



▲ 'I'm going to their country now and I'm going to make them share it with me: their infernal luck ...'

### UNDERSTANDING THE TEXT

#### KEY POINT

It is important to realise that this is a scene from the early part of a novel, not a text designed to stand alone.

when men in New York had jumped out of windows and off roofs. He would have died safely in his bed before London was bombed to ruins, before Europe was torn apart. Right to the end of his days, the angel's radiance had probably shone on this man's brow and on his fusty clothes, because it was known across the world: the English were lucky. Well, thought Lev, I'm going to their country now and I'm going to make them share it with me: their infernal luck. I've left Auror and that leaving of my home was hard and bitter, but my time is coming.

'Significant Cigarettes' is an extract from a novel. This means that you should not simply read it as an account of events but as a piece of writing designed to draw you in to the novel's characters and themes. In this piece you learn about Lev and Lydia and the things that concern them, themes which may be important in the novel from which this extract is taken.

The author provides a contrast between two characters who are travelling side by side, for some days, on a bus. You are told about their lives back home and their reasons for travelling, and you are provided with an insight into their expectations of life when they arrive in London. This information encourages you to imagine how they will cope at their journey's end.

Copy and complete the following table, identifying as many themes from the passage as you can and add examples of each from the text.

▼ THEME	▼ EXAMPLE FROM THE TEXT
Departure and leaving things behind	'huddled against the window, staring out at the land he was leaving'
Travelling companions	
Never-ending travel	
Desperation	
England and the English	

### EXPLORING LANGUAGE

The writer arranges the text to help you explore important aspects of the story. Events on the journey lead you through Lev's thoughts, providing an apparently natural opportunity to hear about the life he has left behind and what he imagines life will be like once he reaches London. When he sees that it is getting dark outside, he is reminded of the way in which night falls in his village, and these memories give the reader an insight into Lev's background.

There is a contrast too between the confident speech of Lydia and Lev's requests for help with the English language.

The words and phrases used by a writer affect the way in which you see and understand things. For example, Lydia speaks first: 'I'm sorry, but there is no smoking allowed on this bus.' She apologises for speaking to him – 'I'm sorry' – then adds words which suggest that she feels that she should point out the ban on smoking. This is different from 'No smoking on the bus' or 'Don't think you're going to smoke next to me.' Later, Lev's craving for a cigarette grows and a number of the symptoms are shown in striking words and phrases ('his hands grew fidgety'), and a succession of sentences ending with a much longer sentence that reflect his growing urge to smoke. The cigarettes provide