

Goodnight Mister Tom
Chapter Eight – Comprehension

Section A

1. Why might the children meet in the village hall instead of the school?

2. How do you think Willie felt when he realised each child was going to be asked if they could read and write?

3. Why was Willie so happy that Tom would help him learn to read and write?

4. Why was Mr Ruddles annoyed with Tom?

Section B

5. Why were there so many extra children needing to go to the school?

6. How does Tom try to encourage Willie to talk about what happened at school?

7. How did Tom try and teach Willie to write his own name?

8. Why did Willie not understand at first why the strange lines meant his name?

Section C

9. Why was George annoyed about sitting at the front? How do you know?

10. Why was Willie described as a 'dejected figure' when he returned home?

11. Why did Tom think he should help Willie with reading and writing in addition to him attending school?

12. Why did Willie feel stunned at all the visitors?

Section D

13. Ginnie noticed Mrs Black at the front of the class and assumed she was the new teacher. How do you think Ginnie knows her?

14. Why do you think the Catholic and non-Catholic evacuees were taught separately?

15. Why was Willie frightened of trying to write?

16. Why was Willie relieved to find out he would not go to hell for copying words?

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Chapter Eight – Challenge Activity

Section A

Order the parts of the chapter by labelling them in order (1 to 6).

Willie has supper.	
Mr Ruddles is annoyed with Tom for the light escaping from his open door.	
Willie goes into the village hall with the twins, George and Zach.	
The twins and George knock on the door to talk to Willie.	
Willie is put in Mrs Black's class.	
Tom gives Willie a paper bag with two apples and an egg sandwich inside.	

Section B

In each row, write P or A to show if the sentences are passive (P) or active (A).

Sentence	passive/active
Willie was given his lunch by Tom.	
Tom weeded the graveyard.	
Tom helped Willie to write his name.	
A mug of tea was pushed towards Willie.	

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Section C

Imagine Willie was able to write. Write a diary account of Willie's first day as if you are Willie himself. Make sure you remember to include all of the important parts of the text.

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Section D

Willie goes through a range of emotions in the text. Explain how and why he feels the way he does at each point in the chapter.

Situation	Explanation
Sitting down in the village hall when the children first get there.	
William is asked if he can read and write by Mrs Hartridge.	
Willie is left with Mrs Black and the younger children.	
Willie is taught to write his name by Tom.	
The other children visit Willie after school.	