

Private Peaceful Comprehension

Use the text to help you answer the questions below.

💡 If you see a light bulb next to the question, you will need to think about your own thoughts or opinions, based on what you have read.

1. In the first small section of this chapter, how old is Thomas Peaceful?

18

2. How do we know that Big Joe has difficulties of his own?

The text says that he has never been to school, despite being the oldest in the family. He also stays at home with their mother, sitting in his tree singing Oranges and Lemons.

3. Why does Thomas dislike crows?

When he had protected a nest of eggs from a robin, the crows then came and ate the chicks when they had hatched.

4. Who does the robin remind Thomas of?

His father

💡 5. What impression do you get of the relationship between Charlie and Thomas? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

Appropriate answers, e.g. I think they have a good relationship with Charlie taking care of his little brother as much as possible. He tries to make him feel better on the journey to school and carries him on his back to cheer him up.

6. Give two examples of Mr Manning's 'commandments'?

Choice of: You do not cheat or lie or blaspheme. You do not come to school with bare feet and hands must be clean. You do what he says when he says it.

💡 7. How does Thomas' behaviour show that he is the youngest in the family?

Appropriate answers, e.g. Thomas shows that he is the youngest by crying quite a lot during the journey to school and when he can't tie his laces. He also relies on his brother to carry him and to reassure him.

💡 8. How does the reader know that Thomas enjoyed the time spent with his father in the Wood?

Appropriate answers, e.g. The text says that Thomas enjoyed galloping on Billyboy with his arms wrapped tightly around his father's waist. He also enjoyed



all the things he could do in the Wood, e.g. pick flowers or following deer prints.

9. How did Thomas know that there was something wrong with the tree?

It was making a creaking sound that was louder than the usual sounds his father made. It began to sway.

10. Why does Thomas blame himself for his father's death?

When he was there as the tree fell, he didn't run when his father told him to. Instead he stayed rooted to the spot causing his father to rescue him and this resulted in his father being hit by the falling tree. If he'd just moved by himself, his father would still be alive.

