

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. Where is Thomas dreading going to?

School

💡 2. Why do you think that Thomas tries not to 'whimper out loud'?

Appropriate answers, e.g. Thomas doesn't want to whimper because he doesn't want everyone to know that he is crying. He is also trying to be brave and listen to Charlie.

3. What does Charlie put into their father's grave?

His hobnail boots (laid side by side, curled into each other, sleeping)

4. Look at the quote below:

'Boisterous banter...'

This is an example of which technique? Circle one:

Metaphor

Onomatopoeia

Alliteration

5. How does the author describe Mr Munnings on p.11?

He says that he has tufty cheeks and a big belly under his waistcoat.

6. What are the two reasons that Miss McAllister chooses Molly to help Thomas tie his shoelaces?

- She is her best pupil
- She is the oldest in the class

💡 7. Why do you think Thomas enjoyed riding on Billyboy with his father, especially when the horse broke into a gallop?

Appropriate answers, e.g. I think Thomas enjoyed it because the speed of a gallop would have made him travel very fast but he knew he was safe as he was holding on to his father.



8. What happens to Thomas when he realises the tree is going to fall?

He isn't able to move, as he feels frozen to the spot. The text says that his legs feel frozen under him and he is mesmerised by the tree.

9. Why does Thomas think that the swallow on p.15 is his father?

His father always said that he wanted to be a bird in his next life, so that he could fly free wherever he wanted.

10. What is Thomas' horrible secret?

That he thinks he killed his father

