

Goodnight Mister Tom  
Chapter One – Comprehension

Section A

1. What is Tom’s full name?

2. How do the children feel?

3. Describe Tom using evidence from the text.

4. Tom offers to hang up Willie’s ‘mackintosh’. What do you think a mackintosh is?

5. Who do you think Sammy is? Explain your reasons.

6. How long ago had Tom’s wife died?

7. Sammy often slept in Tom’s bedroom. True or false?

Section B

8. What do you think the woman is asking Tom to do?

9. Why do you think that Willie did not feel hungry?

10. Willie mentions that he could not hear traffic or banging and shouting at Tom's house. How do you imagine his home to be in comparison to Tom's?

11. Why does the woman at the graveyard think that Willie is polite?

12. Why was Willie terrified of the squirrel?

13. How was Willie feeling when he got back in to the cottage?

14. What do you think will happen in the next chapter?

Section C

15. What does the first line tell you about the character? Give reasons for your answer.

16. Why has the author used the word ‘ent’ instead of haven’t when Tom speaks to Willie?

17. What clue is in the text that Tom has bad eyesight?

18. The author uses figurative language to describe the flames in the fire. What technique have they used and why?

19. The text says the young man was in uniform. What might the young man do for a job?

20. Why does Willie assume he will ‘get a beating’?

21. Why might the author have used the word ‘place’ instead of ‘put’ when describing how Tom moved Willie?

22. Do you think Tom has a big or small house? Explain your answer giving evidence from the text.

Section D

23. What does the word ‘obligatory’ mean?

24. Why was bacon a luxury?

25. What might Willie drinking his tea sound like?

26. Why did Tom ask Willie if he was afraid of heights?

27. The author describes the setting of the graveyard. How do they do this effectively?

28. What does Willie think of his old teacher Mr Barrett?

29. What is the meaning of the word ‘reverberated’?

30. What clues are there about Tom’s life before Willie arrived?

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Chapter One – Challenge Activity

Section A

Use the information in the text to decide whether these statements are true or false.

	True	False
Tom has a cat called Sammy who we meet in the first paragraph.		
Willie is frightened of the squirrel because he has not seen a real-life one before.		
Tom's wife died twenty years ago.		
The cottage is in the city and Willie and his sister are staying there.		
Tom gives Willie an egg sandwich and a cup of tea.		
Willie thought Tom was going to hit him with the poker.		

Section B

Tick to show whether each sentence is written in the past or present tense.

	past	present
Tom's wife died a long time ago.		
Willie wrapped himself in the scarf and took a step outside.		
The graveyard is pleasant with flowers and trees dotted between gravestones.		
The cottage is old and creaky.		
Willie was polite to the lady he met in the graveyard.		
The church is mere meters away from the cottage.		

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Section C

Write and match up the correct synonyms and antonyms from the box with the correct words below.

quieten	well-worn	reassured	optional
rough	pristine	compulsory	worried
echo	hassled	aided	delicate

word	synonym	antonym
reverberated		
harassed		
obligatory		
relieved		
coarse		
threadbare		

Use a synonym to rewrite the sentences below.

1. The woman looked harassed as she tried to keep control of the group of scared children.

2. It was obligatory – Tom had to take in an evacuee from the city.

3. The carpet had been there for years and looked threadbare.

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Section D

Willie hung up his mackintosh onto the peg and looked around. The cottage was quaint. From where he stood he could see the range burning hotly in the kitchen. It made the whole place feel warm and cosy. Tom presented him with a bacon sandwich, 'ere, eat this', he said while thrusting the plate into Willie's hand. Bacon was so scarce these days that only lodgers and visitors were offered any.

**FIND and COPY** one word in the text that means:

- in short supply, not often available
- a waterproof jacket
- pleasantly old-fashioned
- pushy, pushing forward something
- snug or comfortable
- a cooking stove with hot plates and an oven
- a person who rents a room in your home
- a small house, usually in the country

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