

Between the lines

1. Make a copy of this very short story by an American writer called Richard Brautigan and give it to the students.

'It's hard to live in a studio apartment in San Jose with a man who's learning to play the violin.' That's what she told the police when she handed them the empty revolver.

2. Give students time to read the story and then ask the students to answer these questions in pairs or small groups:

- What do you think has happened?
- Why did it happen?
- What are the possible relationships between the violin player and the woman?
- How does the story end?

3. Collect ideas from your students discussing issues such as:

What facts did the story actually give them?

Have they ever lived with someone learning a musical instrument?

Who was it?

Did they enjoy the experience?

What do they think San Jose might be like?

Students can give different answers and ideas. The object is to show the extent to which a text is not complete without the reader.

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