



**TITLE: Goodnight Mister Tom**

**AUTHOR: Michelle Magorian**

**INTEREST AGE: 9-13 Years**

**BOOKBAND: Dark Red and Black (G+T)**

**OUR REVIEW:** Excellent. A core title that is always worth stocking.

### COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS:

- What was Tom Oakley's response to the new person in his life?
- What information are we given about Willie's mum?
- What words are used to describe Willie's appearance?
- Describe Tom's appearance and manner towards Willie.
- How do you think Willie felt when the Billeting Officer left? What words are used to describe Willie's behaviour in Tom's house?
- How do we know that Willie had a hard time at home?
- Make a list of facts we know about Tom.
- Make a list of some of the countryside scenes that amazed Willie.
- What was the black material used for on page 28? Describe the events that took place that night.
- Summarise the letter Willie's mum wrote to Tom.
- Why do you think Willie 'stared uneasily' at Tom after reading the letter?
- How do you think Tom felt for Willie after reading the letter? What words are used to describe his feelings?
- How has Tom changed? What actions, words or phrases make you think this?
- What does 'sultry' mean? Use your thesaurus to find another two words that mean the same.
- Describe how Tom deals with the situation.
- Write a reply letter to Mrs Beech explaining how Willie is getting on in Little Weirworld.
- What does A.R.P. stand for?
- What did Willie find so strange in the Church that would not have pleased his Mum?
- Why do you think he was surprised to see Miss Thorne at Church?
- Summarise the statement given by Mr Chamberlain.
- What reasons are given for Willie thinking that he was in a 'different world altogether'?
- What might the boy from the post office want with Willie?
- Imagine you are Willie. Write about how you felt helping to build the shelter.
- Why might the 'sudden burst of energy' frighten Willie?
- How did he try to control his feelings?
- How did Tom describe this 'flush of excitement' in Willie and what did they do?
- What does 'nonchalantly' mean?
- What does Zach mean when he asks to have a 'dekko' in the shelter?
- Why was George not happy at Zach going blackberry picking with him?

- Describe the twins – Carrie and Ginnie.
- Summarise the berry picking experience for Willie.
- Describe the state of the school the children attended.
- Why might it have been a problem for the children to share the school with Catholics?
- Name some of the teachers in the school. Describe their role in school.
- How do you think Willie felt when Miss Hartridge asked him about his education?
- Make a list of words or phrases the book uses to tell you how Willie reacted to being sent to Mrs Black's class.
- What does the word 'dejected' mean?
- What words tell you that Willie was never used to a fuss being made about his birthday?
- Make a list of all the presents Willie received?
- How might Tom have been feeling as he looked at the oak tree? Why? Use the text to support your answer.
- Imagine you are Willie – describe the birthday party you had in Little Weirworld.
- Imagine you are Tom – describe the birthday party you held for Willie. Think about feelings.
- When Zach talks about 'Will's' picture, what suggestion is there about the relationship between the two.
- Discuss the state of the war so far in the story.
- How is the war in Little Weirworld affecting the friendships Willie had built up?
- Who is Zach staying with?
- How does Zach describe May Thorne's bicycle?
- What does it mean to have been 'called up'?
- Who was Fred Astaire?
- What information does Zach disclose about his parents?
- Describe Zach's bedroom.
- How was the month of November described by the author?
- Summarise how the characters in the story had developed from Chapter 11.
- How had the events of the war disturbed Miss Thorne's plans for school?
- Describe the play that the children would perform.
- Design a programme for the play setting out characters, a synopsis and a list of other people associated with the production.
- Design a poster advertising the play.
- Why was Tom unusually quiet when Willie returned from his play rehearsal?
- What so we learn about Mr Tom in this chapter?
- Write a summary describing Rachel in Mr Tom's words

## Other books by Michelle Magorian include...

