

## ***BEFORE READING***

The class reads all five acts. After that, five groups are formed, one group for each act. Each group reads their outline and discusses ideas for turning it into a lively drama by adding dialogue and action. When their text is complete, they practice the scenes, getting ready to perform them for the class.

### **Act One**

In the school cafeteria, Jo notices that Trevor Lambert, the new boy at school, is smiling at her. But when she smiles back, he turns away. For the next several days she tries to get his attention, but he ignores her. Just when she feels like giving up, he asks her if he could join her on her daily run, explaining that his doctor told him he had to do something about his high blood pressure. Delighted, Jo says yes.

On learning of Jo's 'date' with Trevor, her parents react very differently. Her mother is deeply impressed by the Lambert's social status and tells Jo all about their luxurious lifestyle. Her father, on the other hand, is worried that having a 'boyfriend' won't be good for her. He believes that his daughter has tremendous potential as a runner and thinks having a boyfriend would distract her.

When Jo and Trevor meet to run, Trevor shows up in his SUV, all dressed in fashionable running gear. When they finish running, Trevor asks her if she'd like to listen to some music with him in his SUV. Jo wants to, but feels it's too soon for that kind of closeness. She tells him she has lots of homework to do and rides away on her bike. Trevor watches her go, amused that she's playing hard to get.

### **Act Two**

Jo is now going steady with Trevor. They are one of the hottest couples in school. Hanging out with Trevor is fun and exciting. He takes her out ATV riding in the woods near the Lambert's summer home. They're out riding one day when they see a deer being chased by coyotes. They help to rescue the deer by calling the warden, who kills the alpha coyote.

Jo gets a call from Carmen, her best friend, asking to talk to her – without Trevor! When they meet the next day, Carmen tells her that she gets loads of text messages from Trevor, always asking the same questions: Where is Jo? What's she doing? Who's she with? Jo defends Trevor, saying he does this because he cares about her. She gets angry and accuses Carmen of being jealous. Carmen is shocked that Jo would say something like that. Jo apologizes.

### **Act Three**

Jo reminds Trevor that she will be taking part in a race at the weekend. Unable to talk her out of it, he asks if it would be okay for him to come and watch her. But she says he mustn't come because her father wouldn't want that.

Just before the race starts, she notices Trevor in the stands. Seeing him there ruins her concentration and she runs poorly and finishes second to last.

The following Monday at school, she has a long talk with Trevor, demanding to know why he came to the race. When she criticizes him for being so thoughtless, he answers that she is

frustrated because of her poor performance and is using him as a scapegoat. Angry now, Jo repeats her criticism, adding that her father couldn't understand why she ran so poorly and asked her if it had something to do with Trevor. She didn't tell him Trevor was at the race. But she tells Trevor that she has the feeling that he doesn't respect her private sphere, that he follows her around like a stalker. Trevor angrily denies this. He wants to talk some more about it but Jo says she needs time to think about it first.

#### **Act Four**

Jo spends the following days thinking over her relationship with Trevor. Realizing that a relationship with a control freak is practically impossible, her first thought is to put an end to it. Then it occurs to her that Trevor might be able to change with her help. She knows it would be difficult and asks herself if it is worth the effort. After a great deal of soul-searching, she decides that she will try to help him change.

But if she is going to help him, she needs to hear him say that he has a problem. At the end of a long talk in which Trevor refuses to face the truth about himself, he finally admits he behaves compulsively and is in need of help.

Jo's way of helping him is to get him to look behind his compulsive behavior to what causes it. Taking her advice, Trevor relives painful scenes from his past in which he disappointed his father by being unable to follow in his footsteps and become a star athlete. Although Jo's 'reality therapy' is hard on Trevor, he realizes that it is helping him. But when Jo's father finds out that Trevor tried to call Jo during a meet in Boston, he has a long talk with her, telling her that her grades and her running have gone downhill, all because of Trevor. His shocking advice is that she should stop seeing Trevor until her schoolwork and running are back to normal again!

#### **Act Five**

Jo tells Trevor what her father said. Trevor is shocked. When Jo mentions that Carmen had also said she should stop seeing him, he gets into an angry argument with Jo about her ex-girlfriend, accusing Carmen of being jealous of Jo and wanting to have him for herself. Jo defends her ex-girlfriend and says she misses her. Jo says that the only way to change her father's mind is for her to perform well again in school and on the race track. Realizing she can't reach this goal alone, she gets Trevor to agree to stop seeing her for a while.

Slowly but surely, Jo's grades and her running improve. It helps her to know that Trevor is doing his part, and she is proud of him for that. She misses him and hopes they can be together again soon. But Carmen tells her that Trevor is cheating on her, secretly meeting with a girl after school every day. Jo, shocked, says she wants to see it with her own eyes.

Jo and Carmen hide and wait for the girl to appear. They watch as she walks to Trevor's SUV and gets in. Immediately, Jo texts Trevor that she is through with him. In the end, she thanks Carmen for always standing by her, even after Jo dumped her.



### ***The Girl who played hard to Get - after reading activity***

True or false? Seven of the following statements are false!

- 1) Trevor suggested meeting Jo at the old sawmill.
- 2) Jo's father was worried that Jo wouldn't be able to concentrate on her running if Trevor ran with her.
- 3) It wasn't easy for Jo to say no when Trevor asked her to listen to some music with him.
- 4) Out in the woods with Trevor, Jo was shocked when he saw a pack of wolves chasing a deer.
- 5) Carmen criticized Trevor, saying that she thought he treated Jo badly.
- 6) The Lamberts bought a summer home at a lake and stayed there until Trevor's school year began.
- 7) Jo was angry about the text messages Trevor had sent Carmen.
- 8) When Jo noticed that Trevor was in the stands at her race in Portland, she got nervous and lost her concentration.
- 9) Jo forgave Trevor when he apologized for showing up at the race in Portland.
- 10) Although Jo realized that Trevor was a control freak, she decided to try to save their relationship.
- 11) Trevor refused to admit that he had a personality disorder even though Jo threatened to leave him.
- 12) When Jo's father found out that Trevor had been at the race in Portland, he advised Jo to put an end to her relationship with him.
- 13) Under pressure from Trevor, Jo dumped her girlfriend, Carmen.
- 14) Carmen told Jo that she had seen Belicia Rios in Trevor's SUV.
- 15) When Jo saw Belicia Rios get into Trevor's SUV, she immediately sent him a text message saying she was through with him.

Imagine! Imagine you realized your boyfriend/girlfriend was a control freak like Trevor, what would you do about it? In pairs, discuss this and prepare to share your thoughts with the class.