A Before Reading

1 Look at the picture on the front cover and at the title of the book. Make some guesses about the story. What is it going to be about?

2 Read about the story on the back cover. What have you learnt about the man, Mr Samuel? What have you learnt about the woman?

B While Reading

3 Read to the end of Chapter 3. Who are these people?
   (a) long dark hair/about twenty-five years old/had a lovely face
   (b) about forty years old/tall and heavy/long red hair tied in pony-tail
   (c) an old man/wearing blue overalls, a cotton shirt and a wide hat
   (d) very tall — more than two metres — and he weighed more than one hundred and forty kilos

4 Read to the end of Chapter 7. Write a few sentences about these things or people. Are they important? Why/why not?
   (a) Slim Peters
   (b) a yellow pass and a blue pass
   (c) a TV camera
   (d) the red 4x4
   (e) the cupboard in Stable 14
   (f) Dick Gates

5 Here are some sentences from the story.
   ‘Mr Samuel!’ said a voice. It was Sandy Bonner. ‘I’m sorry, Mr Samuel. I was wrong. A horse called Golden Dragon —’
   Suddenly she stopped speaking.
   Make a guess. Why did Sandy Bonner stop speaking?

6 Read to the end of the story. Here are two pictures. What are these people thinking?
   (a) Lenny (page 48)
C. After Reading

7 Explain why these amounts of money are important:

(a) $1000  (b) $20  (c) $200  (d) $150  (e) $50

8 Answer either (a) or (b)
(a) Here is the L.A. Messenger. You are a newspaper reporter. Read the headlines. Now write your own article and make the front page. Try to write like a real reporter.

(b) You are a TV or radio reporter. Write a script of your interview with Sandy and Lenny. (You can make a video or a cassette recording of the interview.)