

And there she stood. Her pale<sup>1</sup>, plump<sup>2</sup> face was gentle<sup>3</sup> and sensible, her grey eyes were warm and kind.

This would not be love, but it would be something precious, something perhaps even better than love, a wonderful friendship.

"I'm John Blanchard, and you must be Hollis Maynell. I am so glad you could meet me. May I take you to dinner?"

The woman smiled. "I don't know what this is about, son," she answered, "but the young lady in the green suit who just went by, she asked me to wear this. And she said if you asked me out to dinner, I should tell you that she is waiting for you in the big restaurant across the street. She said it was some sort of test!"

Annotations:

<sup>1</sup> pale - nearly white; without colour

<sup>2</sup> plump - round and full in a positive way

<sup>3</sup> gentle - kind and careful in the way you behave or do things

### 3.1 Leseverstehen *I'll wear a rose*

▶ Complete the chart with the correct information from the text.

1	number of characters	
2	city	
3	exact place of their first meeting	
4	time of their first meeting	
5	number of months they wrote letters to each other	

▶ Read the following statements carefully. Tick (✓) the correct box.

	true	false	no information in the text
6 John was shocked by the appearance of the first woman.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7 John invited the second woman to dinner.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8 The second woman was only helping the first woman.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9 The first woman fell in love with John.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>