3 b) F. It was Tim's and his dad's favourite song. c) T
 d) F. They had the party in a tent/in Tim's parents' house.
 e) F. He asked four different men. f) F. Kit Kat was not happy.
 4 Open answers.

Chapters 6–8

- 1 b) He wanted to stop her meeting Jimmy.
 c) She hit Jimmy. d) Jay was her boyfriend.
 e) He couldn't travel back before the day his baby was born.
 f) They sat by her bed in hospital until she decided to leave Jimmy.
 2 b) from c) round d) in e) for f) without g) up
 3 & 4 Open answers.

Vocabulary Builder

- 1 2. theatre 3. stones 4. actor 5. court 6. scream 7. kiss
 8. heart
 2 1. confident 2. worried 3. serious 4. shake 5. disaster
 6. amazing

Casual language

1. I can't wait! 2. over 3. Sure. 4. Can't it wait? 5. guy