

Day 1 - Pink Reading Task

Goodnight Mister Tom

Chapter 18-20 Summary

It takes time for Will to recover from the ordeal in London. He often has nightmares and feels very tired. One night, Will is very feverish and constantly having nightmares, so Tom sits with him the whole night. Will's screaming brings Tom back to the night his wife died during childbirth.

Will starts to feel better and have fewer nightmares. Tom makes him a big breakfast one morning and Zach stops by. The two boys are delighted to see each other. Zach informs him that Mrs. Hartridge has had her baby, and this reminds Will of his own baby sister.

Later, Will is speaking with Tom and expresses his guilt over letting his baby sister, Trudy, die; he feels that it is his fault. Will realizes from his discussions with Zach that his mother must have met with a man in order to give birth to Trudy. This shocks Will, because his mother always spoke of this as a sin. Will is disturbed by her lie and Tom says that his mother is most likely a "very ill" person. Tom says that he kidnapped Will because he would've missed him if he were put in a children's home. Will tells Mr. Tom that he loves him.

It is August and Zach, Will, and Tom are travelling to the seaside for a two-week trip. They ride their bicycles into a fishing village called Salmouth. There, they are hosted by a widow named Mrs. Clarence.

Will is drawn to the dock where he watches the sea, which soothes him. They have supper with Mrs. Clancy, where Will eats fish for the first time.

The next day, Tom and the boys have breakfast and then take a picnic lunch to the beach. Will faces his fear of going into the ocean. They have lunch, take a nap in the cliffs, and go into the sea again. The following days pass in a similarly pleasant manner.

During their stay, there is news of more bombings on English cities, including London. Tom considers bringing the boys back to Little Weirwold, where he feels it might be safer, but ultimately decides to stay. Zach is worried about the safety of his parents who are in London, but the Littles inform him that they have called and are safe.

Tom, Will, and Zach return home. They are sad to leave the lovely beach town but are also looking forward to getting back. They come home to gifts and goodies from the boys' friends and Mrs. Fletcher.

On an August day before school starts up again, Zach, Will, George, and the twins go to explore Spooky Cott, an infamous abandoned cottage. The children are spooked by the different noises, and George and the twins run away. Zach also wants to leave, but Will is adamant about staying and exploring more. They hear a strange music coming from the cottage and then hear a man's

voice inviting them inside, which initially startles the boys. The man is named Geoff and he speaks to the boys, explaining that he is also an evacuee. Geoff is an artist, which excites Will. After a bomb in London, Geoff has lost his fiancée, as well as friends and parents. He has also had his leg and ear blown off, and a resulting nervous breakdown. Geoff asks Will to draw something. Upon looking at Will's drawing, Geoff tells him he has "a gift." He offers to give Will art lessons.

Geoff, Will, and Zach sit by the fire and listen to a Brahms record. The boys explain to Geoff that this cottage is known as Spooky Cott, and Geoff says he has been staying there so that no one disturbs him.

Will returns home and is surprised to find a group of people, including a policeman and warden, sitting with Mr. Tom. There is also a psychiatrist and a woman from a children's home. The woman tells Will that his mother has committed suicide. She says Will has to come to the home to be put with foster parents. The warden says that Tom broke the law when he kidnapped Will. Will refuses and firmly says that he wants to stay with Tom. He exclaims that Tom didn't kidnap him, but actually rescued him.

Will goes up to the attic while the adults talk. He is prepared to run away to Lucy's house to avoid being taken to the children's home. However, the group leaves and Tom comes and tells Will that they have agreed to let Tom adopt him. Tom just has to do the paperwork and then Will becomes his son. Will is delighted that Tom will be his father.

Chapter 21: Back to School - Summary

On Thursday morning, Will and Zach go to the twins' cottage. Carrie is getting ready for her first day of high school and is dressed in uniform. Zach and Will walk outside and Zach expresses concern about his parents in London now that the war has "started properly."

At school, the boys are happy to see that Geoff is there to teach alongside Miss Thorne. The teachers announce a nature project where the children will make art and read poems related to nature. Then, Mrs. Little appears to take Zach home. Will visits Zach after school and learns that Zach's father has been badly injured. Zach is packing his bags to go to London, where he will see his father. He is very upset and gives Will his copy of Shakespeare's plays that belonged to his grandfather.

That Saturday is Will's birthday and he has everyone come over for food and games. Will unwraps a parcel that Zach left for him. The parcel consists of an epic adventure poem that Zach has written, art supplies, and a picture Zach has drawn of Will as an artist in a beret.

There is news of a heavy raid on London by the Germans. There have been hundreds of deaths. No one has heard from Zach. Will is anxious and has nightmares about war. On Tuesday morning, the Littles come to the cottage to share that Zach has been killed. Will is devastated and faints.

Task

Order the following events by putting numbers 1-9 in the boxes.

Zach travels to London to visit his Father	
Will and Zach meet Geoff	
Will, Zach, George and the twins explore 'Spooky Cott'	
Zach dies	
Mrs Hartridge has her baby	
Tom asks to adopt Will	
Will, Tom and Zach travel to the seaside for a two-week holiday	
Will is told his mother has died	
It's Will's tenth birthday	

ANSWERS

<i>Zach travels to London to visit his Father</i>	7
<i>Will and Zach meet Geoff</i>	4
<i>Will, Zach, George and the twins explore 'Spooky Cott'</i>	3
<i>Zach dies</i>	9
<i>Mrs Hartridge has her baby</i>	1
<i>Tom asks to adopt Will</i>	6
<i>Will, Tom and Zach travel to the seaside for a two-week holiday</i>	2
<i>Will is told his mother has died</i>	5
<i>It's Will's tenth birthday</i>	8