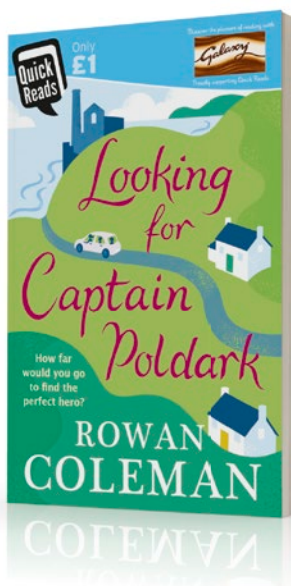




# Learning with Quick Reads

Bite-sized books by bestselling authors



## Looking for Captain Poldark By Rowan Coleman

### About the book

Four strangers, united by their shared love of POLDARK, come together on a trip to Cornwall in search of their hero...

Lisa has sworn off love and relationships after a really bad experience, but lately she's been tempted to take a chance on a more exciting life. First she meets other fans of the TV show *Poldark* online. Then she proposes a very special road trip to Cornwall, in search of where their favourite show is being filmed.

But can four strangers find friendship, as well as a certain sexy hunk on their trip south?

### About the author

Rowan Coleman lives with her husband, and five children in a very full house in Hertfordshire. She juggles writing novels with raising her family, which includes a very lively set of twins whose main hobby is going in opposite directions.

Despite being dyslexic, Rowan loves writing and is the *Sunday Times* bestselling author of *The Memory Book* as well as eleven other novels including *We Are All Made of Stars*.

Visit Rowan's website [www.rowancoleman.co.uk](http://www.rowancoleman.co.uk)

Follow her on Twitter @rowancoleman



To find out more about Quick Reads titles, visit [www.readingagency.org.uk/quickreads](http://www.readingagency.org.uk/quickreads).

If you are a teacher, librarian or practitioner using Quick Reads, read our 'notes for practitioners' section.

Tweet us @quick\_reads.



Here is a range of activities to try as you read the book. See the key at the bottom of the page to explain the symbols we've used.

## Before Reading



- Read the description of Rowan Coleman at the beginning of the book. What does it tell us? What interests you the most? What surprises you? Does she sound like someone you would like to be friends with? Why or why not?
- Write one or two paragraphs about yourself, using the same style (so, don't use 'I' but write about yourself using your full name).



- Do you have any idea who Captain Poldark is? If not, ask other people, visit a library or use the internet to see what you can find out about Captain Poldark and why some people are very familiar with this man.
- How many different TV series have there been of *Poldark*? If you can, watch a bit of one of them.

## Chapter 1



- Take a piece of paper (or flip chart paper if you are in a group) and write 'Lisa' at the top (or in the middle).
- Note down everything you know about Lisa from this first chapter. Use your own words or note down words or phrases from the chapter.
- Write down anything you suspect or are guessing about Lisa.
- Write down what you think will happen to Lisa in this book and why.
- If you can, share your notes with someone else.



- On page 1, we learn that as Lisa drives away from her home, she is listening to a song called 'I Want to Dance with Somebody' by Whitney Houston. Do you know this song? See if you can listen to it or find out when it was a hit. Try asking others or using the internet.
- Why do you think it is important that this song is playing as Lisa starts her journey?
- Do you like listening to music when you travel? Why or why not?

### KEY



Reading



Discussion/reflection



Writing



ICT



Maths



Explore



- Lisa lives 543.5 miles from Captain Poldark. How many kilometres is this? And how many metres? Explain to someone else how you worked this out.

## Chapter 2 and 3



- Take two more pieces of paper (or pieces of flip chart paper) and mark one of them 'Demelza/Ray' and one 'Abby'. Do the same thing you did for Lisa. Write about what we've learnt, what you suspect and what you think may happen to them.
- Can you add any more notes to your paper on Lisa?



- Why is Lisa shocked when she first meets Ray?
- Do you think she makes the right decision in taking him anyway? Why or why not?
- What do you think most surprises Lisa about Abby?
- What adjectives would you use to describe Abby? Ray? And Lisa?



- Lisa, Ray and Abby met on a 'fan space' for Captain Ross Poldark fans online. Have you heard about these kind of fan spaces or gatherings? Have you ever joined one? Do you know anyone who has?
- See if you can find out whether there are any fan gatherings for fans of any of the TV programmes that you enjoy.
- See if you can listen to either 'Hanging on the Telephone' by Blondie (playing as Lisa picks up Ray) or 'Ghost Town' by The Clash (playing as they pick up Abby). Think or talk about these songs and how they 'fit' (or not) with the events in the book.

## Chapter 4, 5 and 6



- Create a paper for Kirsty, as you've done for Lisa, Ray and Abby.
- Add to your notes on Lisa, Ray and Abby. Look back over your guesses and see when you were right and when were wrong. Write down new ideas on what the future will hold for each of them.

### KEY

- Look back over Chapters 4 and 5 and note down any words or phrases that give us clues about Kirsty's real situation. When did you first suspect that she was in trouble and why?



- On page 33, Lisa says 'Well, anyway, as nice as Aiden is, it's not him that I love. It's Ross. It's Ross whose eyes I want to look into, whose hands I want to grip me so hard I...'. What does she mean? Who is Aiden and who is Ross?



- Describe how Lisa, Ray and Abby each seem to feel about Aiden Turner, the actor who plays Captain Poldark in the recent TV series. Does this worry you? Why or why not?
- In your own words, describe why Lisa, Ray, Abby and Kirsty have come on this trip. Talk about their different reasons.
- Have you ever been on a trip for similar reasons?
- Are Lisa, Ray and Abby doing the right thing in taking Kirsty to Bodmin? What do you think?

## Chapter 7 and 8



- What do you know about Bodmin in Cornwall? Use a map, a library, the internet or ask around to see what you can find out about what Bodmin is famous for.
- Try to get hold of a map of England and find Bodmin.



- In your own words, describe what happens in these two chapters. Did anything surprise you? If so, what and why?
- What does Abby mean, on page 69, when she says 'Lisa has gone all Captain Poldark on Charlie's arse!'
- What was Lisa's plan? What would you have done?

## Chapter 9 and 10



- Add to your papers on Lisa, Ray, Abby and Kirsty. If you are in a group, choose one of these characters and present everything you have noted about them to others.

### KEY



- Who do you think is the most 'Captain Poldark' of them all and why?
- What will happen next for Abby?
- What will happen next for Lisa and Ray?
- Go back and find your very favourite sentence in this book. Think or talk about why you chose that sentence.



- Write this story (in a paragraph, a page or longer if you want) from Ray's point of view. Or from Abby's. Or Kirsty's.
- Imagine you are Lisa. Write an email to Ray to explain why you were scared and how you feel now.

### After reading the book...

These are some questions to think about individually or as a group.

- Go back and look at all the songs that 'start' each chapter. Try to listen to as many of these as possible and think about how they link to the chapters. Think about the important events or trips of your own life - which songs 'go' with them and why?
- Do our past experiences make us the people we are today? Or does something else make us who we are?
- At the end of this book, you will find the beginning of another Rowan Coleman book *The Summer of Impossible Things*. Try reading a bit of it and see what you think.

### KEY

If you liked this, you might enjoy these other Quick Reads...



### Continuing your reading journey

As well as Quick Reads, The Reading Agency runs lots of programmes to help keep you reading.

**Reading Ahead** invites you to pick six reads and record your reading in a diary in order to get a certificate. If you're thinking about improving your reading or would like to read more, then this is for you. Find out more at [www.readingahead.org.uk](http://www.readingahead.org.uk)

**World Book Night** is an annual celebration of reading and books on 23 April, which sees passionate volunteers give out books in their communities to share their love of reading. Find out more at [worldbooknight.org](http://worldbooknight.org)

Reading together with a child will help them to develop a lifelong love of reading. Our **Chatterbooks** children's reading groups and **Summer Reading Challenge** inspire children to read more and share the books they love. Find out more at [www.readingagency.org.uk/children](http://www.readingagency.org.uk/children)

#### KEY

Reading Discussion/reflection Writing ICT Maths Explore

These resources have been designed for those using Quick Reads independently, as well as for those using Quick Reads in a group.

As teachers, you could therefore refer your students to these resources as independent study material, or use them with groups in the classroom. We have included activities focussed on discussion, reflection, close reading, writing, ICT, mathematics/numeracy and other ways to explore a topic or theme.

Quick Reads have been created specifically for adults who are less confident in their reading, who may not see themselves as readers or who may feel that it has been a long time since they have read. They will also appeal to younger people who feel daunted by reading their first book.

In the terms of the English adult literacy core curriculum, or Functional Skills levels, they are often seen as suitable for those at Entry 3, Level 1 or Level 2. Adult literacy or functional skills English learners below Entry 3 may find them too challenging (as may some Entry 3 learners), but everyone is different, so it is always worth having a look.

ESOL learners - those learning or developing their English as an additional language - may also find Quick Reads a helpful introduction into reading books in English and a useful way to develop vocabulary and awareness of language structures. Quick Reads are often used by ESOL teachers teaching at Entry 3 or above. What works will individual learners will depend on the learners, their confidences, their language and literacy backgrounds and the particular books themselves.

As with all resources, Quick Reads could potentially be used with a range of groups and levels, depending of course on how you use them. It is worth remembering that Quick Reads are authentic texts - real books written by real authors - and so can be particularly motivating for adult learners.

We have written these resources so that they are accessible by those who would also find Quick Reads accessible. However, the needs, strengths and interests between and within groups vary (whether your groups is a Functional Skills English class, an adult literacy class, a GCSE class or an ESOL class) and so you may want to adapt the language at times, as well as adapt and play around with the ideas. You may find that you prefer some activities to others and that you will want to adjust them for your particular group(s) and context(s).

We hope that if you do use these with your students, you try things out that you haven't tried before, and let us - and your colleagues - know what worked well and not so well.

Email us at [quickreads@readingagency.org.uk](mailto:quickreads@readingagency.org.uk)

To find out more about **Quick Reads**, visit [www.readingagency.org.uk/quickreads](http://www.readingagency.org.uk/quickreads)

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