

About a Boy

Photocopiable

While reading

Chapters 1–2

1 Write the names to finish the sentences.

Will Marcus John and Christine Fiona
Angie Suzie Marcus's dad

- would like Will to be godfather to their new daughter.
- had a normal life until he was eight, and then a confused one after that.
- lives in Cambridge with his girlfriend, Lindsey.
- doesn't like having complicated relationships with women.
- had moved to London because of a new job.
- said she wasn't ready for a serious relationship yet.
- is a single mum to a daughter called Megan.

2 Put a word on the left with a word on the right.

simple	innocent
lovely	pull
shallow	generous
weird	complicated
lost	horrible
push	normal
guilty	won
selfish	deep

Chapters 3–4

3 Put the underlined letters in the right place to make a word.

- Suzie was annoyed when Will told her about Paula's veorhibau
- Suzie's daughter, Megan, was sitting in a hurphcsia in the park.
- Marcus threw a piece of his dihnsacw at a duck.
- The park-keeper thought Marcus had thrown enormous oelavs at the duck.
- Fiona was wearing a hairy jumper and some trgyhib coloured earrings.
- Will hadn't cpdetexe anyone to break into his world.

4 Are these sentences right (✓) or wrong (X)?

- Will said that he couldn't take Ned to the picnic because he was ill. ☐

- Will didn't understand why Marcus liked Joni Mitchell. ☐
- Will didn't want to sit with the adults at the picnic because he didn't want to answer any difficult questions. ☐
- Marcus was on his own when he found his mother next to a pool of sick. ☐
- In her letter, Fiona said she had nothing to look forward to. ☐
- When Fiona got back from the hospital, she was in a strange, calm mood. ☐
- Marcus wanted Will to go out with Suzie. ☐

Chapters 5–6

5 Underline the wrong word and put the right one.

- Marcus thought that *Countdown* was the most interesting programme in the history of television.
- Marcus's face is strange because he hates going to the hairdresser's.
- Three ugly boys were throwing sweets at Marcus.
- When Marcus arrived home from school, he wasn't wearing any socks.
- Will and Fiona met in a quiet restaurant to talk about Marcus.
- Will said you should never trust a woman talking about feelings.

6 Circle the extra word in the sentences.

- Marcus thought he wouldn't hadn't want pictures like Will's on his wall.
- Every day now, Marcus felt a horrible frightened fear.
- When Will answered the door, Marcus was standing in on the doorstep.
- Will thought Marcus needed to look more most like the other kids at school.
- Fiona usually argued with Marcus until he was agreed with her.
- Ellie didn't want to put take off her sweatshirt.
- Will didn't know how to help Marcus to coping cope with a depressed mother.

Chapters 7–8

7 Answer the questions.

- What did Will buy Marcus for Christmas?
.....
- What did Will help Megan to do?
.....

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- c When did Will first meet Rachel?
.....
- d What did Will think was the most interesting thing about his life?
.....
- e What did Marcus want Ellie to be?
.....
- f What was Marcus wearing when he went to Rachel's house?
.....
- g What did Ali have on his bedroom walls?
.....
- h Why didn't Marcus want to go back to Rachel's after he had run away?
.....

8 Find words in Chapters 7–8.

- a sad and unhappy (p. 54)
- b something funny (p. 55)
- c something that children play with (p. 56)
- d something you say which isn't true (p. 59)
- e a material we can make jackets, shoes and belts from (p. 60)
- f a part of the body, at the top of your arm (p. 61)
- g the bottom part of a house (p. 62)

Chapters 9–10

9 What happened first? Number the sentences, 1–7.

- a ☐ Marcus asked Will to help him with his mother.
- b ☐ Will tells Rachel about Fiona's depression.
- c ☐ Will tells Rachel the truth about Marcus.
- d ☐ Ellie breaks the glass window of a shop with her boot.
- e ☐ Ellie gets drunk on the train to Cambridge.
- f ☐ Will took Marcus to get his hair cut and bought him some new glasses.
- g ☐ Ellie tells Marcus that Kurt Cobain had tried to kill himself.

10 Who says or thinks these words?

Rachel Will Marcus Ellie Fiona

- a 'I loved him. He understood me and he sang about me.'

- b 'I'd like a quiet girlfriend who likes reading and computer games.'
- c 'I thought you were a shallow person but now I know that you're not.'
- d 'I'm in love and I want to be deeply involved with this person.'
- e 'I didn't really want to be a mother and sometimes I hate my son.'

Chapter 11

11 Put these words into the right sentences.

shook off advice effects down speech troublemaker

- a Ellie explained to the police that she wasn't a
- b Ellie explained that she had got the train and Marcus had followed.
- c Marcus's father sat on a seat on one side of the room.
- d Marcus made a very cool in the police station.
- e The police thought that criminals would understand the of their actions if they met their victims.
- f When Fiona put her face in Marcus's neck, he her off.
- g Will thought Marcus was the only person who might be able to give him

12 Write questions for the answers.

- a policewoman / ask / Marcus and Ellie?
.....
Their ages and addresses.
- b call / Ellie's mum?
.....
The police.
- c shop owner / wear?
.....
A Kurt Cobain sweatshirt and black eye make-up.
- d Ellie / do / Ruth?
.....
She hugged her.
- e Will / afraid?
.....
Losing Rachel.

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1 Are these sentences right (✓) or wrong (X)?

- a At the beginning of the book, Will often does half-hour activities to fill all the free time he has. ☐
- b Marcus's life hadn't changed very much since his parents' relationship ended and he moved to London. ☐
- c Marcus was definitely responsible for the duck's death. ☐
- d Marcus found a note and was very angry with his mother for trying to kill herself. ☐
- e Will thinks that musicians are probably cool if they take drugs and die. ☐
- f Ellie lied to Marcus about the picture on her sweatshirt. ☐
- g Will was proud of lying about having a kid when Suzie arrived on Christmas day. ☐
- h Rachel's son, Ali, wanted his mum to find a boyfriend soon and thought Will would be a good choice. ☐
- i Marcus wanted Will to help solve his mum's problems. ☐
- j Marcus didn't want Ellie to know that Kurt Cobain had killed himself. ☐

2 What happened first in the book? Number the sentences, 1–10.

- a ☐ Will listened to stories about women's problems with men at a single parents' party.
- b ☐ Marcus planned to make his family bigger because he's afraid his mum will kill herself.
- c ☐ The kids at Marcus's school were surprised that Marcus had made friends with Ellie.
- d ☐ Marcus and Fiona moved to London and started a new life.
- e ☐ Kurt Cobain tried to kill himself by taking a lot of pills.
- f ☐ Will fell in love with a woman who he thinks is going to make him unhappy.
- g ☐ Some bullies stole Marcus's new trainers.
- h ☐ Will started taking Marcus and Ali out together on Saturdays.
- i ☐ A duck died in the park and the park-keeper thought it was Marcus's fault.
- j ☐ Everybody ended up in the police station talking about what Ellie had done wrong.

3 Write the names to finish the sentences.

Will Marcus Fiona Rachel Clive Ellie
Angie Suzie Ali Lindsey

- a cries a lot and has problems looking after her son.
- b is beautiful and intelligent and does drawings for children's books.
- c has long hair and an earring and wears fashionable clothes.
- d feels afraid when he falls in love.
- e thinks he's responsible for Marcus getting into trouble with the police.
- f goes out with Will for six weeks but then finishes the relationship.
- g is tall and nervous-looking and a good friend of Fiona's.
- h lives in Cambridge and wants to have a baby.
- i is fifteen, has a friend called Zoe and loves Nirvana.
- j prefers to have lots of friends around him than be part of a small family.

4 Finish the sentences with the right word.

duck cardboard trainers pumped involved
truth fancied cope hugged weird

- a In the end, Will was very with Rachel and wanted to spend the rest of his life with her.
- b The kids at Marcus's new school thought he was
- c The park-keeper thought Marcus had killed a
- d Fiona had her stomach after she tried to kill herself.
- e Eventually, Will told Rachel the about Marcus.
- f Will made Marcus happy by buying him a new pair of
- g Marcus found it difficult to with his mother and the kids at school.
- h Will asked Marcus to help him because he Rachel.
- i Fiona Marcus at the underground station.
- j The figure of Kurt Cobain was made of