

The Butterfly Lion - Michael Morpurgo

Lesson 2

Comprehension

Chapter 5: Running Free

1. There were 2 shocks in this chapter, what were they?
2. Where is Bertie being sent to school? When does he have to leave?
3. Why is the Frenchman in Africa?
4. What does Bertie do for the first time in his life when his father tells him his lion is to be taken away?
5. Why can't the lion be set free into the wild instead of going to the circus?
6. What does Bertie make up his mind to do that night?
7. Explain why you think the lion follows Bertie after he leaves him on the top of the kopje?
8. Imagine if Bertie allowed the lion to come back to the house with him. What would he say to his parents if they found him coming into the house?

Chapter 6: The Frenchman

1. Why do you think Bertie's father was so angry?
2. Who is the first person to notice that the lion has returned?
3. What has changed about the lion's appearance?
4. The Frenchman says 'Incroyable! Magnifique!' when he sees the lion. What do you think these French words might mean?
5. What promise does the Frenchman make to Bertie? What promise does Bertie make to the lion?
6. Do you think the boy would have travelled by boat if he made the journey from Cape Town to England today? Why?
7. Describe how Bertie's feelings change from the start of this chapter to the end.

Chapter 7: Strawbridge

1. At the beginning of this chapter we are back in the big old house with the old lady. Why do you think the author took us there again?
2. What else do we find out about Bertie in this chapter?
3. Where do the events in this chapter take place?
4. Two people narrate this chapter. Who are they?
5. What is the name of the house that the old lady lives in?
6. What was the job of a governess like Noli in those days, do you think?
7. What age is the old lady when she first meets Bertie?
8. Imagine that you have to give the old lady's house a new name. What would you call it? Why?
9. What disease caused the death of Bertie's mother?
10. Select a place in your local area where you could meet a friend each Sunday to play games with. Why does it make a good meeting place?

Chapter 8: And All's Well

1. What is the old lady's name?
2. What have you found out about the letters Bertie and Millie wrote to each other?
3. Name five wild animals that Millie encounters on Nanny Mason's nature walks.
4. Where are Millie and Bertie going after their last summer term together?
5. What does Bertie give to Millie to remember him by?
6. How are the letters Millie wrote to Bertie different from the ones he wrote to her?
7. Imagine you are Millie. What might you say in a letter in reply to Bertie's letter about joining the army. What worries or fears might you have for him?

Chapter 9: A Lot of Old Codswallop

1. The old lady said something very strange at the beginning of this chapter which was difficult to understand. What was it?
2. How did Millie find Bertie?
3. Why is the narrator disappointed when he sees the kite Bertie has made?
4. Who is narrating most of this chapter?
5. What country do the soldiers who fire machine guns at Bertie and his friends come from?
6. Do you think Bertie's attempt to save his friends in no-man's-land is very brave? Why?
7. Explain why you think both sides, German and British, stop to cheer Bertie on in the end?
8. Why does Bertie not think that what he did was brave?
9. The Victoria Cross is the greatest award for bravery that a British soldier can be awarded. Choose a famous award or prize that you would like to receive and explain why you would like it.

Vocabulary

1. malaria
 2. morale
 3. ominous
 4. partially
 5. pealed
 6. plaintive
 7. plaque
 8. pungent
 9. precinct
 10. prestige
 11. rank (smell)
 12. ravenous
 13. refuse
 14. regiment
 15. reluctant
 16. remote
 17. retorted
 18. scarcely
 19. scholarship
 20. scrutinised
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HOMEWORK

Who is your **favourite character** and **why**?

OR

Write a **short story** using **at least 5 new words** (above) that we learned from these chapters.