



# The Cup in the Forest

Anne Collins



## Summary

*The Cup in the Forest* is a fictional story about a couple on holiday in the Norwegian countryside. One day they are walking in the forest when the boy, Per, finds a beautiful old cup with strange words on it. Then he sees a man in the trees, but his girlfriend Nina can't see him. They take the cup and drive to a small town, where they stay the night in a hotel. Per can't sleep and he sees a strange man standing in the garden, but again Nina can't see him. The next day they take the cup to a local museum. The curator tells Per and Nina to take it back to the forest immediately. The cup belongs to an old Viking called Hakon. Back at the hotel, Per sees Hakon again. He is very frightened, but Nina just wants to make money by selling the cup in Oslo. She takes the cup when Per is not looking and drives away. When she is passing through the forest, she sees a strange man and is very afraid. The car hits a tree and falls into the river. Per is following in the curator's car, but he arrives at the river to find Nina is dead. He sees Hakon walking away with his cup.

## Background and themes

**Greed:** Nina only thinks about the money she can make from the cup and ignores her boyfriend's feelings. Greed can make people blind to doing the right things.

**Ghosts and the supernatural:** Hakon died many years ago, but Per can see him and he influences the events of the story.

## Discussion activities

### Pages 1–7

#### Before reading

1 **Team game:** Write the following words on the board and check students understand them: *Norway, holiday, cup, ghosts*. Give students 5 minutes in groups to write down as many words as possible related to these things. Tell the groups to exchange papers and have them read out the words, accepting only those that are correct and related. Teams get a point for each word they have written. The winning team is the one with the most accepted words.

#### After reading

- 2 **Pair work:** Write on the board: *The forest is beautiful and Per likes it. The forest is dark and cold and Nina doesn't like it*. Ask students to individually make two lists of things they like and don't like. Now have them compare their lists in pairs, saying why they like or don't like these things. Get feedback from the class about what the pairs have in common.
- 3 **Predict:** Ask students to discuss in pairs: *Who is the man in the trees? What do the words on the cup say?* Get feedback from the class.

### Pages 8–15

#### After reading

- 4 **Pair work:** Student A chooses one of the drawings from these pages and describes the scene to student B. Student B tries to draw the picture from student A's description. Then they reverse roles. How good are the pictures?
- 5 **Discuss:** Ask the students: *Why is Per afraid?* (He can see a strange man and the cup belongs to him.) Elicit the answer and then ask students to talk or make a list in pairs about the things they are afraid of and why. Get feedback from the class.

### Pages 16–22

#### After reading

- 6 **Write and ask:** Write *Where does Per run?* on the board and elicit the answer (To the museum). Ask students to write another question about something from pages 16–19. Check their work as they do this. Now have students stand up and mingle, asking and answering each others questions.
- 7 **Team game:** Write *Nina, Per, the curator, Hakon* on the board. Now put the students in small groups to remember as much as they can about each character. Each team has to say a true sentence about a character in turn. They can't repeat sentences. When a team is wrong or can't think of a sentence, they are eliminated.

## Vocabulary activities

For the Word list and vocabulary activities, go to [www.penguinreaders.com](http://www.penguinreaders.com).