

## *The Poet in the Glass Cage*



### WORD LIST

- stamps** (page 5, line 3), marks the ticket to show that it has been used
- turnstile guard** (page 5, line 6), person who sells and inspects tickets in the subway
- plan** (page 6, line 7), here: an idea, or thought, about how to do something
- publishing house** (page 6, line 11), a company that produces books
- stowaway** (page 7, line 9), person who travels without paying
- doghouse** (page 7, line 12), small house for a dog
- pop star** (page 11, line 13), person who sings and is famous
- astronaut** (page 11, line 13), person who travels in space
- genius** (page 12, line 7), very intelligent person
- damned Arabs** (page 15, line 7), here: migrants (derogatory)
- snatches** (page 15, line 13), takes
- mutters** (page 15, line 17), says something in a low and sulky voice
- reaches for** (page 18, lines 7-8), stretches himself in order to take hold of something
- curls up** (page 18, line 10), lies with his arms and legs close to the body
- has let down** (page 19, lines 9-10), has made somebody disappointed and sad
- promising** (page 23, line 1), here: person you think is going to become very good at something
- prepared for** (page 26, line 6), practiced, or trained for
- temporarily** (page 26, line 9), for a short while
- pass** (page 26, line 10), walk by
- gets on** (page 27, line 13), here: goes aboard
- peers** (page 28, line 4), looks at
- hardly** (page 28, line 10), almost not
- aches** (page 30, line 2), hurts
- notices** (page 34, line 11), sees, or understands
- to sign** (page 36, line 8), to write one's name, or autograph
- pours** (page 41, line 4), rains very hard
- soaked** (page 41, line 5), wet through all clothes
- wacky** (page 45 line 4), crazy, or strange



## Work with the word list

1. To what word classes do these words belong? Try to see what words are nouns, adjectives, or verbs. Go back to the text and read the words in their context again.
2. In your own words, try to explain what the words mean.
3. Try to find synonyms for the words.
4. Use these words in sentences that you have written yourself.
5. Mark the words that you think are common and those that you think are more uncommon.
6. Some of the words in the vocabulary list are phrasal verbs. Can you spot these? If so, what do you know about them?
7. What words in the list are not noun- adjective- or verb? To what word classes do these other words belong?
8. Go through the text again. Look for words you do not know and look them up. Go through items 1 – 5 with those words, too.

## WRITE

### Sum up

1. In all books, there is a problem. It is called the conflict in the story. What, in your opinion, is the problem in this book? Explain why you think so.
2. All books have a main character, or protagonist. In this book, it is Mahad.
  - What, do you think, is Mahad like in the beginning of the book? Describe.
  - What, do you think, is Mahad like at the end of the book? Describe.
  - Compare Mahad as he is in the beginning with Mahad as he is at the end. Has he changed in any way and, if so, how?
3. Write a short summary of the book. Tell about the conflict in the book and how Mahad changes.

### Write a letter and compare

Mahad is newly arrived in Sweden. He thinks Swedish is difficult. He has a job, but dreams about becoming a poet. He is in love with a woman called Emma.

Write a letter to Mahad in which you tell him who you are and what you do. Compare your life with Mahad's. In what ways are you similar? In what ways are you different?

### Evaluate the book

1. Choose a page or a chapter in the book that you liked a lot. Explain why you chose that particular page, or that chapter.
2. State what you thought about the book and try to explain why. It is good to use an example from the book to explain what you think.



**Make a connection**

Have you read any other book that this one reminds you of? Or have you perhaps seen a film with similar content? Write a short summary of that book, or film, and try to compare it with *The Poet in the Glass Cage*.

**Write a continuation**

At the end of the book, Emma stands outside the glass cage. She is going “nowhere special” and asks Mahad if he wants to come along. Continue the story by telling about where they go and what they do. Describe how they feel and state if you think they will become a couple, or not.

**DISCUSS**

Mahad has struggled a lot. What are some of the different things he may have struggled with?

Have you struggled a lot in your lives? Describe something that you have had to struggle against?

Do you believe that Mahad will become a published poet? Explain why you believe he will/ will not.

What, do you think, would the writer want us to learn from this book? Why do you think as you do?

What emotions do you find expressed in the book? Give examples of how the writer shows us those different emotions.

In the book, there are different persons who think different things about Mahad. What different persons do you find and what do they think about Mahad?

Why, do you think, does Mahad like Emma so much?

What, do you think, is the time span of the book? That is, how much time goes by in the story? How do you know?

What do you think about the book and why? Compare answers with each other and try to agree on a shared evaluation of the book.

Where do you think Emma and Mahad will go? What happens with them? Will they become a couple?

Mahad and Emma meet for the first time in the café. She asks if he wants her to sign his book. Tell the group about your first meeting with a person who has meant a lot to you. Who was that person? What did he, or she, look like? Where were you? What did you say to each other?

