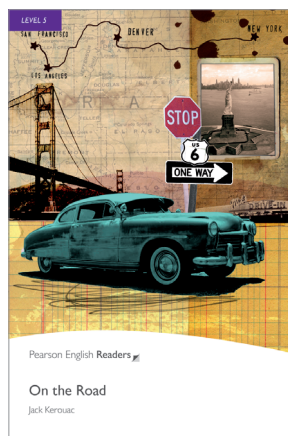


# On the Road

Jack Kerouac



## About the author

Jack Kerouac lived a brief but full life. He was born in 1922 and died in 1969 at the age of only forty-seven. He was born into a family with French-Canadian roots, and did not speak English until he was six years old. It wasn't long before he decided he wanted to be a writer. He started at the age of ten, writing a sports news sheet, and by eleven had written a complete novel.

After leaving Columbia University in New York early – he had gone there as a football scholar, but his success was not helped when he broke a leg – Kerouac joined the Marines for the latter part of World War II. He then took a succession of jobs while trying to make a living as a writer. By this time he had already decided he wanted to travel, and in writing *On the Road* he combined his desire to travel with his desire to write.

Despite writing some thirty published and unpublished books, including plays and poetry as well as novels, Kerouac never repeated the international success of *On the Road*. This may have been because subsequent novels such as *Doctor Sax* (1959) and *Big Sur* (1962) repeated the themes of *On the Road*, and he found it impossible to, or he didn't want to, develop into other areas.

Kerouac's style was spontaneous and unconventional, and it was this as much as the content that caused *On the Road* to be so well received.

After his travels in the 1940s and 1950s, Kerouac sought a more solitary existence in the 1960s. Dependent to some extent on alcohol and drugs throughout his life, he drank more and more. He then tried to beat his alcoholism, but died before the end of the decade of alcohol-related liver failure.

## Summary

*On the Road*, first published in the United States in 1957, is the most famous of Jack Kerouac's many novels. It is semi-autobiographical, and is based on events that took place in the United States in the late 1940s and early 1950s. This is when Jack Kerouac (Sal Paradise in *On the Road*) and his friend Neal Cassady (Dean Moriarty in the novel) traveled throughout the United States, covering huge distances in a very short time.

The story begins with Sal meeting Dean when he comes to New York for the first time. They discuss traveling to the west of the United States or "going West." At first, Sal goes traveling on his own. He goes to San Francisco, staying with friends on the way there and falling in love on the way back. He and Dean do not travel together until some time later, going from the East to the West and back again by car. Their adventures on the road involve meetings with girls, wild parties, getting drunk, taking drugs and enjoying sex. They never have much money and have to rely on delivering cars for people who don't want to drive long distances themselves, doing casual work when they can, and sometimes stealing food, drink and gas.

The loosely structured writing style and the freedom of the behavior and lives of the young people involved captured the attention of the public at the time. *On the Road* has remained a cult classic.

**Chapter 1:** The narrator (Sal Paradise) meets Dean Moriarty in New York. Sal is a writer and Dean tells Sal that he wants to learn to write. Dean leaves for Denver. Sal prepares for his first trip west.

**Chapter 2:** Sal begins his journey to San Francisco where his friend Remi Boncoeur lives. Remi has talked about working on a ship and traveling the world. Sal begins his journey by taking buses and hitchhiking.

**Chapter 3:** Sal meets interesting characters while traveling on a flatbed truck. He gets off at Cheyenne, Wyoming with plans to travel south to Denver.

**Chapter 4:** Sal spends his money on a girl who leaves with someone else. He arrives in Denver and calls Chad King, his friend from college. He finds that Chad and his friends are no longer speaking to Dean.

**Chapter 5:** Sal stays with his friend Roland Major and meets Carlo Marx, another friend from New York, who takes him to see Dean. Dean is in Denver with Marylou, his first wife, and a new girl named Camille.

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**Chapter 6:** Sal joins his friends for five days in the mountains. He borrows money from his aunt and buys a ticket for San Francisco. In San Francisco, he gets work as a guard with Remi. Remi loses all his money at the horse races and gets in a fight with his girlfriend Lee Ann. Remi borrows money and asks Lee Ann and Sal to join him for dinner with his father. Sal gets drunk and arrives late for dinner. Sal leaves San Francisco.

**Chapter 7:** Sal meets a Mexican girl named Terry on the bus to Los Angeles. She has left her husband and child. Sal and Terry plan to hitchhike together to New York. They have trouble getting rides and go to Terry's hometown of Sabinal, California. They stay in a tent and pick cotton for low wages. Eventually, Sal goes back to New York and Terry returns to her family.

**Chapter 8:** At his aunt's house in New Jersey, Sal finishes his book and begins college. He is visiting his relatives in Virginia for Christmas when Dean, Marylou, and Ed Dunkel arrive. Dean has bought a car and plans to bring Sal back to San Francisco with them.

**Chapter 9:** Dean decides they'll move Sal's brother's furniture for him (from Virginia to New York).

**Chapter 10:** They attend several New Year's parties in New York. Sal decides to take another trip west with Dean, Marylou and Ed. They get to New Orleans and meet Galatea, Ed's wife. Dean, Marylou and Sal head off to California. Ed and Galatea stay behind.

**Chapter 11:** On their journey to San Francisco, they get stuck in mud, drive on snowy roads and run out of money. They travel to Tucson, Arizona, because Sal's friend lives there and they can borrow money from him. Marylou tells Sal she'll spend time with him in San Francisco.

**Chapter 12:** They get to San Francisco and Dean returns to Camille. Marylou leaves. Sal gets money from his aunt and prepares to return to New York. He thinks he won't see Dean again.

**Chapter 13:** Sal goes to Denver and considers living there but all his friends are gone. A rich girl gives him money to go to San Francisco. Sal goes to see Dean who is with Camille and his daughter. Dean tells Sal about his problems with Marylou who has since married someone else. While Sal is visiting, Camille kicks Dean out. Dean and Sal decide to travel back to New York together and to Italy after that. They meet Galatea who tells Dean he has no sense of responsibility.

**Chapter 14:** Dean and Sal travel with others in a car to Denver. They stay with friends of Sal's. Dean creates problems by chasing after a girl, stealing cars, and getting drunk.

**Chapter 15:** Dean and Sal go to a travel office in Denver and sign up to drive a Cadillac to Chicago with two college boys. Dean gets them into several near accidents. Dean and Sal go to Detroit and then catch a ride with a man to New York. Dean meets a new girl called Inez. Dean arranges for divorce papers with Camille (who has a second child by him) so that he can get married to Inez. Soon after, he has a child with Inez.

**Chapter 16:** Sal sells his book and prepares to travel to Denver without Dean. In Denver, Sal is preparing to go to Mexico with Stan Shephard (a new friend) when he hears that Dean has bought a car and is joining them. (Dean plans to get a quick divorce from Camille in Mexico.) Dean arrives and they have a big party in Denver before they begin another road trip.

**Chapter 17:** Sal, Dean and Stan arrive in Mexico and party with some girls along the way.

**Chapter 18:** In Mexico City, Sal gets a high fever. Dean gets his divorce papers. Dean leaves Sal and returns to New York to marry Inez.

**Chapter 19:** After getting to New York and marrying Inez, Dean leaves Inez to join Camille in San Francisco. Sal returns to New York. He meets Laura and they plan a trip to San Francisco. Sal arrives in New York to escort them. Dean hopes Inez will come to San Francisco as well, but she kicks him out. Sal leaves for a concert with his friend Remi (who has arrived in New York from his around-the-world trip). Remi doesn't want Dean coming with them so Sal waves goodbye to Dean from their car. Sal doesn't see Dean again but thinks of him often.

### Background and themes

Four men who met at Columbia University, New York, in 1946 were to become firm friends and fellow travelers through life. Indeed, they are all characters in *On the Road*. They were the writers Jack Kerouac and William Burroughs, the poet Allen Ginsberg, all three students at the university, and a wild young man who was on a visit there, Neal Cassady. They became key figures in an American social and literary movement known as the "Beat Movement."

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It was Kerouac who invented the term "Beat," which comes from the word "beatitude" (blessedness). The Beats, or Beatniks, expressed a mood that was common among young artists in the United States after World War II: a mood of anxiety and anger, of rootlessness, and of disillusionment with the "American Dream" and society at large.

They were perhaps the first literary group of "angry young men," of rebels who led the way for later movements of artists expressing anger and dissatisfaction with the way society was – protest singers, hippies, the anti-Vietnam war peace movement, and punks. Their work encouraged young people to question rather than accept the values they were taught by their parents and teachers. They saw this not as a destructive influence but as something very positive. When Kerouac traveled he was looking for a positive experience, and wanted to find and describe the pure beauty of America, and the beauty of the "ordinary people" who inhabited it.

The Beat Generation's unconventional views of life were reflected in their appearance and behavior. Life for them was certainly not about conforming, it was about being on the road, listening to jazz (a huge influence on their literary style with its free forms and spontaneity), having wild parties, being alive and living for the moment. Also, of course, life was about writing – not necessarily poetry or prose as such, but writing thoughts and feelings. These thoughts and feelings were also influenced by the Eastern religion of Buddhism, followed in particular by Kerouac and Ginsberg, which it is necessary to understand in order to fully appreciate the Beats themselves.

Those four men who met at Columbia University in New York over fifty years ago remain cult heroes to this day, much admired by many with an "alternative" lifestyle. Cassady had a huge influence on Kerouac's literary style, as Kerouac tried to use the same forms as Cassady did when he spoke, without hesitation or self-consciousness, and this led to the free-flowing letter writing style that became Kerouac's trademark.

### Discussion activities

#### Before reading

- 1 **Guess:** Have students look at the picture on the cover of the book. *What do you think the book will be about? When and where does it take place? How would you describe the characters in the photograph?*

- 2 **Pair work:** Bring in photocopies of a map of the United States. Have students find some of the places that Sal Paradise and his friends travel to: New York, New York; Chicago, Illinois; Los Angeles, California; San Francisco, California; Des Moines, Iowa; Cheyenne, Wyoming; Denver, Colorado; New Orleans, Louisiana; Washington, D.C.; Houston, Texas; El Paso, Texas; and Tucson, Arizona. Have them refer to the map while they read the story so they can understand the distances traveled.

#### Introduction

##### After reading

- 3 **Read carefully:** With a partner make notes about Jack Kerouac, the author.

Name:

Date of birth:

Place of birth:

Education:

Friends and their overall beliefs:

Style of writing:

Army experience:

Books written (1950–1951):

Initial response to books:

Changes to books:

Fame with *On the Road*:

Other books:

Personal life:

#### Chapters 1–4

##### Before reading

- 4 **Guess:** Have students read the Introduction. This book is about the road trips that Sal Paradise takes across the United States in the late 1940s. In groups, have students guess what kind of feelings Sal will have before going on his first road trip. What will he probably see and do on this trip?

##### After reading

- 5 **Write:** After reading Chapter 1, have students imagine they are Sal and they are writing about their meeting with Dean in their journal. *Describe Dean. How do you feel about him?*  
Example: *Today I met Dean Moriarty ... Dean is ... I think he ... I think we ...*  
Share your writing in pairs.
- 6 **Discuss:** Have students imagine they are planning to travel around their country. *Where would you go and why? What would you need to do to get ready? What would you need to have?*
- 7 **Role play:** At the beginning of Chapter 2, Sal tells his aunt he is traveling to San Francisco and is possibly going around the world. Have students imagine what they would say to each other.  
*Student A:* You are Sal. You are excited about your future travels. What do you want to see and do? Why?  
*Student B:* You are Sal's aunt. What advice do you have for Sal as he gets ready to go? How do you feel about his travels?

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- 8 Read carefully:** Have students look at the map of the United States and trace Sal's travels from New York to Chicago, Illinois, to Davenport, Iowa, to Des Moines, Iowa, to Cheyenne, Wyoming, to Denver, Colorado.
- 9 Pair work:** At the beginning of Chapter 3 on page 6, Sal describes the trip from Gothenburg to Cheyenne as "the greatest ride of my life." Have students discuss why he might feel this way? What would they consider to be part of "a great ride?" Have them make a list and then share their ideas with the class.
- 10 Group work:** Most of Sal's friends in Denver are not seeing or speaking to Dean Moriarty or Carlo Marx. Have students list the possible reasons. If they were Sal, would they try to see him? Why or why not?

### Chapters 5–8

#### Before reading

- 11 Guess:** The next four chapters take Sal from Denver to San Francisco to Los Angeles to New York. Have students guess what kind of adventures he might have. Will Sal be happy with his journey? Why or why not?

#### After reading

- 12 Read carefully:** In Chapter 6, Sal writes about a trip to Central City with his friends: "Suddenly, everything seemed to be going wrong." Later in that chapter, before leaving Los Angeles, he writes: "Everything is going wrong." In groups, have students make a list of the problems Sal has with his friends in both places.
- Problems in Central City:*  
*Problems before leaving Los Angeles:*  
 If they were Sal, how would they feel about these problems? What would they do?
- 13 Role play:** Have students imagine how Sal and Remi might have felt after the dinner with Remi's father in Chapter 6. Have them imagine a phone call that Sal might have made to Remi the following day from Los Angeles.
- Student A:* You are Sal. How would you feel about your behavior the previous day? What would you say to Remi?  
*Student B:* You are Remi. What would you say to Sal? How would you feel?
- 14 Pair work:** Think about Sal's life with Terry in Sabinal. In pairs, have students make a list of the good and bad points about staying in Sabinal with Terry. Then have them decide whether they think Sal made the right decision to leave.
- 15 Group work:** Imagine the scene at Rocco's home in Virginia at Christmas with the arrival of Dean, Marylou and Ed. In groups, write thought bubbles that show what each person might be thinking (but don't include the names on these). Write thought bubbles for: Dean, Sal, Rocco, Rocco's wife and Sal's aunt.

Have students exchange their writing with another group. Try to match a name with each thought bubble.

Example: *"I can't believe Sal's friends showed up without calling first! We were going to have a quiet Christmas and now I have to get food ready for these strange people."* (Rocco's wife)

### Chapters 9–12

#### After reading

- 16 Role play:** Sal's aunt travels with Sal and Dean from Virginia to New York with her furniture and sees Sal off on another journey to San Francisco. Imagine what Sal's aunt might say to a friend about her nephew and his friends.
- Student A:* You are Sal's aunt. Tell your friend about your nephew and his friends. Keep in mind that Sal stays at your home when he is in New York.  
*Student B:* You are a friend of Sal's aunt. Ask questions about her nephew and give your opinion.
- 17 Group work:** Sal, Dean and Marylou drive very long distances in a short time and see little of the places they pass through. In groups, have students think about why they do this. Have them consider the following things and decide which are most important for the travelers: changes in the countryside and scenery; the sense of freedom; the excitement; beautiful sunrises and sunsets; the sense of living life to the full; meeting different people.
- Can they think of other reasons that Sal and his friends enjoy this type of travel?
- 18 Write:** Have students imagine they are Sal and they are riding out of San Francisco on the bus at the end of Chapter 12. *Write in your journal your feelings about Dean, Marylou, and Camille. Are you happy to leave them? Do you want to come back to see them again? Why or why not?*
- Example: *I am on the bus and I am leaving San Francisco ...*

### Chapters 13–15

#### After reading

- 19 Discuss:** Have students think about Dean's problems with Marylou and Camille in Chapter 13. Sal says "Poor, poor Dean ..." and suggests to Dean that they go to New York and then Italy together. However, Galatea yells at Dean and says he has "no sense of responsibility." Have students discuss the reactions of Sal and Galatea. How would they react if they knew Dean? What would they say to him?
- 20 Role play:** In pairs, have students think about the ride in the Cadillac from Denver to Chicago. Imagine a conversation between one of the college boys and Sal about Dean and his driving.
- Student A:* You are one of the college students. How do you feel about riding with Dean in the car.  
*Student B:* You are Sal. What do you say to the boy about Sal.

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### Chapters 16–19

#### After reading

- 21 Write:** On page 67, Sal describes Dean as a “rat” when he leaves him in Mexico with a fever. Sal says nothing to Dean about this. Have students imagine they were Sal in this situation. What would they say to Dean when they saw him later in New York? Have them write down their ideas in a short speech to Dean. Have them share their answers in groups.
- 22 Discuss:** What do Sal, Dean, and Stan see, hear, and do in Mexico that makes the trip interesting to them? In groups, have students share their ideas. Then have students share the things that are most interesting to them when they take trips somewhere.
- 23 Pair work:** Think about the friendship between Sal and Dean. Is their friendship different at the beginning of the story than it is at the end? If so, how? Discuss with your partner. (Have students review their response to activity 6.)

#### Extra activities

- 24 Check:** Have students recall their thoughts before reading the book (in activity 1). Were they correct with their guesses about the characters in the photograph and what might happen in the book? What (if anything) surprised or interested them about the story itself? How would they describe the style of writing?
- 25 Role play:** Have students imagine that Sal and Dean meet again in 1967. Discuss what they say about: their lives now (about twenty years after *On the Road*); their lives on the road; young people today and what they do compared with what Sal and Dean did when they were young. Choose one aspect of the discussion. Write a conversation between Sal and Dean. Student A is Sal and Student B is Dean.
- 26 Write:** Kerouac writes about a certain group of young people in the late 1940s. Write your feelings about young people today. Why might they act the way they do? Consider the changes in society and the responses of young people to these changes.
- 27 Artwork:** Have students imagine that they are Sal and they are putting together a poster or collage that will help describe the road trips they have taken and the adventures they have had along the way. In pairs or groups, have them cut out pictures and words from newspapers and magazines (or write and draw their own). Put these together on a large piece of paper to make a poster.
- 28 Discuss:** In small groups, have students discuss why the characters in this book spend so much time on the road. *Are they trying to gain experience of life? Are they running away from reality? Are they unsure what to do with their time? Are there other reasons?* Have groups share their ideas with the class.

- 29 Group work:** There are many references throughout the story to the fact that Dean is crazy. In groups, have students decide whether he is crazy. Have them find examples to support their views.
- 30 Research:** Look for further information about Jack Kerouac and the Beat Generation. In groups, have students also look at other groups of young people that have been labeled through the years (largely in North America), such as Baby Boomers, Generation X and Generation Y. What are the main characteristics of these different groups? What might be the characteristics of future groups of young people?
- 31 Role play:** Have students imagine a TV interview about the book between a reporter and Jack Kerouac. Have students reread page viii in the Introduction for a brief summary of Kerouac's life. *Student A:* You are a TV reporter. What kind of questions would you like to ask Jack Kerouac about his life and the book? *Student B:* You are Jack Kerouac. Imagine how you might respond to the questions.
- 32 Write:** A lot of Kerouac's writing involves observation of the people around him. Give students a weekend assignment that requires them to take a ride on a bus or to sit on a bench in a park, shopping mall or playground. In a descriptive paragraph, have them write about some of the interesting people they see. Have them share their paragraphs in groups.
- 33 Group work:** The story of Sal Paradise and his friends takes place in the United States in the late 1940s. Discuss how their experiences would be different if they traveled across the United States sixty years later. Think about cars, public transport, hitchhiking, money, casual labor, popular music and attitudes of society. Complete a chart and make comparisons.

Issues	1947	2007
<b>cars</b>		
<b>public transport</b>		
<b>hitchhiking</b>		
<b>money</b>		
<b>casual labor</b>		
<b>popular music</b>		
<b>attitudes of society</b>		

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## While reading

## Chapters 1–4

## 1 Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)?

Correct the false ones.

- a *On the Road* is based on the experiences and friendships of Jack Kerouac, the author of the novel. ☐
- b Many companies were interested in publishing *On the Road* when it was first completed in 1951. ☐
- c Jack Kerouac, as part of a new group of writers (part of the "Beat Generation"), generally had a negative view of life. ☐
- d After *On the Road* was published, Kerouac became a popular author and went on to write many books. ☐
- e Few people thought about driving a car across the United States in the late 1940s. ☐

## 2 Where does Sal visit on his first journey from New York? Put the names of these places in order (1–6).

- a ☐ Cheyenne, Wyoming
- b ☐ Davenport, Iowa
- c ☐ Des Moines, Iowa
- d ☐ Denver, Colorado
- e ☐ Chicago, Illinois
- f ☐ Gothenburg, Nebraska

3 Underline a mistake in each sentence and make it right.

- a Dean is with his first wife when Sal sees him in Denver.  
.....
- b Roland Major is happy that Sal brings Dean and some other friends to the apartment for a party.  
.....
- c In Denver, Sal works in the markets every day to save money.  
.....
- d Sal asks Roland for money so he can buy a bus ticket to San Francisco.  
.....
- e In San Francisco, Sal gets a job as a cook.  
.....
- f Sal meets a Mexican girl named Terry when he is hitchhiking to Los Angeles.  
.....

## Chapters 5–8

## 4 Sal talks about things going wrong in Central City and in San Francisco. Write which things take place in Central City (CC) and which take place in San Francisco (SF).

- a Remi loses all his money at the races. ....
- b Lee Ann refuses to cook. ....
- c There is only stale beer for breakfast. ....
- d Roland Major and Sal get drunk and are very rude. ....
- e A crowd of drunk boys spoil the party. ....
- f Babe slips and falls flat on her face. ....
- g Remi and Lee Ann have a fight. ....

## 5 Circle the correct name in each sentence.

- a *Dean / Sal* finds himself in a house with an angry woman and wonders why he came to San Francisco.
- b *Remi / Dean* borrows money to take his friends and his father out for dinner.
- c *Lee Ann / Terry* leaves her husband and makes plans to hitchhike to New York with Sal.
- d Sal's *aunt / brother* gives him a place to live when he returns to New York.
- e *Rocco / Dean* earned lots of money working on the railroad and bought a new car.
- f *Camille / Marylou* is the mother of Dean's daughter.

## Chapters 9–12

## 6 Match the letters with the numbers below to make complete sentences.

- a Dean talks all night on the trip from Sal's brother's home to New York because ....
- b Old Bull Lee complains to Sal on the phone because ....
- c Sal's aunt is not happy with Sal's decision to go to San Francisco because ....
- d At New Year's, Lucille is not happy because ....
- e Sal gives Dean eighteen dollars because ....
- f Sal feels unhappy as they travel to San Francisco because ....
  - 1) she doesn't like the way Sal behaves when he is with Dean and the others.
  - 2) Ed's girlfriend is at his house in New Orleans.
  - 3) he is excited about everything he sees.

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- 4) he realizes that Marylou is going to stay with Dean.
- 5) Dean's wife doesn't have any money.
- 6) she thinks he is wasting his time.

## 7 Read the questions and circle YES or NO.

- a Does Sal tell Dean that he wants to marry a girl named Lucille? YES NO
- b Does Marylou tell Sal that she wants him to go to San Francisco with her? YES NO
- c Does Sal's aunt think Sal should spend time with Dean and his friends? YES NO
- d Does Dean tell Marylou he wants to spend time with her when they return to San Francisco? YES NO
- e Does Sal take gas from the gas station without paying near Macon, Georgia? YES NO
- f Does Galatea seem to forgive Ed for leaving her when he arrives in New Orleans? YES NO
- g Does Old Bull want Sal, Dean and Ed to stay longer? YES NO
- h Is Sal happy with Dean and Marylou when he is in San Francisco? YES NO

## Chapters 13–15

## 8 Who performs the following actions? Write the names.

Sal Frankie Marylou Galatea Ed Wall  
Dean Camille

- a ..... smokes some bad marijuana, has terrible dreams, and wakes up screaming.
- b ..... marries a man who threatens to kill Dean.
- c ..... is pregnant with Dean's second child.
- d ..... tells Dean he has no sense of responsibility.
- e ..... likes Dean and says he reminds her of her crazy husband.
- f ..... talks about traveling with Dean to New York and Italy.
- g ..... thinks that Dean stole the Cadillac that he is driving.

## 9 Put these events in the correct order (1–7).

- a ☐ Dean and Sal go to Denver and stay with Frankie.

- b ☐ Sal and Dean arrange to drive a Cadillac to Chicago.
- c ☐ A woman with a gun tells Dean to stay away or she will shoot him.
- d ☐ Dean drives too fast and puts the Cadillac in the ditch outside of Denver.
- e ☐ Camille throws Dean out of the house.
- f ☐ Dean gets drunk and steals several cars.
- g ☐ Galatea gets angry at Dean for how he has treated Marylou and Camille.

## Chapters 16–19

## 10 Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)?

Correct the false ones.

- a Sal leaves on a trip from New York without Dean. ☐
- b Stan Shephard plans to go with Sal to Mexico and find work there. ☐
- c Dean buys a bus ticket and joins Sal in Denver. ☐
- d Stan goes to a hospital because he has an insect bite on his arm. ☐
- e Dean gets a terrible fever in Mexico City. ☐
- f Dean gets his divorce from Camille, marries Inez, and then goes to be with Marylou. ☐

## 11 Where do these events happen? Write 1–6.

- a Dean and Sal have a wild night of parties with Ed and Galatea Dunkel, Tim Gray and others. ....
- b Stan feels better after going to the hospital. ....
- c Victor takes Dean, Stan and Sal to a house to meet some girls. ....
- d Sal gets sick with a fever and Dean says he needs to leave. ....
- e Dean writes a long letter to Sal that says he will buy a truck to drive Sal and Laura home. ....
- f Dean gets in a fight with Inez and sees Sal for the last time. ....
  - 1) Mexico City, Mexico
  - 2) San Antonio, Texas
  - 3) New York, New York
  - 4) Denver, Colorado
  - 5) San Francisco, California
  - 6) Gregoria, Mexico

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### Chapters 1–4

#### 1 Who are these people in the story? Choose the right name.

- a ..... is a sweet girl who is stupid and can do horrible things.
- b ..... quickly becomes good friends with Dean, so Sal doesn't see Dean as often as before.
- c ..... is the girlfriend of Remi and is a wonderful cook.
- d ..... is a writer and is the narrator of this story.
- e ..... is a friend in San Francisco who wants Sal to go on a round-the-world trip.
- f ..... lives in Denver and is Sal's writing friend from college.
- g ..... is the "madman" who wants to learn to write.
  - 1) Sal Paradise
  - 2) Dean Moriarty
  - 3) Marylou
  - 4) Lee Ann
  - 5) Carlo Marx
  - 6) Remi Boncoeur
  - 7) Roland Major

### Chapters 5–8

#### 2 Are these sentences true (T) or false (F). Correct the false ones.

- a Sal finished his book before he left on his first trip to the West Coast. ☐
- b Sal says it's a good idea to get whiskey by following a man down a dark street and robbing him. ☐
- c Sal decides to get off the truck at Cheyenne, Wyoming. ☐
- d The brothers driving the truck from Minnesota to Los Angeles drink but don't smoke. ☐
- e Sal thinks he has wasted his money on the girls in the bar in Cheyenne. ☐
- f All of Sal's friends in Denver are having a good time together. ☐

### Chapters 9–12

#### 3 Where do these events happen? Write the places, number 1–6.

- a Dean, Sal and Ed jump onto a moving train. ....
- b Sal borrows five dollars from an old friend so they can buy gas for the car and get to Los Angeles. ....

- c Dean gets a ticket for driving "too fast." ....
- d The car gets stuck in the mud on a rainy night. ....
- e Sal says goodbye to Dean and Marylou and thinks he might not see them again. ....
- f Marylou tells Sal she wants to go back east with him. ....
  - 1) New Orleans, Louisiana
  - 2) near Houston, Texas
  - 3) San Francisco, California
  - 4) Washington, D.C.
  - 5) Tucson, Arizona
  - 6) El Paso, Texas

### Chapters 13–15

#### 4 Match the two parts of the sentences.

- a Sal thinks about living in Denver but ....
- b Dean hurt his thumb in a fight with Marylou, so ....
- c Sal feels sorry for Dean because ....
- d The tourists who drive to Denver with Sal and Dean are scared because ....
- e Dean throws stones at the window of a beautiful girl, so ....
- f Dean and Sal return the Cadillac to the owner's home in Chicago but ....
  - 1) Dean is such a crazy driver.
  - 2) he can't work anymore.
  - 3) they don't get any complaints about the condition of the car.
  - 4) Galatea doesn't understand Dean's troubles.
  - 5) a mother comes after Dean with a gun.
  - 6) he feels very lonely there.

### Chapters 16–19

#### 5 Put these events from Mexico in the same order as in the story, number 1–8.

- a ☐ It's too hot for them to be able to sleep in the car.
- b ☐ Sal gets a fever.
- c ☐ They meet a young man called Victor.
- d ☐ Dean gets his divorce from Camille.
- e ☐ Victor takes them to a place with girls.
- f ☐ Dean goes back to New York.
- g ☐ They eat beautiful steaks.
- h ☐ They smoke marijuana.

## On the Road

### Book key

- 1 a cop, fellow, prostitute  
b pie, whiskey  
c alert, broke, determined, slim
- 2 San Francisco is the furthest. The distance is about 4,000 kilometers or about 2,500 miles.
- 3 a Sal Paradise is a young writer who travels across America with Dean Moriarty. He is separated from his wife and lives with his aunt in Paterson, New Jersey. He admires Dean.  
b Dean Moriarty is a young man married to Marylou. He spent five years in prison and now he cannot stay in one place for long. He has a sense of freedom and is intelligent. This character is based on Kerouac's friend Neal Cassady.  
c It is like a natural stream of thoughts, which was new at that time.  
d They did not believe in living or writing by old rules. They wanted life to be simple and free. They believed in open emotions and in having many sexual partners. Some used shockingly bad language in their books and some went on trial for this.
- 4 a 2 b 6 c 1 d 5 e 7 f 4 g 3
- 5 a T b F c T d F e T f F
- 6 Open answers
- 7 a He learns that it is better to hitchhike near gas stations.  
b He learns that it is an easy way to lose money and get nothing.
- 8 a Dean's accent makes a big impression on Sal because it is a real western accent.  
b He thinks she is pretty and sweet. But he does not trust her because she falsely accused Dean of doing something crazy and then she left him and returned to Denver.  
c He likes jazz and listens to it at a club all night.  
d He likes apple pie and ice cream because he eats it all the way across the country.
- 9–10 Open answers
- 11 a ✓ b ✓ c ✗ d ✗ e ✗ f ✗ g ✓ h ✓  
i ✗ j ✓
- 12 a vacant  
b marijuana  
c cotton  
d college
- 13–16 Open answers
- 17 a 7 b 1 c 2 d 6 e 5 f 3 g 4
- 18 a ✓ c ✓ d ✓ e ✓
- 19 Open answer
- 20 Sal realizes that neither Dean nor Marylou really cares about him. He also realizes that she is really a prostitute. He no longer wants to share everything with them.
- 21–22 Open answers
- 23 a Yes  
b Yes  
c No  
d Yes  
e Yes  
f Yes
- 24 a Frankie  
b ball  
c whiskey  
d waitress  
e ditch  
f 110
- 25 a Dean is driving worse than ever and is stealing for the fun of it. He is totally irresponsible in relationships with women.  
b A possible reason is his misuse of alcohol and drugs.  
c–g Open answers
- 26 Open answer
- 27 a 2 b 3 c 1 d 2 e 3
- 28 a 2 b 1 c 4 d 5 e 3 f 6
- 29 a Dean  
b Laura  
c Inez  
d Camille  
e Remi Boncœur  
f Dean
- 30 a Sal thinks this about Dean when he hears that Dean is coming to Denver. Sal knows that his friend is going mad again.  
b Dean says this to Sal when he tells him about going to Mexico for his quick, cheap divorce from Camille. He wants to believe that life will be easier.  
c A Mexican official says this to Sal, Dean, and Stan because he wants them to enjoy Mexico but to be careful.  
d Sal thinks this when he realizes that Dean has been a rat. But he will forgive him because Dean's life is so complicated and he has a lot of troubles.  
e Laura says this when Sal tells her everything about Dean. She feels sorry for him and is worried.

## On the Road

- 31 a He feels upset that Dean has treated him badly but he forgives him.  
b He feels that the old Dean is gone and that this sad person can still take care of himself.

32–42 Open answers

### Discussion activities key

1–33 Open answers

### Activity worksheets key

- 1 a T  
b F: Many > Not many  
c F: negative > positive  
d T  
e F: Few > Many
- 2 a 5 b 2 c 3 d 6 e 1 f 4
- 3 a first wife > girlfriend (Camille)  
b happy > not happy  
c every day > one day  
d Roland > his aunt  
e cook > guard  
f hitchhiking > riding a bus
- 4 a SF  
b SF  
c CC  
d SF  
e CC  
f CC  
g SF
- 5 a Sal  
b Remi  
c Terry  
d aunt  
e Dean  
f Camille
- 6 a 3 b 2 c 6 d 1 e 5 f 4

- 7 a YES  
b YES  
c NO  
d YES  
e NO  
f YES  
g NO  
h NO
- 8 a Dean  
b Marylou  
c Camille  
d Galatea  
e Frankie  
f Sal  
g Ed Wall
- 9 a 3 b 6 c 4 d 7 e 1 f 5 g 2
- 10 a T  
b F: find work > go to college  
c F: a bus ticket > a car  
d T  
e F: Dean > Sal  
f F: Marylou > Camille
- 11 a 4 b 2 c 6 d 1 e 5 f 3

### Progress test key

- 1 a 3 b 5 c 4 d 1 e 6 f 7 g 2
- 2 a F: his book > half his book  
b F: Sal > Montana Slim  
c T  
d F: drink but don't smoke > smoke but don't drink  
e T  
f F: All > Not all (Many are not talking to Dean or Carl.)
- 3 a 1 b 5 c 4 d 2 e 3 f 6
- 4 a 6 b 2 c 4 d 1 e 5 f 3
- 5 a 4 b 6 c 1 d 7 e 3 f 8 g 5 h 2