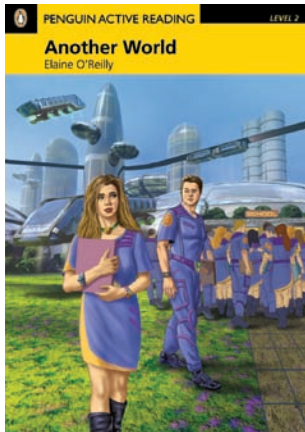




# Another World

Elaine O'Reilly



## Summary

BZ is happy in Eden City. He doesn't have a mother or father and no brothers or sisters. There are no families in Eden City. People are born in the New Life Centre and brought up in the Little People's Park. Now, BZ goes to school where he is taught to be happy. He has learnt his lessons well. Everybody is the same, everybody has blue eyes, everybody is beautiful . . . and everybody dies at the age of 25. What can the Real World offer someone from Eden City?

It seems that Eve, the mysterious stranger who appears one day on BZ's school bus, believes that the Real World is better than Eden City. She takes BZ on a visit to the Real World, where he is shocked by the noise, the dirt and the ugliness of people. He is repelled by Eve's family, and the fact that her parents are old. He does not understand about money, or why people should be rich or poor. He cannot understand the concept of freedom and the fact that differences are welcome.

BZ hurries back to Eden City and tries to forget his visit to the Real World. Meanwhile, we discover the true purpose of the visit. Eve was testing BZ on behalf of the Team, who rule Eden City . . . and BZ, with his conventional reactions to everything in the real world, passed the test with flying colours. He is perfect to be part of The Team. Eve, however, must now die, because now she is 25.

**Chapter 1:** BZ is on the bus to school and he meets Eve, a girl whose eyes are different. BZ is a bit uncomfortable with this, though she's happy, because she's different.

**Chapter 2:** Eve invites BZ to a dance and tells him she wants to tell him something that can change their lives.

BZ is tempted to go, but at the same time, he's not happy with her because she's different, therefore she's strange.

**Chapter 3:** Eve tells BZ about real freedom and offers to take him to the real world. BZ doesn't like the idea. He's afraid of change.

**Chapter 4:** BZ and Eve go to the end of Eden City and take a lift to the real world.

**Chapter 5:** BZ sees the real world and real people. He isn't happy.

**Chapter 6:** They take a taxi to Eve's house. On the way, they see houses for rich people. BZ doesn't understand the concept of money. Eve tells BZ about her family.

**Chapter 7:** BZ meets Eve's family. He sees old people and doesn't like it at all.

**Chapter 8:** BZ is back in Eden City. He's happy. He feels safe. Eve tells her boss about BZ's reaction. He's perfect for The Team. Eve is 25, and she's ready to die.

## About the author

Elaine O'Reilly was born in South Africa. She has written numerous books. She now lives in Rome, where she owns a bookshop and writes for children's television. She has two dogs, three cats and a daughter.

## Background and themes

**Temptation:** *Another World* is a story from a long tradition, one of the longest traditions in the history of writing. By placing BZ in Eden, the writer wants the reader to think of his world as a Christian biblical paradise, where everything is perfect and beautiful. Eve comes to tempt him with other pleasures.

**Utopia and perfection:** The myth of a Utopia, a land where everything is perfect. Is it possible? What price do people have to pay? The key question in considering utopias is what rights the individual should retain. What decisions should the state take on behalf of the individual? Is Eden City better than the Real World? As in all stories about Utopia, the reader must decide.

**Freedom:** What is the real meaning of freedom? Are people free if they can do what they like but they cannot take any decisions?

**Tolerance and respect for differences:** BZ gets to know the real world and is shocked to see that people are different. Differences are described as negative.



## Another World

**Ignorance:** In this story, ignorance is shown as something positive, something to be welcomed. However, there are people who decide who should be ignorant and who should not.

**Physical appearances:** BZ and people in Eden City only pay attention to physical appearances.

**Values:** They are not important; they are not taken into account. People are judged according to how beautiful they look. Only following rules without questioning them is given importance.

**People's opinion and critical thinking:** People are not expected to have opinions. They should blindly follow what they're told to believe, and they feel this is happiness.

**Happiness:** Readers are invited to discuss whether Eden City is a land of happiness if people are not free to choose anything.

**Social responsibility:** Should people who know more share this knowledge with those who don't? How can they affect society?

**Changes:** Changes and changing can be difficult, even if it is for the better, and some people prefer not to take the risk.

### Discussion activities

#### Chapter 1

##### Before reading

- Discuss:** Talk about the book cover. Guide students with these questions.  
*Is it fact or fiction?*  
*What can you see?*  
*Why is there a helicopter? Whose is it?*  
*Who is the girl? What's she doing? How's she feeling?*  
*What about the other people?*  
*Is there love in this story?*  
*Is the ending happy or sad? Do you think you're going to like the story? Why (not)?*  
*Is the world different? How different?*
- Discuss:** Talk about a different world. Have students discuss what type of world they would like to live in.  
*Think about a beautiful world for you. Is it dangerous? Are people ever afraid in this world? Is there hunger? Are there different feelings? What about freedom?*
- Read carefully:** Have students read the name of the chapter and the lines in italics after the title.  
*Why do students have to repeat? Do you think this is nice? Why (not)?*

##### After reading

- Discuss:** Talk about school procedures. Would the students like to change anything? Why (not)?

#### Chapter 2

##### After reading

- Discuss:** Talk about politeness and good manners. Have students discuss good and impolite behaviour. These questions can help the discussion:  
*What do you usually do to show you're friendly when ... you get a present?*  
*a person is sad?*  
*a person has a problem?*  
*you want to leave a place?*  
The students can also think of different situations where you can show polite and impolite behaviour.
- Research:** Look for information about other school rules or rules at schools in other parts of the world. Are the rules the same or different? Make a chart and compare rules and procedures at different schools.

#### Chapter 3

##### Before reading

- Read carefully:** Have students read the lines in italics after the title of the chapter. Have students read the lines below the title. Guide them with these questions.  
*What is the real world that the girl is talking about? Is BZ's world real? Why (not)?*

##### After reading

- Check:** Have students check their predictions. Go back to the questions you asked them and their answers to see if their predictions were right.
- Guess:** The real world. Have students predict what BZ is going to do.  
*Is BZ going to follow Eve? Why (not)?*  
*Is he afraid? What is he afraid of? Why does Eve want to show BZ the real world? Why is their world not real?*  
*What is he going to find in the real world that he can't see in Eden City?*  
*Is the real world better or worse than Eden City?*

#### Chapter 4

##### Before reading

- Guess:** What is going to happen? Have students look at the picture on pages 18 and 19.  
*Who can you see?*  
*What are they doing?*  
*Why are BZ and Eve behind the big boxes? What is there in the boxes?*  
*What are BZ and Eve going to do? How are they feeling?*

##### After reading

- Check:** Have students go back to their predictions about the picture on pages 18 and 19.  
*Were you right?*



## Another World

- 12 **Read carefully:** Life in Eden City. Tell students to re-read the chapter and make a list of activities in Eden City.
- 13 **Guess:** Will this journey change BZ's future?  
Tell students:  
*BZ thinks the journey will change his life. How?*

### Chapter 5

#### Before reading

- 14 **Read carefully:** Have students read the name of the chapter and the lines in italics below the title. Guide the students with these questions:  
*Who are 'they'? Are you happy when you're free? Can you be happy when you're not free?*

#### After reading

- 15 **Research:** Look for information about different types of breakfast.  
You can guide students with these questions:  
*Are breakfasts the same in different parts of the world? What do people eat and drink? What time do they have breakfast? Do adults eat the same as young children?*
- 16 **Guess:** Have students predict what is going to happen. Divide their ideas into positive, negative and neutral. A chart can help.

POSITIVE (+)	NEGATIVE (-)	NOT POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE

### Chapter 6

#### While reading

- 17 **Guess:** Ask students to look at the picture on page 30. *What's going to happen? Whose house is it?*

#### After reading

- 18 **Discuss:** Talk about families.  
*Do all families live together? What's a typical family like in your country/culture? Do grandparents live in the same house?*

### Chapter 7

#### Before reading

- 19 **Guess:** Have students look at the picture on page 31.  
*Who are the boys? How is Eve feeling? Why? How is BZ feeling? What's he going to do?*

#### While reading

- 20 **Read carefully:** Read about Eve's family and house.  
*Make a list of what is new for BZ. How does he feel about each of the new things?*

### Chapter 8

#### Before reading

- 21 **Guess:** *What is the Long Dream about?*

#### After reading

- 22 **Check:** Talk about the cover of the book. Go back to the questions in Activity 1.  
Ask students if they were right in their predictions.
- 23 **Discuss:** Ask students to discuss what actors and actresses are perfect to take the role of:  
BZ  
Eve  
Eve's mother  
Eve's father  
Eve's brothers  
The tall man in the Office of the People's Happiness

#### Vocabulary activities

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