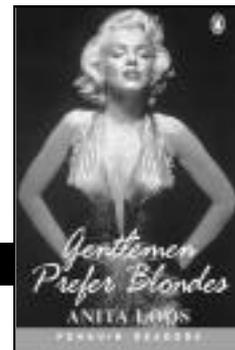


Teacher's notes

Gentlemen Prefer Blondes

by Anita Loos



SUMMARY

Lorelei Lee is a woman who usually gets what she wants and she wants to marry an *interesting gentleman*. By interesting she means extremely rich, very generous and preferably famous. She is not ashamed of the fact that she prefers diamonds to kisses. Diamonds, after all, last forever ... unlike love. In *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*, written in diary form, she outlines her adventures in her quest for this *gentleman*.

Lorelei Lee was born into a not-so-rich family in Little Rock, Arkansas. As a teenager she shot and killed her predatory boss. She was acquitted of murder and moved to New York to escape her past. It is at this point that she begins her diary. Here she meets her equally manipulative and gold-digging friend, Dorothy. She also meets Mr Eisman, who is boring because he doesn't like dancing; she tolerates him however because he is very rich and willing to finance her expensive whims. He is her sugar daddy.

Mr Eisman pays for Lorelei and Dorothy to travel to Europe to be educated. They travel on board the cruise ship, the *Majestic*, where she encounters a ghost from her past, a lawyer who represents the family of the man she killed in Little Rock. At first, she is afraid of what he might do, but the problem is solved when he falls in love with her. She then casts him aside and continues her journey with Dorothy to London and Paris.

Using good looks and all the charm they can muster, the pair inveigle their way into the company of any rich gentlemen that cross their path. Among the famous people she meets are The Prince of Wales and Sigmund Freud. It is on the train journey to Paris that Lorelei meets Henry Spoffard who is immediately besotted with her. Henry is boring, but he is also very rich; unfortunately he is not especially generous. Nevertheless she agrees to marry him. When they arrive back home, he takes Lorelei to meet his family who are equally rich and boring. On the return train journey to New York, she meets a stimulating young man called Gilbertson Montrose who makes movies and he wants Lorelei to star in his movies. Now she is faced with a dilemma: Henry Spoffard or Gilbertson Montrose? It is a difficult decision, but Lorelei always she gets what she wants. She marries the rich Henry Spoffard and spends her days with Gilbertson Montrose working on his movies

ABOUT ANITA LOOS

Anita Loos, American screenwriter and novelist, was born in California around 1888; the exact date of her birth is unknown. Her father, a newspaper publisher, was forced through unemployment to become a theatre manager. For Anita this was a stroke of luck for it was in her father's playhouse that she was introduced to acting. She became a child actress of

stage and also screen and continued acting into her teens. For many years she provided the family's main source of income

She was a child prodigy who began writing scripts at the age of 12. By the age of 20 she was already a professional screenwriter and would work on over 60 silent films and many 'talkies'. In 1919 she married John Emerson and they collaborated to produce their own films.

Gentlemen Prefer Blondes, her first novel, was published in 1926 as a book, having been first serialised in an American magazine, Harper's *Bazaar*. In the same year, her stage adaptation of the book opened in New York and this was followed by several musical versions. Some years later she and Henry Fields collaborated to write the script for the highly successful musical comedy remake (20th Century-Fox, 1953) starring Marilyn Monroe and Jane Russell. Many of the songs such as '*Diamonds are a Girls' Best Friend*' and '*Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*' are still famous today.

The 1928 sequel, *But Gentlemen Mary Brunettes*, was equally successful.

She was a prolific writer and continued writing well into her eighties. Her final works included her tongue-in-cheek autobiographies, the last of which was published 4 years after her death in New York in 1981.

BACKGROUND AND THEMES

These were exciting times; transitional times; wild times. This was the *Roaring Twenties*; the Jazz Age; the age of Scott and Zelda Fitzgerald and the Great Gatsby. It was the era of the flamboyant 'flapper'; rebels that shocked society with their short skirts and short hair and their bare arms and legs. They wore even more make-up and powdered their knees! The flapper was fast and the flapper was shameless.

Anita Loos, as one of the first women to bob her hair and shorten her hemlines, came to epitomise the flappers of the 1920s and Lorelei Lee was the flapper's flapper. Lorelei is the archetypal blonde bombshell; a product of the times in which Anita Loos lived and wrote. It was the age of the veneration of youth and of youth culture. Anita Loos herself reached the height of success while she was still very young.

Although *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes* was never intended to be autobiographical, there are a number of similarities between Lorelei Lee and Anita Loos. Both, having experienced difficult times, were determined not to be poor. Both were attractive, bright and fashionable. Both travelled in Europe and when Anita Loos wrote about Paris and London it was from first hand experience. Both were actresses. Both played a role in the transition of the silent movies to the talkies.

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ELEMENTARY

GENTLEMEN PREFER BLONDES



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However, whereas Lorelei was content with just being rich and a glamorous movie star, what was important to Anita Loos was never to be bored. Both wanted to write, but Lorelei only fantasised about being a writer.

Gentlemen Prefer Blondes is a glittering satire of the jazz age and Lorelei Lee has been called the 'funniest bad blonde in American literature'.

Communicative activities

The following teacher-led activities cover the same sections of text as the exercises at the back of the Reader, and supplement those exercises. For supplementary exercises covering shorter sections of the book, see the photocopiable Student's Activities pages of the Factsheet. These are primarily for use with class readers but, with the exception of discussion and pair/group work questions, can also be used by students working alone in a self-access centre.

- Put magazine pictures of men and women around the classroom walls. Pairs wander around and choose which they think is the:
 - most attractive or intelligent
 - wealthiest or the most interesting, etc.
- Write the title *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes* on the board. Students discuss whether they agree. Distribute the books. Students discuss the picture on the cover.
 - What kind of woman is this? Is she attractive?
 - Do you like her? Would you like to be her friend?
 - Have they seen Marilyn Monroe in a movie?
- Students look at the pictures and captions and also the Content's page and make predictions about the people and the story: What kind of people are they? Are they interesting/intelligent? What jobs do they do? How do they spend their free time? Are they wealthy? Would you like to meet any of them?
- Predictions can be listed in poster form on the classroom wall. As the book is being read, students can tick or modify their predictions

ACTIVITIES AFTER READING A SECTION

Chapters 1-3

- In pairs, students list the people in the story so far and describe their relationship to each other. What type of people they are and the places they go to. Pairs combine and compare findings. Students discuss the pictures in these chapters and how they fit into the story. Refer back to the prediction they made about Lorelei: Were they accurate?
- Students brainstorm the events on the Majestic as seen from the point of view of first Dorothy and then Lorelei. Students pretend to be either Lorelei or Dorothy and write a letter to (or telephone) a friend in New York describing everything that happened on the voyage to themselves and the other person.

Chapters 4-8

- Pairs brainstorm how they would spend (or have spent) their time visiting Paris or London. Collate the findings on the board. Pairs then brainstorm how Lorelei and Dorothy spent their time in these cities. Collate the findings on the board. Students compare the two lists and highlight the differences.
- Select some scenes from these chapters. In groups, students prepare one of the scenes to act out in front of the class: e.g.

- Tea with Lady Shelton
- Lorelei talking to the Prince of Wales
- The row with Lady Beekman at the hotel
- Lorelei and Dorothy plotting to steal the tiara

Chapters 9-12

- Make small cards depicting the following e.g.
 - Lorelei and Mr Spoffard meeting in the train restaurant (page 26)
 - Lorelei tells her problems to Sigmund Freud (page 29)
 - Lorelei having lunch in her hotel room with Mrs Spoffard (age 31)
 - Lorelei meeting Mr Montrose on the train to New York (page 36)

Pairs skim the events in the relevant pages then role-play the situations. Alternatively students produce dialogues which can be acted out in front of the class.

- Students discuss: Did Lorelei marry the right man? What about Mr Eisman? What about Mr Montrose?

ACTIVITIES AFTER READING THE BOOK

- Groups brainstorm the names of the people in the story and collate them on the board. The characters are distributed between the groups who write one sentence about each character. Able students write more. Circulate checking sentences for accuracy.
- Distribute strips of paper. On each strip students write the name of one of the characters; on the others they write the sentences. Able students continue producing strips until everyone has produced at least one.
- Groups pass their strips to the next group who match names and sentences. The students who produced the sentences circulate to check. Sentences can be modified as they are passed around. Strips are then passed to the next group and the process of matching and checking is repeated until all the strips have been passed round all the groups.
- Each student is given one of the characters and relevant sentence(s). The character is researched more thoroughly for homework and then presented to the class who has to guess who is being described. These might then be written up and used to produce a wall chart in chronological form to outline the story.

Glossary

It will be useful for your students to know the following words. They are practised in the 'Before You Read' sections at the back of the book. (Definitions are based on those in the Longman Active Study Dictionary.)

Chapters 1-2

- brain** (n) the part of your head you use to think
business (n) a place that makes money where people work
champagne (n) a drink for important times like weddings
diamond (n) a very expensive and hard glass stone
diary (n) a book you write in every day about your life
educate (v) to get knowledge about the world and life from books and school and other people
necklace (n) something a woman wears around their neck to look nice
spend (v) use money to buy things

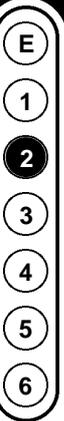
Chapters 3-12

- kiss** (v) to touch a person you like with your mouth
lawyer (n) this person knows about the rules of their country for their work
paste (n) not real
secret (n) something you know about but you can't tell anybody
tiara (n) something like a crown that a woman wears on her head to look nice



Student's activities

Gentlemen Prefer Blondes



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GENTLEMEN PREFER BLONDES

Photocopiable

Students can do these exercises alone or with one or more other students. Pair/group-only activities are marked.

Activities before reading the book

- Discuss:
 - What is a diary? Who writes diaries?
 - Do you write a diary? Did you when you were young?
 - Do you like diamonds? Do you have any diamonds?
- Read the introduction quickly
 - Read the first sentence. Do you agree?
 - How are Anita Loos and Lorelei the same?
 - How are they different?

Activities while reading the book

Chapter 1

- Match the places where Lorelei goes.
 - The Ritz
 - The Follies
 - Colony
 - Trocedero
 - an expensive restaurant
 - an expensive hotel
 - a night club
 - a New York music theatre
- Who:
 - Who cooks and cleans for Lorelei?
 - Who is an important businessman?
 - Who is a very nice English gentleman?
 - Who is a famous English writer?
 - Who is going to travel with Lorelei?
- Are these sentences true or false? Correct the false ones
 - Lorelei writes in her diary every day.
 - Lorelei has a sick brother.
 - Lorelei wanted to study music.
 - Lorelei was delighted (happy?) with the small diamond.
 - Everyone Lorelei knows is rich.
 - Lorelei wanted lunch at the Ritz because she likes the food.
 - Lorelei expects to have a good time on her birthday.
 - Lorelei is an actress.

Chapter 2

- Write the correct name in the spaces.
Mr Lamson Mr Eisman Mr Georgopolis Mr Conrad
 - Mr
He loves Lorelei and wants to leave his wife. He wants her to leave New York because he doesn't like her to see other men. He's a writer and gives Lorelei books to read by other famous writers. He makes her feel intelligent and calls her his 'little

- thinker'. He is sad when Lorelei tells him about her early life.
 - Mr
He is in on business in Chicago. He's very rich, but Lorelei finds him a little boring. He can't dance well and only wants to sit and drink champagne. He likes Lorelei to meet famous people. He is going to pay for Lorelei and Dorothy to go to Europe.
 - Mr
He is very rich. He takes Dorothy and Lorelei shopping. They call him the shopper. He is Greek and Lorelei thinks he is very intelligent because he can speak Greek.
 - Mr
He is a very famous writer and he writes books about the ocean. He wrote a book called Lord Jim.
- Which of these gentlemen has Lorelei not met?
 - What do you think?
 - Who is the best man for Lorelei? Mr Lamson or Mr Eisman? Why?
 - Who is more intelligent Lorelei or Lulu? Why?

Chapter 3

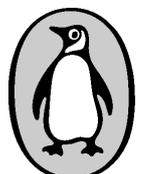
- Put the sentences in the right order.
 - She shot him because he did bad things.
 - Lorelei travelled on a ship to Europe to be with Mr Eisman.
 - On the ship she met Mr Bartlett a lawyer for the Jennings family.
 - When Lorelei was young she worked for Mr Jennings.
 - At first Mr Bartlett was angry and made Lorelei unhappy.
 - She tried to make him like her and soon he started to love her.
 - Later Mr Eisman went to Europe on business.
 - Because he loved her he wanted her to go to Vienna with him.
 - Lorelei didn't want to go to Vienna with him.
 - She went to live in New York and met Mr Eisman.
- What do you think?
 - Why does everyone fall in love with Lorelei?
 - Will she make a good wife?

Chapters 4 & 5

- How much money?

\$10,000	£25	\$125	\$1,000	\$7,500
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 - £25 in English money is in American money.
 - The diamond tiara cost
 - Lorelei wrote and asked Mr Eisman for
 - Mr Eisman sent Lorelei
- Put the two halves of the sentences together.
 - New York is better than London



Student's activities

- (b) Lorelei is happy at the Ritz
 - (c) Lorelei loves trips around Europe
 - (d) Sir Francis won't buy Lorelei the tiara
 - (e) Lady Shelton makes paper flowers
 - (f) Lorelei asks Mr Eisman for \$10,000
 - (i) because you can always meet Americans.
 - (ii) because he hates spending money.
 - (iii) because she wants to buy the diamond tiara.
 - (iv) because the boat stops in New York.
 - (v) because she wants to sell them to Americans.
 - (vi) because a lot of Americans stay there.
- 3 What do you think?
- (a) What does Lorelei like most about England?
 - (b) What does Lorelei like least about England?

Chapter 6

- 1 Discuss the following questions with your partner
- (a) How does Lorelei educate Piggie? Tell the story.
 - (b) Lorelei and Piggie leave the store very quickly. Why?
 - (c) Lorelei doesn't like Piggie's stories. Why?
 - (d) Piggie bought Lorelei 3 things. What were they?
- 2 What do you think?
- (a) Who does Piggie love most, Lorelei or his wife?
 - (b) Does Lorelei love Piggie?

Chapter 7

- 1 Fill the gaps with these words.
good diamonds good Frenchman
When a kisses your hand you feel for a very short time.
But when you have you always feel
Do you agree?
- 2 Tell your partner.
What happened at the hotel where Lorelei and Dorothy were staying when:
- (a) Lady Beekman came to the hotel?
 - (b) Lady Beekman's lawyer came to their hotel room?

Chapter 8

- 1 Use these words in the box to complete the sentences.

shout leaves steal money truth paste laughs
sells table pay

- (a) Lady Beekman wants Robert and Louie to the diamond tiara.
- (b) Lorelei buys a tiara and wears it when they go out with Robert and Louie.
- (c) She leaves it on the but always comes back before they can steal it.
- (d) Robert tells Dorothy he will her to take the tiara. Louie does the same.
- (e) In the hotel Lorelei puts the tiara on the table and the room.
- (f) Louie gives Dorothy, but Lorelei comes back.
- (g) Later Dorothy the tiara to Robert, but later takes it from his pocket.
- (h) Robert thinks Louie has the tiara and they at each other.
- (i) Lorelei tells them the and tells them to sell the tiara to Lady Beekman.

- (j) Everyone and then they have a wonderful evening.

Chapter 9

Are these sentences true or false?

- (a) Lorelei and Dorothy travel in the centre of Europe by train.
- (b) They pass though a lot of large cities.
- (c) They see the men working on the farms and their wives watching them.
- (d) Lorelei goes into the restaurant on the train because she is hungry.
- (e) She meets a famous rich American man in the restaurant.
- (f) Henry H Spoffard goes to church every Sunday.
- (g) Lorelei wrote to Mr Eisman and told him about Henry H Spoffard.
- (h) Lorelei doesn't think Mr Eisman and Mr Spoffard will like each other.

Chapter 10

- 1 Discuss these question.
- (a) Who does Mr Eisman think Lorelei spends her time with in Vienna?
 - (b) Who does she really spend her time with?
 - (c) What does Mr Spoffard think Lorelei does every night?
 - (d) Who does she really do every night?
 - (e) Lorelei says 'it's good for me and my feet.' What does she mean?
 - (f) What happened when Lorelei went to see Dr Freud?
 - (g) How did Lorelei help to make Mrs Spoffard happy?
 - (h) What does Henry write to Lorelei? What does she write back?
 - (i) Why is Henry happy and why is he sad?
 - (j) Why is Lorelei worried about marrying Henry?
- 2 What do you think?
Why did Lorelei not say goodbye to Mr Spoffard?
What was important about Lorelei calling Mr Spoffard 'Henry'?

Chapters 11 & 12

- 1 Who should Lorelei marry? Write two things Lorelei likes about Henry Spoffard and Gilbertson Montrose. Then write two things she doesn't like about them.
- 2 Who did she marry?
Gilbertson Montrose
Henry Spoffard

Activities after reading the book

- 1 What do you think?
- (a) Who loves Lorelei more: Henry Spoffard or Gilbertson Montrose?
 - (b) Why did Lorelei change her mind?
 - (c) Did she make the right choice?
 - (d) Will she be happy?
- 2 Write a day in Lorelei's diary:
- (a) On her wedding day.
 - (b) On her honeymoon.
 - (c) Any day after that.



Anchored by Marilyn Monroe and Jane Russell's sparkling magnetism, *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes* is a delightfully entertaining 1950s musical. 98%. TOMATOMETER. This 10-digit number is your confirmation number. Your AMC Ticket Confirmation# can be found in your order confirmation email. *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes* Photos. View All Photos (14). Movie Info. Share this Rating. Title: *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes* (1953). 7,2/10. Want to share IMDb's rating on your own site? Marilyn's "*Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*" was one of the classic musicals of the 1950's She comes into it looking like a winner, and leaves as one... The picture has been set fully by the tone of her personality... Her personality infuses every corner of the film as if she has even picked the scenery to work for her....

Gentlemen Prefer Blondes is a 1953 American musical comedy film based on the 1949 stage musical of the same name. It was directed by Howard Hawks and stars Jane Russell and Marilyn Monroe, with Charles Coburn, Elliott Reid, Tommy Noonan, George Winslow, Taylor Holmes and Norma Varden in supporting roles. The film is filled with comedic situations and musical numbers, choreographed by Jack Cole, while the music was written by Hoagy Carmichael, Harold Adamson, Jule Styne and Leo Robin. The songs by Yourupload Choose This Server. *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*. IMDb: 7.2 91 min/episode. More. Genres: Comedy; Musical; Romance; Stars: Jane Russell; Director: Howard Hawks. Country: United States. *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*. 61,512 likes · 32 talking about this. Available on DIGITAL: <http://apple.co/2wjth6T>. See more of *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes* on Facebook. Log In. or. Create New Account. See more of *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes* on Facebook. Log In. Forgot account?