

# Jenny Downham: BEFORE I DIE

**Form + Level of English: 10 b (E2)**

**CLASS TEST NO. 4: Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> June 2022**

- **90 minutes**
- **BRING:**
  - **extra sheets of paper**
  - **BOOK !!!!!!!!!!!**
  - **highlighters**
  - **dictionary (E – G / G – E)**

**Friday, 10<sup>th</sup> June: CHECK BOOK !!!**

- **prepare your book**
- **NOT ALLOWED: stages of grief / worksheets (Literary Analysis and vocabulary)**

**STRUCTURE CLASS TEST:**

- 1) Plot**
- 2) Analysis**
- 3) Opinion**

**CH4:**

Setting: place: at Jake and Scott's house / place  
time: Saturday night / Sunday morning  
113 days until Christmas (August / September)

Plot: T has got sex with Jake and Z has got sex with Scott.  
T does not really enjoy having sex with Jake.  
T always thinks a lot about her actions, and feels unsure / insecure about a lot of things.  
Her full name is Tessa Scott.

**03rd May 2022:**

**CH5: What do we learn about T's mum / T illness?**

- Mum and dad are separated (divorced)
  - o Does not want to return to her family
  - o T's mum left the family when T was 12 years old
  - o T's mum was away for a year
- Mum is not as strict as T's dad
- First boyfriend = Kevin
- Mum is interested in T's list
- Understands T

**T's illness:**

- Illness started when she was 12 years old
- Has got headaches: lumbar puncture
- Regular hospital visits
- Physical appearance: skinny, pale

**CH6:**

- Setting:
  - Place: at hospital / Great Fire in 1666: London, England
  - Time: during the day or evening (because the doctors are working)
- Her dad supports T all the time
  - o He does everything for her / he is well informed about T's illness / he is a loving and caring father

**CH7:**

- T's brother Cal goes to school
- T does not go to school anymore
- At the end: T leaves her room (unclear where she goes to)

**T:**

- sometimes not motivated
- quick-tempered (aufbrausend)
- stubborn (trotzig, stur, hartnäckig)

## CH8:

- T meets Adam for the first time: Adam (= A) is the neighbour
- Setting: place: garden next to T's house / time: Monday morning (?)
- T goes to A: T burns her old letters (plus diary) and Z's dress
- A is living together with his mum (dad = ?)
- T faints

## Ch9:

- Setting: place: at a hospital / time: 3:00 – 3:30 pm in October
- talk between Dr Ryan and T (plus her dad): result of treatment (Behandlung)
- T's past:
  - o Once, T had a friend called Angela, but Angela dies.
  - o T wants to protect herself from bad experiences and does not want to make any (new) friends. T is afraid of losing them.
- T has got cancer and not a lot of time left
  - o Relation to the atmosphere: it is raining outside
- T's birthday is in May (seventeen)

## CH10:

- Setting: place: T's place, \_\_\_\_\_ / time: Saturday
- #2 on T's list: Saying "yes" for one day
- Z, T and Cal go to the market
  - o Here, Z and T meet Jake and Scott
  - o T realizes that Z might have told Jake about her (= T's) illness
- T and Cal get a bus and get away from the market

## CH11:

- setting: place: city (shops), Mc Donalds / taxi / time: right after CH 10
- plot:
  - o T and Cal go shopping / they get on very well and Cal enjoys his time with T
  - o T gets a headache

## CH12:

- Setting: place: hospital, England / time: evening
- plot:
  - o T wakes up in a hospital (she fainted in the taxi)
  - o reunion of T's full family (Cal, dad, mum)
  - o C is emotional
  - o Atmosphere: happy (reunion) and scary (dark outside)
  - o T's list = T's motivation

### CH 13

- Setting: place: T's place (plus garden) / time: 6 am (October)
- No. 3 on T's list = Taking drugs
- A and T meet again: A will be organising mushrooms for T
- A knows that T has got cancer (Cal told A)

### CH 14

- Z and T take drugs (mushroom tea)
- Drive around using A's car
- T climbs on a tree / T dreams of living in the forest with A (a life without cancer)
- A: does not go to school / gardening a lot and looking after his mum

### CH15:

- Setting: T's home
- Philippa = (new) nurse (flat character)
  - o Looks after T
- T's attitude (Einstellung) / opinion:
  - o "I think it's (= God and heaven) a great big lie. When you are dead, you are dead." / CH2: "I think he (God) might be dead." QUOTE (Zitat)
- Philippa wants T to go to school or to a community group
  - o For two reasons: would bring back a "normal" life for T AND it would give T's dad a chance to relax

### CH16

- A's family situation:
  - o His father was killed in a road accident
  - o 18 months ago
  - o A feels responsible for his mum
- A's motorbike
  - o A and T go on a tour
  - o A and T talk to each other
    - T tells A how she really feels (T trusts A)
    - A likes T a lot but he does not see a future for them (because T will die soon)

### CH17:

- Setting: place: bus / café (with Z); time: directly after CH16
- Number 4 on T's list = Breaking the Law
- T and Z meet again
- T wants to go shoplifting

## CH18:

- Z is always there and helps T with her list
- Z and T meet two girls from school
- Zoey:
  - o Not very motivated
  - o Z is crying because of Scott (he might be cheating on Z)
  - o GCSE (General Certificate of Secondary Education):
    - Z has got problems at school
- T gets caught shoplifting / Dad comes to pick her up
- ILLNESS = **acute lymphoblastic leukaemia**
  - o T suffers from ... (CH 18).

## CH 19:

- Setting: T's place
- A brings T some flowers
  - o A wants to apologize for what he said (there is no future for both of them) / T and A agree on being friends

## CH 20:

- Setting: at T's place (room)
- T hides in her wardrobe
  - o Her dad enters the rooms and looks through T's personal things
- T is getting dressed and leaves the place
- Cal: "When T dies, can we go on holiday?"

## CH 21:

- T drives to Z's place by car (!)
- Number 5 on T's list = Driving a Car
- T drives much too fast / stop at a petrol station
- Connection atmosphere – weather (rain, thunder)

## CH 22

- Setting: at the sea (hotel room) / time: evening
- Z is pregnant (from Scott / Stoner Boy)
  - o baby to be born in May
  - o BUT: Z does not want to keep the baby (abortion)
  - o difficult relationship between Z and Scott (Scott is not ready to be a father)

## CH 23

- setting: T's place (all family members are there) / time: winter, December
- No. 6 on T's list = Getting some fame
- Fireworks outside (moonlight)
- T's mum and dad getting back together again?
- T and A kiss each other

## CH 24

- Place: at the doctor's / time: close to Christmas
- T and A haven't seen each other for four days
- Z has got an appointment (abortion = ?)

## CH 25:

- Setting: place: at the radio station (Richard Green's office)
- present: T, dad, Richard Green
- T's dad still thinks he can stop T's illness: he wants to raise money for more operations in the USA (T does NOT want that)

## CH 26:

- Setting: place: T's home / time: Christmas
- Background information Christmas UK / England
  - o 25<sup>th</sup> Dec = Christmas Day
  - o 26<sup>th</sup> Dec = Boxing Day (big sales in shops)
- Christmas dinner: A, Sally (= A's mum), mum, dad, Cal, T, Z
- Z decides to keep the baby
  - o parents are not amused at all
- No. 7 on T's list = Getting mum and dad together
- Z wants to call her baby Lauren / T wants to be there when Z's baby is born
  - o problem = May is five months away

## CH 27:

- time: afternoon
- Queen's speech on 25<sup>th</sup> Dec at 3 pm (live on TV)
- A gives T a present (bracelet)
- No. 8 on T's list = Love

## CH 28:

- Place: A's place
- A and T have sex
  - o T's enjoys it (not like she did in CH4 with Jake)
  - o with A, T feels alive

## CH 29:

- setting: at T's place / time: evening, night?
- T wants to go dancing with A, but T gets a strong nosebleed
  - o T's mum is helpless
  - o A comes and sees T with her nose bleeding / taxi takes T and her mum to hospital
- T's mum left the family because of another man
- In the morning, on their way back home, they see that T's name is everywhere in town: A has written down T's name on shops, ...: T is famous (no. 6 on her list)

## CH 30

- setting: T's place / time: February
- T wants A to move in, but T's dad does not allow it
- No. 9 on T's list = A moving in
- T enjoys the many things she does with A
- T realizes her list (of ten things) is too short
- T is in a bad condition (not feeling very well)
- Dad and T meet at night: T's dad allows A to stay

## CH 31:

- Setting: T's garden / time: March (spring)
- T to fly to Sicily (on holiday)
  - o Italy (island under Italy; famous city = Palermo)
  - o D, T, C, A want to go
- Z gets her own flat / big problems with her parents
- T and A have been together for ten weeks
- Philippa looks after T (check-up before the holidays)
  - o P does not have any children because she "(...) can't manage that kind of fear." Maybe P is afraid of getting a child who is ill too
- No. 10 on T's list = Seeing Lauren Tessa Walker (to be born in May)
- T faints and wakes up in hospital

## General writing tips:

- have / has GOT: got shows possession (*Besitz*)
  - o I have got a car.
- vocab: separated (!)
- do not start a sentence with: BUT, BECAUSE, AND, OR