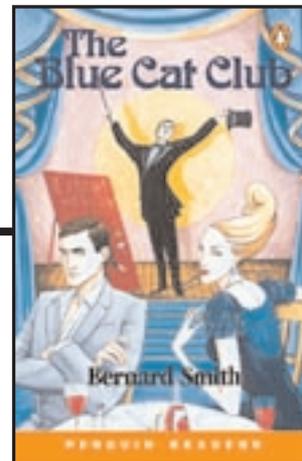


# Penguin Readers Factsheets

## Teacher's Notes

# The Blue Cat Club

by Bernard Smith



Easystarts The Blue Cat Club

## About Easystarts

Easystarts are Penguin Readers written to the lowest level in the Penguin Readers series. They are specially written originals, using 200 headwords and the simplest grammatical structures.

There are more than twenty titles to choose from across a range of styles and subject matter. All titles are in full colour, with carefully selected photos and/or artwork which helps to guide early learners of English. There is one page of activities at the back of each book.

Penguin Readers Easystarts provide pleasurable reading for all tastes at an appropriate level of difficulty.

## Summary

*The Blue Cat Club* is a funny, romantic story about a fashionable young couple, James and Chantal. One evening they drive to nearby Cannes, in the south of France, and spend a memorable evening at the Blue Cat Club.

Merlin, the 'Man of Magic', is a good magician. Everyone is laughing and enjoying the show. But when Merlin comes to James and Chantal's table, James is not happy. He thinks Merlin is too friendly with Chantal.

Merlin is going to do a trick with a big box and five long swords. He chooses Chantal as a volunteer but James says 'no'. Chantal persuades James to volunteer instead.

On the stage James walks into the big box and Merlin closes the door. Next, Merlin pushes the swords through the box. But when he pushes the last sword through there is a terrible noise from inside the box, 'Aaaaaaagh!' Is James hurt?

Merlin quickly opens the door. James's eyes are closed and his shirt is red! But then James walks out, smiling and holding up a tomato juice bottle! He has played a trick on Merlin. Chantal smiles at James and assures him that he will always be her 'Mr Magic'.

## Background and themes

**Illusion:** When Merlin takes fruit from a woman's hair and an egg from a man's mouth, people know it's a trick and they laugh. But when Merlin sees James's red shirt he thinks it's blood and he's very frightened. Illusion is only funny when we know it's a trick.

**Jealousy:** Chantal loves magic and Merlin is making her laugh. When Merlin touches Chantal, James is jealous. He plans his trick to win her admiration and full attention once more.

**Romance:** James and Chantal are rich, beautiful and young. *The Blue Cat Club* is a sweet romantic comedy where the young hero (James) wins the love of the beautiful lady, making a happy ending.

## Communicative activities

The following teacher-led activities cover the same sections of text as the exercises at the back of the reader.

### BEFORE YOU READ

- 1 Students look at the front cover of the book. Ask them questions about the book based on the cover illustration:
  - Where is this?
  - Who are the man and woman sitting at the table?
  - Who is the man in black? What is he doing?
- 2 Ask students if they like magic. Do they know any famous magicians? Do they watch magic shows? Can anyone do any tricks? (If you have time, or as a follow-up activity, students can show their tricks to the class. Then other students can try to guess how the trick was done.)

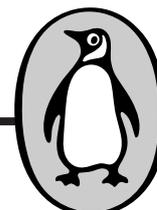
### AFTER YOU READ

- 1 Students look closely at the illustrations on the following pages. What are these characters thinking in each picture?
  - James – page 5
  - Chantal – page 5
  - Merlin – page 12
  - James – page 14
  - Merlin – page 14
  - Chantal – page 15
- 2 Who do you like best, James, Chantal or Merlin? Why?

## Extra words

There are twenty extra words, in addition to the 200 headwords, used in each Easystart title. The extra words used in this title are highlighted in question 1 at the back of the reader for teacher and students. They are:

box cabaret cat club egg end front hole  
laugh magic necklace push shoulder stage sword  
tomato juice touch volunteer wallet watch (n)



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## Student's activities

### ACTIVITIES BEFORE READING THE BOOK

Look at the picture on page 1. Where is this place? Who are the people? Write three or four short sentences about the picture.

### ACTIVITIES WHILE READING THE BOOK

#### Pages 1–3

- Write the correct word in the sentences below:  
cabaret cat club front magic tomato juice  
(a) My mother has a \_\_\_\_\_. His name is Tommy.  
(b) I sit at the \_\_\_\_\_ of the class.  
(c) The man is standing on water! It's \_\_\_\_\_!  
(d) I like eating tomatoes but I don't like \_\_\_\_\_.  
(e) You can dance at the \_\_\_\_\_ every night. On Saturday night there is also a \_\_\_\_\_.
- Write questions for these answers using 'where':  
(a) In a small town near Cannes.  
(b) In France.  
(c) In their garden.  
(d) To the Blue Cat Club.  
(e) In a big street near the sea.  
(f) At the front.

#### Pages 4–7

- Write the correct words in the sentences below:  
egg laugh necklace shoulder touch  
wallet watch (n)  
(a) I put my money in my \_\_\_\_\_.  
(b) Do not \_\_\_\_\_ the animals!  
(c) I eat an \_\_\_\_\_ and some bread for breakfast every day.  
(d) The girl is wearing a long dress and a beautiful \_\_\_\_\_.  
(e) The baby sits on his father's \_\_\_\_\_.  
(f) What is the time? Look at your \_\_\_\_\_!  
(g) Merlin does magic and people \_\_\_\_\_.
- Answer the questions.  
(a) What does Merlin do?  
(b) Is Merlin friendly?  
(c) Does Chantal like Merlin?  
(d) Does James like Merlin?  
(e) What does Merlin take from James?  
(f) Do you like Merlin?

#### Pages 8–11

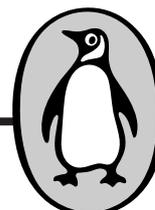
- Write the correct words in the sentences below:  
box end hole push stage sword volunteer  
(a) There is a \_\_\_\_\_ in my coat. I can't wear it.  
(b) I \_\_\_\_\_, and the door opens.  
(c) Your hand is at the \_\_\_\_\_ of your arm.  
(d) Merlin has five \_\_\_\_\_s, and one \_\_\_\_\_ on the \_\_\_\_\_.  
(e) Merlin needs a \_\_\_\_\_. He asks Chantal.
- Read the sentences below. Put them in the right order, from 1 to 10.  
(a) Merlin takes the five swords quickly from the box.  
(b) Merlin looks at Chantal with a smile.  
(c) The people in the room look at James.  
(d) Two men bring a big, heavy box on to the stage.  
(e) Merlin closes the door.  
(f) Merlin opens the door of the box.  
(g) James gets into the big box.  
(h) James says 'Not her, thank you.'  
(i) Merlin pushes the swords into the box.  
(j) James stands up quickly.

#### Pages 12–15

- Are the sentences right or wrong?  
(a) Merlin pushes the sword into James.  
(b) James is having a little game.  
(c) James's shirt has tomato juice on it.  
(d) James is not OK.  
(e) People at the tables are laughing at James.

### ACTIVITIES AFTER READING THE BOOK

- Look at the pictures in the book. Do not read the words. Use the pictures and make the story again.
- Work in pairs:  
*Student A:* You are Chantal. You want to go to a club and you want to see some magic. Talk to James. Does he want to see magic? What does he want to do? Why do you want to see magic? What do you like?  
*Student B:* You are James. You want to go to the cinema. You want to see a film. Talk to Chantal. Does she want to see a film? What does she want to do?



Managed by Mr Harris, this is a nightspot in Ankh-Morpork for those of an, er, alternative gender-inclination. It runs under the auspices of the Seamstresses' Guild, as in the opinion of Mrs Rosie Palm, un-natural acts are only natural! 'Mr Harris is also a member of the Guild's Inner council. Terry P devised the BCC for a single throwaway joke in a footnote. The context makes it clear it is a haven for gay men, and set up to suit their tastes and preferences. Leaning heavily on the book and Blue Cat. Social club in Kaunas. 5. 5 out of 5 stars. CommunitySee all. 1,531 people like this. 1,522 people follow this. AboutSee All.Â Harmoningas gyvenimas. Social club. Rene Deco - handcrafted jewelry & accessories. Product/service. Tuku Tuku - RÅ«bai Vaikams. Design & fashion. Aciety. Internet company. Write about the Blue Cat Club for an English language newspaper in Cannes. New Club in Town! The Blue ~t Club is a nightclub in Cannes. It opens this week. It is every evening from 7 CO 12 oclock. You can have good and drink rhere in a big, beauriful . There is every evening and yOli can dance. There is a every evening roo. This week it is a famous Man of His ; is Merlin. He is very clever. He rakes a from the people in rhe club and PUTS him iuro a big . on rhe Then he pushes five long swords into in the box.