



# Unit 10 Chick-lit

## Cross-curricular – Literature

### 1 Write your answers to the questions.

- 1 What is the most recent book you have read in your language? .....
- 2 How would you describe the genre, eg romantic/thriller/detective? .....
- 3 How many female writers can you name who are writing in your country today? .....
- 4 Do/Would you enjoy reading their books? Why?/Why not? .....
- 5 Without knowing the author, could you tell whether a book has been written by a male or female writer? How? .....
- 6 If you could write a book, what would the genre/subject be? .....

### 2 You are going to read an article about 'chick-lit'. What do you think this term means?

#### WORD BOOSTER

##### Match the words and the definitions.

- |                   |                             |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 vested interest | a refuse to believe         |
| 2 lot of stick    | b joking                    |
| 3 shape or form   | c personal involvement      |
| 4 see red         | d refuses to take seriously |
| 5 deny            | e criticism                 |
| 6 dismisses       | f become very angry         |
| 7 kidding         | g type                      |

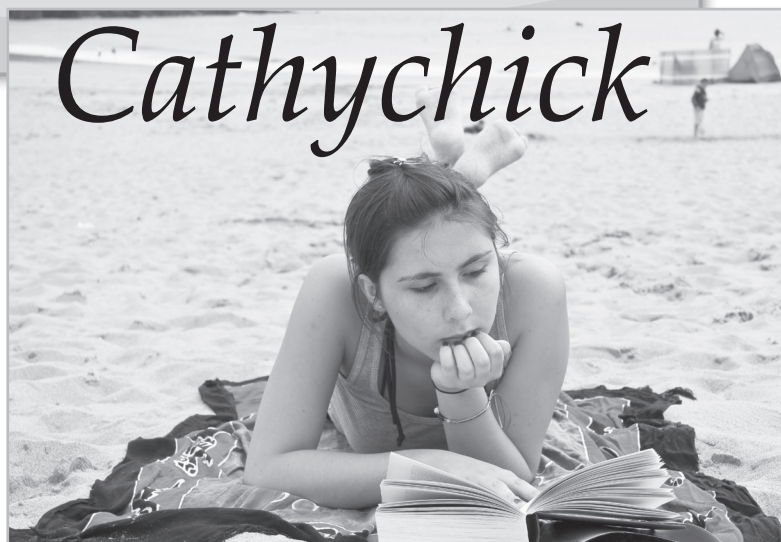
### 3 Read the article quickly, ignoring the gaps, to see if your definition is correct.

### 4 Read the article again carefully and use the sentences below (a–f) to complete the gaps (1–5). There is one sentence you do not need.

- a Because it's written by women mainly for young women to read, it isn't taken seriously as a genre.
- b Writers of 'chick-lit' should be encouraged not condemned.
- c What the critics of 'chick-lit' fail to point out is that it also has some excellent writers.
- d It's a genre that is popular for a good reason and critics will soon have to take it seriously.
- e I want to put the record straight on what I think 'chick-lit' is and what it isn't.
- f But it does deal with important issues that are relevant to its readers.

### 5 Write a post in reply to the article.

# Cathychick



Hi, everyone! I haven't posted on this site before, but I've read a lot of the comments people have left about books that they enjoy (and those that they don't!) and I'd like to join in the debate on 'chick-lit' that's been getting some attention recently! I've got a bit of a vested interest as I'm a writer myself and I've published a couple of 'chick-lit' titles. But I'm not here to big myself up! (1) ..... As a genre, it's been taking a lot of stick from some of the well-established literary figures whose work regularly appears on Man Booker Prize-type shortlists. The general feeling seems to be that 'chick-lit' is a light and frothy sort of fiction that isn't worth reading. (2) ..... This makes me see red! Literary snobbery of any shape or form gets me hot under the collar and the idea that 'chick-lit' is somehow inferior to other types of fiction is an insult both to the writers and to those who read it.

OK, 'chick-lit' is light romantic comedy and it doesn't deal with deep intellectual issues. It's the sort of book that will be taken on holiday and read on the beach or plane, rather than discussed in university seminars! (3) ..... There are themes about relationships, jealousy, rivalry, ambition, addiction, body image, bullying – I could go on and on! But these are all topics that readers can identify with. And 'chick-lit' is just like any other genre in that it has some good and some not-so-good writers. Some books are poorly written – but then that is the same whether you're reading 'chick-lit', detective fiction, historical fiction or any other genre you'd like to mention. (4) ..... Who can deny the talents of Jane Green, Danielle Steel or Helen Fielding (remember Bridget Jones?)? Their books are superbly written, well-structured and very clever. Writing good comic fiction is a difficult art and they manage it exceptionally well.

So, I'd just like to say to anyone out there who dismisses 'chick-lit' as 'unimportant' – get over it! (5) ..... 'Chick-lit' is definitely here to stay. And by the way, my new book is... No, just kidding! Thanks for reading this comment. I'd love to hear your reactions!