

stories for thinking students

Nueva serie de
lecturas graduadas.

Cada narración trata un tema social y moral para invitar a pensar, y a favorecer el debate en el aula. Temas que van desde el “bullying” en el colegio, hasta el consumo de drogas, el terrorismo internacional o la guerra de Iraq.



Esta serie sigue una pauta muy importante, como es la utilización no sexista del lenguaje.



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stories for thinking students

Con cuatro niveles de dificultad, contienen un vocabulario de 600, 1.000, 1.500 y 2.000 palabras, respectivamente.

Títulos originales, con un pequeño número de protagonistas y narraciones sólidas para garantizar el interés de la lectura, de principio a fin.

Cada libro contiene una estructura gramatical específica para su nivel, un vocabulario y ejercicios de comprensión de texto, así como un glosario.



graded readers

level 1

Verbs	The verbs to be and to have (got). Imperatives. Present simple. Present continuous – with future reference. Going to - future. Past simple (common regular and irregular verbs). The modals must, mustn't, can, can't . Questions. Short answers.
Nouns	Singular and plural. Countable and uncountable. Possessives.
Pronouns	Personal. Demonstrative. Interrogative.
Others	Adjectives, qualifying and predicative. Verb + adverb. Adverbs and adverbial phrases marking time. Two-clause sentences with and, but, or, because . Suggestions.

level 2

Verbs	Future simple. Past continuous. The modals have to, could, should . Question tags. Ask / tell + infinitive. Like + gerund. Infinitive of purpose.
Clauses	Main clause + one subordinate clause. Relative clauses with who, that, which .
Others	Conjunctions. Adjectives, comparative and superlative. Simple indirect speech (with tense changes).

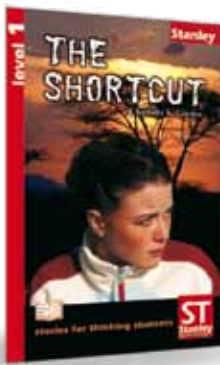
level 3

Verbs	Present perfect. Used to + infinitive. Simple passive (present and past simple). The modals need, may, might .
Adjectives	Too + adjective. Not + adjective + enough. Much, many, a lot...
Others	First conditional. Conjunctions. Indirect speech (including indirect questions).

level 4

Verbs	Conditional. Past perfect. Passive (present and past continuous). Passive (present and past perfect).
Others	Second conditional. Indirect speech with past perfect. Non-defining relative clauses.





The Shortcut

Temas para el debate: tensiones familiares, descubrir lo que de verdad es importante en la vida.

978-84-7873-427-6

THE SHORTCUT

2

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"Look, Helen," my father said, pointing at the map, "if we take this little road here, we can save two or three hours."

"No, Harry," my mother said. "We must stay on the main road. We don't know if these small roads are safe."

"Don't be silly," my father said. "The war ended years ago. And anyway, we aren't going to be on this little road very long. Only about twenty minutes."

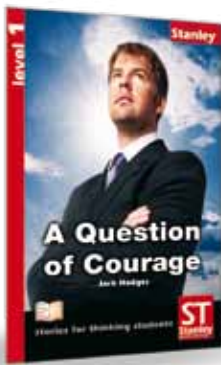
"No," my mother said again. "And that's final."

"Why not?" my father asked. "Look at it. It's a fantastic shortcut."

"You know very well why not. The war ended years ago but there are still many



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A Question of Courage

Temas para el debate: el sentido del valor, ser honesto con uno mismo, desarrollo de una moral individual.

978-84-7873-428-3

A Question of Courage

2

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A noise in the night

It was the middle of the night and I was in a forest in Africa. There was a hungry lion in front of me and another hungry lion behind me. I had a rifle in my hands. I lifted the rifle and prepared to shoot. But at that moment the rifle changed. It became an old pair of trousers. The lion in front of me smiled. It had long, yellow teeth.

That was when my wife woke me.

"George, there's somebody downstairs," she whispered. "Wake up." She shook me again.

"I... I... I... am awake," I said. "What time is it?"

"It's half past four," she said.

"Half past four in the morning?" I asked, still half-asleep.



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The Headcase

Temas para el debate: injusticia social, la desigual distribución de la riqueza, la responsabilidad que la sociedad contrae con los pobres, la relación entre el animal doméstico y el ser humano.

978-84-7873-429-0

THE HEADCASE

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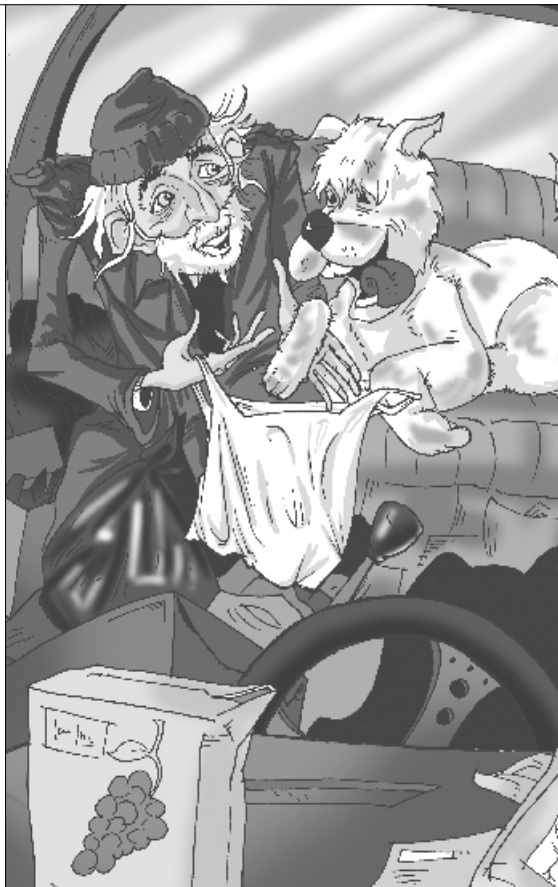
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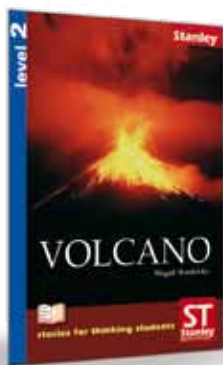
How to be poor

I woke up in my new home around seven. It was an old Peugeot with no wheels. Somebody left it behind an abandoned factory. They took the wheels and engine and seats. But the rest was perfect. Boxer and I found it yesterday afternoon and moved in immediately. I put in my two blankets, some old newspapers, some plastic bags and some other things. When I finished, it was nice and cosy, like a bird's nest. Boxer and I climbed in and shut the door. Soon it was nice and warm inside.

Now it was seven o'clock in the morning and there were two uniforms standing outside. They looked cold and unhappy. One of them knocked on the window, near my head.



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Volcano

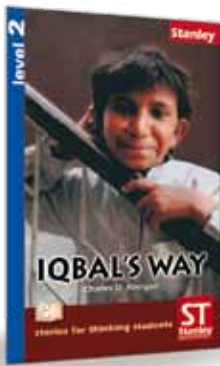
Temas para el debate: política medioambiental, el peligro de ignorar los avisos de la naturaleza.

978-84-7873-430-6

<p>Volcano 2</p> <p>stanley publishing</p> <p>1</p> <p>"Gentlemen," said the mayor, "we have very little time — only a few days. We musn't waste a moment. We must do everything we can."</p> <p>He looked at the men sitting in front of him. They were the most important men in the town. They shook their heads in agreement.</p> <p>"Yes," said Mr Leonard, the owner of a large sugar factory, "we must do everything possible. We can't let the other side win."</p> <p>It was 11 o'clock on the morning of Monday the 28th of April 1902. The men were sitting in a large room in the town hall. They were having a meeting to talk about the elections.</p> <p>"The governor," the mayor continued, "sent me a message yesterday. He told me</p>	
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Iqbal's Way

Temas para el debate: la esclavitud infantil hoy en día, los efectos de la globalización, derechos humanos, como una sola persona puede inclinar la balanza.

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IQBAL'S WAY

2

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No other way

It was one o'clock in the afternoon. The woman and the boy stood patiently in the bright sunlight. Flies buzzed in the air around them. The man sat in the shade of the porch, in front of his "factory". He finished his cup of sweet tea and lit a cigarette before speaking to the woman.

"How much do you need?" he asked.

"Six hundred rupees, sir" she said, looking at the ground. A rupee is the unit of money in Pakistan. Six hundred rupees are about \$12. The woman was poor. For her, six hundred rupees was a fortune.

"What for?" the man asked. "What do you want the money for?"

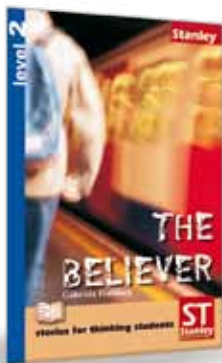
"My oldest son is getting married," the woman said. "We need money for the wedding." In Pakistan, even among the poorest people, it is a great shame not to



Photo ©: www.unicef.it



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The Believer

Temas para el debate: terrorismo internacional, democracia contra fundamentalismo islámico, odio racial y religioso.

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THE BELIEVER

2

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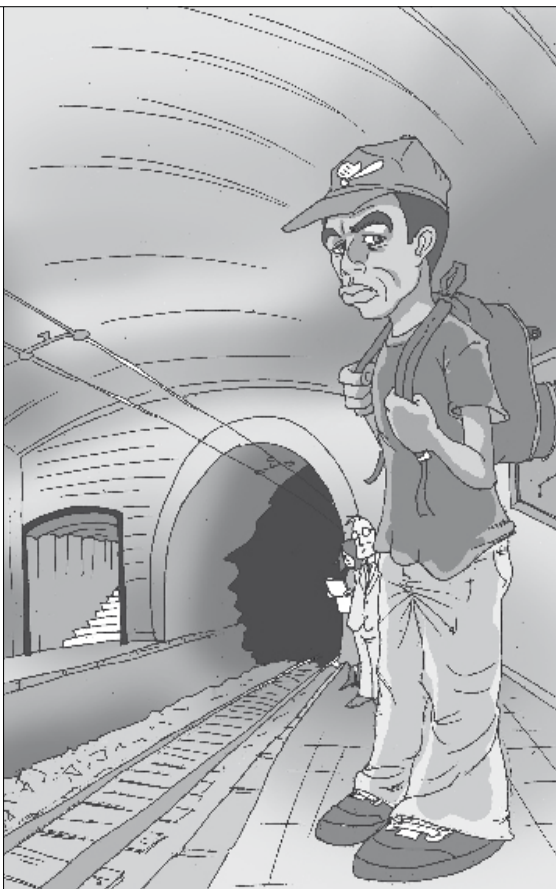


Like sheep

It is 8:45 on the 21st of March, the first morning of spring. The sun is already shining and it is obviously going to be a beautiful day. At this hour, the city streets are full of people hurrying to work. The people seem happier than usual, perhaps because of the warm weather.

One young man moves quickly along the street towards a large blue and white sign. The sign says: UNDERGROUND. The young man enters the tube station, goes to the ticket office and buys a ticket. Then he goes down some steps. He walks along several tunnels, turning left and right, and then down some more steps until he finds the platform he wants — the platform they told him to go to.

Several people are already waiting on the platform, reading newspapers or looking impatiently at their watches. The



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School of Fear

Temas para el debate: la relación psicológica entre la víctima y su agresor, el sentido de aislamiento e impotencia de la víctima, la complicidad pasiva del resto del grupo, la única salida.

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SCHOOL OF FEAR

2

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How it started

It started three years ago, more or less, on my third or fourth day in the secondary school. It was lunchtime and I was standing in the playground, just looking round me. We used to live up north but then my father changed his job and we moved down here, so everything was new for me. The town, the school, everything. I was a bit lost, I suppose. Anyway, I didn't know anybody in the playground. I still didn't know anybody's name, of course. In fact, when I look back, I can see I didn't know very much at all. But I was soon going to find out.

Anyway, what happened that day was this: I saw Barry Cowan and his gang beat up Tommy Marcus. Tommy was a skinny little fellow, even skinnier and smaller than me. There were a lot of people in the playground, so I couldn't hear what they were saying to him, but I saw Cowan and his two mates slapping Tommy, and pushing



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The Fire Trap

Temas para el debate: estereotipos de conducta sexual, mujeres trabajando en un "mundo de hombres", el éxito a través de la seguridad en uno mismo, descubrirse a sí mismo en situaciones "límite".

978-84-7873-434-4

THE FIRE TRAP
2

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1

Where there's smoke...

Ten minutes to midnight, 12th February. Snow falling and a bitterly cold wind sweeping along the avenue. In the block of flats on the corner, in flat 406, Jenny Hagen sat in front of the television, still wearing her fire service uniform. She had a glass of whiskey in her hand. It was her 35th birthday and she was celebrating it alone — although "celebrating" was hardly the right word.

She was not watching the television and, in any case, the sound was turned down. She was thinking, turning the same dark thoughts over and over in her mind: about Eric, how they met, how they fell in love, how they got married. How they fought, how they tried and tried again, how they failed. She thought about the divorce, nine months already. And now here she was alone, in a one-bedroom flat, on her birthday, surrounded by boxes of still



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The Kill Zone

Temas para el debate: política exterior norteamericana, el horror y la inutilidad de la guerra, la fiabilidad de la información que proporciona el gobierno.

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THE KILL ZONE

2

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A man's life

Billy never knew his father. Two months before the boy was born, his dad just packed up and left. Without a word of explanation. He just left. We never heard from him again.

I can't say I missed him much. Once Billy was born, I had everything I needed to keep me busy and happy. He was a wonderful child — great big eyes, curious about everything, always cheerful and smiling. He was never any trouble at all. And the fact that his father wasn't there made a special bond between us. We were always really close.

When he was a small kid, Billy collected little plastic soldiers. After a while, he had hundreds of them, from many different periods and places. He used to lie on the carpet in front of the fireplace and play with them. He formed improbable armies



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The Clearing

Temas para el debate: conocer y respetar la naturaleza, conservar el medioambiente, tensiones raciales, el respeto hacia todos los seres humanos.

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THE CLEARING

2

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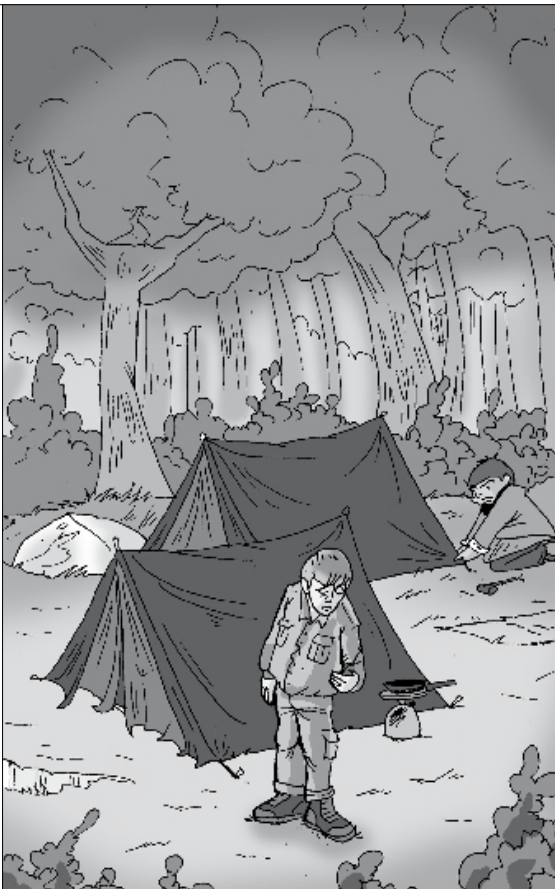
The night of the snake

He heard something moving behind his head, rustling on the floor of the tent. Instinctively he knew it was a snake. His body immediately froze.

The forest was full of snakes of all sorts and sizes. Not all of them were poisonous, not all were deadly. He waited.

Seconds later he felt the cold scales of the reptile slide slowly over his naked shoulder. He was sick with fear but he did not move. He forced himself to remain perfectly still. By its weight, he knew that the snake was a big one. As it slid across his shoulder and onto his chest, the weight increased. It was at least a metre long, and still it kept coming.

There was no light in the tent but from time to time the moon emerged briefly from the clouds above and a kind of half-light flooded the tent. That happened



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Every 15 Seconds

Temas para el debate: los peligros de los estereotipos sexuales, el auge de la violencia doméstica, la eficacia del sistema judicial en estos casos.

978-84-7873-437-5

Every 15 seconds

2

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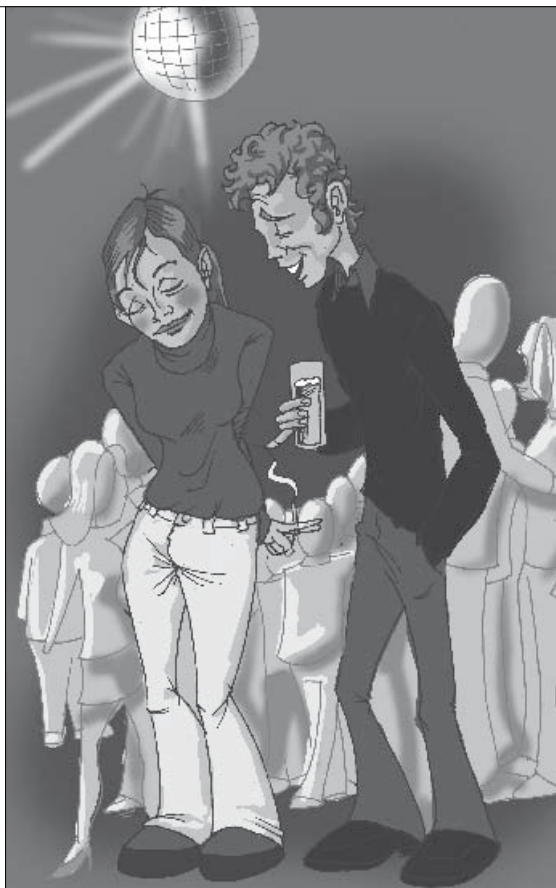
Where did it go wrong

It was love at first sight. At least for me it was.

I remember the first time I saw him. I was 16 years old and still at high school. He was 20 and in his second year at college. It was at a place we used to go to on weekends, a club called The Lowdown. They used to turn the music up high and the lights way down low.

I had gone there with two friends of mine, Cheryl and Darleen. They were dancing with each other, so I was sitting at the table all on my own.

He was standing at the bar with a group of his friends. They were laughing and joking about something, but he wasn't. He was just standing there, with a little half-smile on his face, and he was looking straight at me. He was tall, dark, handsome, and dressed in black from head



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The Devil's Deal

Temas para el debate: le el peligro que supone la droga, la vulnerabilidad de los jóvenes, el cinismo de los traficantes, el coste en vidas destrozadas.

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THE DEVIL'S DEAL

2

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Everything starts somewhere

Everything starts somewhere. The first time I smoked pot, I hardly knew what I was doing. I was eleven years old at the time and it was our babysitter, of all people, who gave it to me. My mom was out at some big dinner or something, and we knew that she wouldn't be home for hours and hours.

At that time, Lucy, the babysitter, was only about 16 or 17 herself. She probably thought it would be amusing to get me high.

"Hey, Danielle," she said, "you want to try something nice?" She lit up the fat, untidy-looking joint she'd been rolling so studiously and took a long drag.

"Is that what I think it is?" I said, pretending to know more than I actually did. I mean, what do you know when you're eleven years old?



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