

Chapter 3:

1. Write a definition for the word voluminous (p. 36).

Loose-fitting.

2. Why do you think Willie 'hung back' when they came across the large carthorse?

He was scared the horse would hurt him.

3. On page 45, how is the man and his wife described?

Elderly couple. He wore a crisp white collarless shirt with the sleeves well rolled up and his baggy grey trousers were held up with a piece of string. She was in a flowery cotton dress with lilac-coloured apron over it. Their skin was wrinkled and brown as an old football and on their heads were perched steel air-raid helmets. Both carried gas-mask boxes over their shoulders.

4. Why would Mr Tom and Willie be in trouble for not carrying their gas masks?

Because war was going to be declared and they may need it if there was to be an air raid.

Chapter 4:

5. What types of sweets did they have in the newsagent's shop? Give 3 answers.

Boiled, fruit drops, farthin' chews, mint humbugs, lollies.

6. What did Willie's mum say about the colour red?

That it was a sinful colour.

7. Why did Willie have a 'huge lump' that 'seemed to burn' his chest?

He was shocked and overwhelmed by how nice Mr Tom was being as he was buying Willie all these nice clothes and brown ankle boots.

8. Why do you think Willie was able to sleep better after his second day with Mr Tom?

He'd had a busy day, meeting lots of people and he was exhausted.

Chapter 5:

9. What job did the vicar give Willie to do?

Putting the hymns books out on the pews, 4 on each bench.

10. What did Tom mean when he said, 'Trust ole Barnes to pick a strong-lookin' pair,' on page 74?

Tom was referring to the evacuees, and he meant that they would be able to work and help because they looked fit and healthy, compared to Willie, who was not.

11. Who is speaking on the wireless, and why?

Neville Chamberlain, the Prime Minister. He was announcing that Britain had declared war with Germany.

12. What were the Anderson Shelters used for?

To shelter in in case of an air raid.

Chapter 6:

13. Why do you think the author describes Mr Tom as a 'recluse'?

Because he keeps himself to himself, and rarely interacts with those in the village.

14. Why did Mr Tom no longer take part in any of the social activities in Little Weirwold?

Because, when his wife had died, he had cut himself off from people to grieve. When he had recovered, he no longer wanted to socialise.

Chapter 7:

15. Why do you think Willie couldn't run properly?

'his stupid legs' – he wasn't healthy enough.

16. Why did George look disgruntled? Do you think he wanted to invite Willie and Zach on the picnic?

He looked disgruntled because he has to take the twins on a picnic, and he had to invite Zach and Willie.

17. What hobbies do the children enjoy? (Use pages 105 and 106 to help you). Write a sentence for each child.

- a. Ginnie – She liked to name and press wildflowers.
- b. Carrie – She liked to read books, climb trees and explore.
- c. George – He liked to fish and play cricket.
- d. Zach – He liked to act, read adventure and poetry books, swimming and cycling.
- e. Willie – He liked to draw.

Chapter 8:

18. Why was Willie disappointed that he wasn't in Mrs Hartridge's class?

He felt humiliated that he was in a class with the little ones, and because he wasn't with his friends.

19. What was Mr Tom going to teach Willie? How did he do this?

To read and write, beginning with writing his own name. Mr Tom taught Willie by using dots for him to join up.

Chapter 9:

20. How do you think Willie felt to receive all those presents? Why?

Answers with vary.

Happy/overwhelmed/joyous – never received gifts like this before/wasn't used to it.

21. Why did Tom not want Willie in the house?

Tom didn't want Willie in the house because he was trying to set up for his surprise birthday party.

22. Did Willie enjoy his birthday party? Use evidence from the book to support your answer.

Willie did enjoy his birthday party because he says to Mr Tom, 'Mister Tom, it's the best... it's the best...' It then says in the book that the excitement and food simply welled up inside him.

Chapter 10:

23. Why had some of the evacuees gone home? Give two reasons.

1. Many parents were miserable at being separated from their children.
2. Some struggled to pay the money contribution the government was asking for.

24. What do Zach's parents do?

They're performers.

25. Why is Willie worried about having his friends stay over on Friday?

Because he was ashamed at wetting the bed.