

Goodnight Mister Tom

Chapter One

National Curriculum Objectives:

English Year 5 & Year 6: [Understand what they read by predicting what might happen from details stated and implied](#)

English Year 5 & Year 6: [Understand what they read by drawing inferences such as inferring characters' feelings, thoughts and motives from their actions, and justifying inferences with evidence](#)

Differentiation for Challenge Activity:

Section A Order statements from the text.

Section B Use adjectives to write a paragraph about the main characters.

Section C Choose the correct conjunction to complete sentences, then extend other sentences using subordinating clauses.

Section D Write a letter using the given vocabulary.

More [Goodnight Mister Tom](#) Resources.

Did you like this resource? Don't forget to review it [here](#).

Goodnight Mister Tom
Chapter Two – Teacher Version

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E: (Q1) Why is Willie apprehensive about Sammy sitting at his feet? He is frightened of the dog. His mum said dogs were horrible animals (in chapter one).

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D: (Q7) What is meant by the word ‘romp’ in the sentence, ‘needs a good romp in the fields’? A spell of rough energetic play.

S: (Q14) What is the author comparing Willie to when he says ‘...wormed his way to the end of the armchair and slid on to the floor’? Why does the author do this? A worm or snake. This is to describe the character’s movements in a way the reader can recognise.

M: (Q23) Why do you think that Willie was surprised that he was going to have a room of his own? What does this suggest about Willie’s past? He is not used to having his own room. He most likely shared a room in his past, and felt it was a privilege to have his own space, even if it was an attic.

S: (Q15) What is meant by the word ‘ecstatically’? Overwhelming happiness or joy.

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M: (Q24) Willie offers to carry Tom’s bag on their walk. What evidence is there in the text to show that Willie is doing this as a nice gesture towards Tom? In the paragraph above, it says that Willie thought Tom was a kind man. That paragraph also reminds the reader that Tom is old, with grey hair, so Willie may have thought it was the done thing to help an elderly man.

E: (Q2) Why will Tom show Willie some pictures of thatched houses when they get home? Willie has never seen thatched houses before and asked about them when he saw them up the road.

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S: (Q16) Why and how does Tom think Mrs Fletcher can help him? She can knit Willie a jersey and may have spares from her own children. She will ask other villagers if they have some small boots for Willie. Willie arrived with little suitable clothing.

M: (Q25) Knowing that Tom is asking Mrs Fletcher for clothing, why do you think he sent Willie off with the dog whilst he chatted? He wanted the conversation to be private. Willie may have gotten embarrassed if he knew Tom was asking to borrow clothes for him.

D: (Q8) What is Mrs Fletcher talking about in the paragraph that starts 'I ent got room meself...'? She is talking about the other villagers and how many evacuees were placed with them.

S: (Q17) What words could be used to describe Mrs Fletcher, use the text for evidence. A gossip/chatterbox. She instantly ran to the next cottage to tell Madge that Tom has an evacuee to look after. She also tried telling Tom all about other people's business, which Tom did not want to know.

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D: (Q9) Why does Tom point out things around them to Willie? For example, the bird and the cow? Willie has implied that he has not been in the country before. He is showing interest and surprise about things around him. Tom is trying to educate Willie on how to be around nature.

E: (Q3) Why does Willie watch the milking so intently? He has never seen a cow before and may not know milk comes from cows.

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E: (Q4) What is the name of the six year old girl who lives at the farm? Lucy

S: (Q18) What does Tom mean when he mentions that there is not much difference in size to Lucy and Willie? Why has he pointed this out to Roe? Willie is older than Lucy, yet they are a similar size. He is implying that city children aren't growing as well as those who live in the country.

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D: (Q10) Why are the villagers putting black material on their windows? Everyone has been instructed to do so, so that enemy planes can't see the lights inside the homes and bomb them. They are blackouts.

E: (Q5) Why is the chapter called 'Little Weirwold'? The village is called Little Weirwold and this chapter is about Willie meeting people and getting to know the village on a walk with Tom and Sammy.

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D: (Q11) What clues in the text tell you that this book was set in the past? Blackout curtains, oil lamp and gas lamp.

S: (Q19) What is unusual about the brown paper bag containing Willie's things? It has a letter to Tom, and has very few things in it. There are no clothes or night clothes. We found out earlier through Mrs Fletcher that he should have arrived with clothes.

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S: (Q20) Why does Willie flinch when Tom is helping him to undress? Willie is used to being beaten, and his instinct is to flinch.

M: (Q26) What shocks you about the letter from Willie's mother? It sounds like she is not fond of Willie and won't come to visit him in the country. The clothes he is wearing should last all winter, although we already know that when wet, they will not keep Willie warm. Willie's mother also thinks that Willie is naughty and has included a belt to be used as a whip. She expects Tom to punish him like she does.

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S: (Q21) How does the author make you sympathetic towards Willie? By revealing information slowly to the reader to show that Willie was beaten and not looked after at home. Also by Willie's reactions to things whilst Tom is being kind to Willie. The author makes the reader think that Willie has had a bad childhood so far and happy that Willie is now living with Tom.

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E: (Q6) How do Willie's actions show that he is hungry? He ate the food 'feverishly' and tried to eat a hot potato without using cutlery. The author describes it as a frenzy.

D: (Q12) Why does the author use mostly longer sentences punctuated with commas? It is easy to read with longer flowing sentences.

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M: (Q27) How does the author encourage the reader to imagine a calm scene in paragraph two? It describes everything around Willie to be calm as the gas lamp 'gently' hissed, and the fire was described as 'stirred softly' and the rain became lighter outside.

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M: (Q28) When Willie bursts into tears, why do you think he feels the need to tell Tom that he is not ungrateful? He has been taught never to be ungrateful for anything. He also does not want to be punished for being ungrateful. He is happy to be with Tom.

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M: (Q29) What importance is it that Tom has asked Willie to call him Tom rather than Mister? He is growing fond of Willie. It is friendlier than 'Mister'.

S: (Q22) How is this chapter similar or different to chapter one? It is different because we get to know more about the setting and the characters. We have been introduced to more characters in this chapter. Chapter one was mostly an introduction to the story.

D: (Q13) Why is the book called 'Goodnight Mister Tom'? That is what Willie said when he fell asleep on the first night at Tom's home.

Goodnight Mister Tom
Chapter Two – Comprehension

Section A

1. Why is Willie apprehensive about Sammy sitting at his feet?

2. Why will Tom show Willie some pictures of thatched houses when they get home?

3. Why does Willie watch the milking so intently?

4. What is the name of the six year old girl who lives at the farm?

5. Why is the chapter called 'Little Weirwold'?

6. On page 32, how do Willie's actions show that he is hungry?

Section B

7. What is meant by the word 'romp' in the sentence, 'needs a good romp in the fields'?

8. What is Mrs Fletcher talking about in the paragraph that starts 'I ent got room meself...'?

9. Why does Tom point out things around them to Willie? For example, the bird and the cow?

10. Why are the villagers putting black material on their windows?

11. What clues in the text tell you that this book was set in the past?

12. Why does the author use mostly longer sentences punctuated with commas?

13. Why is the book called 'Goodnight Mister Tom'?

Section C

14. What is the author comparing Willie to when he says ‘...wormed his way to the end of the armchair and slid on to the floor’? Why does the author do this?

15. What is meant by the word ‘ecstatically’?

16. Why and how does Tom think Mrs Fletcher can help him?

17. What words could be used to describe Mrs Fletcher, use the text for evidence.

18. What does Tom mean when he mentions that there is not much difference in size to Lucy and Willie? Why has he pointed this out to Roe?

19. What is unusual about the brown paper bag containing Willie’s things?

20. Why does Willie flinch when Tom is helping him to undress?

21. How does the author make you feel sympathetic towards Willie?

22. How is this chapter similar or different to chapter one?

Section D

23. Why do you think that Willie was surprised that he was going to have a room of his own? What does this suggest about Willie's past?

24. Willie offers to carry Tom's bag on their walk. What evidence is there in the text to show that Willie is doing this as a nice gesture towards Tom?

25. Knowing that Tom is asking Mrs Fletcher for clothing, why do you think he sent Willie off with the dog whilst he chatted?

26. What shocks you about the letter from Willie's mother?

27. How does the author encourage the reader to imagine a calm scene in paragraph two?

28. When Willie bursts into tears, why do you think he feels the need to tell Tom that he is not ungrateful?

29. What importance is it that Tom has asked Willie to call him Tom rather than Mister?

Goodnight Mister Tom
Chapter Two – Challenge Activity

Section A

Number the statements from 1 to 6, in the order that they happened in the chapter.

Willie watched the farmer milking a cow.	
Willie slept in the attic.	
Tom chatted to Mrs Fletcher.	
Willie saw a hedge-sparrow.	
Tom helped Willie out of his wet clothes.	
Ginger cake was eaten.	

Section B

What do we know about the characters so far? Write a paragraph about each of them, using adjectives to describe them.

Willie

Tom

Goodnight Mister Tom
Chapter Two – Challenge Activity

Section C

Use the most appropriate conjunctions from the box to complete the sentences below.

meanwhile	although	so	despite
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1. Tom bought ginger cake from the little corner shop _____ they could eat it after dinner.
2. Willie watched the milking intently _____ Tom talked to the farmer's wife.
3. _____ Tom lived alone, he was starting to enjoy Willie's company.
4. Willie broke down in tears _____ being happy to be living with Tom.

Rewrite the sentences below so that they contain a subordinating clause.

Willie stared at cow that was being milked.

Tom thought the blackout curtains were nonsense.

Willie had never eaten cake before.

Goodnight Mister Tom
Chapter Two – Challenge Activity

Section D

Write a letter from Willie, back home to his mother. You must include words from the box below.

Mrs Hartridge	Bible	Sammy	squirrel	Lucy
milking	fields	Tom	churchyard	village

Goodnight Mister Tom
Chapter Two – Challenge Activity

Section A

Number the statements from 1 to 6, in the order that they happened in the chapter.

Willie watched the farmer milking a cow.	3
Willie slept in the attic.	6
Tom chatted to Mrs Fletcher.	1
Willie saw a hedge-sparrow.	2
Tom helped Willie out of his wet clothes.	4
Ginger cake was eaten.	5

Section B

What do we know about the characters so far? Write a paragraph about each of them, using adjectives to describe them.

Willie

Accept an accurate description of the character with use of adjectives.

Tom

Accept an accurate description of the character with use of adjectives.

Goodnight Mister Tom
Chapter Two – Challenge Activity

Section C

Use the most appropriate conjunctions from the box to complete the sentences below.

meanwhile	although	so	despite
-----------	----------	----	---------

1. Tom bought ginger cake from the little corner shop **so** they could eat it after dinner.
2. Willie watched the milking intently **meanwhile** Tom talked to the farmer's wife.
3. **Although** Tom lived alone, he was starting to enjoy Willie's company.
4. Willie broke down in tears **despite** being happy to be living with Tom.

Rewrite the sentences below so that they contain a subordinating clause.

Willie stared at cow that was being milked.

e.g. **With great interest, Willie stared at a cow that was being milked.**

Tom thought the blackout curtains were nonsense.

e.g. **Even though Tom thought the blackout curtains were nonsense, they were compulsory.**

Willie had never eaten cake before.

e.g. **Despite his age, Willie had never eaten cake before.**

Whole Class Guided Reading – Teaching Guide

- Give each pair a copy of the book to read individually or as a whole class.
- The teacher should use the teacher version. It tells you where to pause after each page and provides questions for you to ask. The colours refer to our levels so that you can direct specific questions at specific students (their version does not have these colours or show them which is mastery, etc.). The questions are also numbered in the order they appear on the comprehension sheet.
 - Beginner – (Red)
 - Easy – (Blue)
 - Tricky – (Orange)
 - Expert – (Green)
- The children can record their answers to the questions at the end of the shared read/discussion or in a different session by using the comprehension sheet. The questions have been re-grouped into abilities so that you can assign sections to specific children.
 - Section A – Beginner
 - Section B – Easy
 - Section C – Tricky
 - Section D – Expert