

# The Go-Between

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## Chapters 1–2

### While reading

- 1 Answer these questions.
- a Why were the star signs important to Leo?
  - b Why did the boys attack Leo for using the word 'vanquish'?
  - c How did Leo solve his problems at his school?
  - d Why couldn't he solve the problems he found at Brandham Hall?
  - e What letters opened Leo's diary?
  - f Why hadn't he heard anyone say his name for many years?
  - g What kind of relationship does Leo have with Maudsley at school?

## Chapters 3–5

### While reading

- 2 Are these true (T) or false (F)? Write the false sentences again so they are true.
- a Mr Maudsley was so rich that he didn't have to work.
  - b Mr Maudsley controlled everything at Brandham Hall.
  - c Denys got on well with his mother.
  - d Leo had already noticed that Marian was very beautiful when Marcus told him.
  - e Leo is embarrassed about being too hot.
  - f Leo realises that his family is not as rich as Marcus's.
  - g Leo is happy about the idea that Trimmingham will marry Marian.
- 3 Can you see a connection between Marian and the deadly nightshade? If so, what is it?
- 4 Who do you think Marian talked to in Norwich?  
.....

## Chapters 6–7

### While reading

- 5 Explain what Leo means in these sentences:
- a 'I easily remembered the side that had to be used.' (page 31)
  - b 'Although Marcus had told me about him, I could not hide my shock.' (page 31)
  - c 'He should enjoy it because he rented Brandham Hall.' (page 34)
  - d 'It was something strong and bright, like the sun, and didn't change.' (page 34)
  - e 'And I believed that he was nine times better than the first.' (page 37)
  - f 'You are a guest in your own house!' (page 38)

## Chapters 8–9

### While reading

- 6 Are these facts (F) or possibilities (P)?
- a At first, Leo didn't know that the farm on the other side of the river belonged to Ted Burgess.
  - b Ted Burgess found Leo by the haystack because he heard him crying.
  - c Ted Burgess thinks that Leo is from a better social class than he is.
  - d When Leo asks how Ted can write to Marian when he doesn't know her, Ted is embarrassed.
  - e Marian washes Leo's knee because she doesn't want to talk about Ted.

## Chapters 10–11

### While reading

- 7 Look at these sentences Say who is talking, where they are and who the person is talking to. Say why the person says the sentence. Who or what do the words in black letters stand for?
- a 'There's no blood on **this one**.'
  - b 'Can I take you away from **him** now?'
  - c 'What's **he** doing **there**?'
  - d 'If you don't take the letters, **she**'ll be angry with you.'
- 8 Answer these questions.
- a What does 'spooning' mean to Leo? To Ted?
  - b How does Leo's opinion of 'spooning' change after his conversation with Ted?

## Chapters 12–13

### While reading

- 9 Put these names in the spaces. Use some names more than once.  
Leo; the Hall; Ted Burgess; Lord Trimmingham; Denys; Bill Burdock; Mr Maudsley; Marcus; Marian.
- The captain of the cricket team from the Hall was ..... The captain of the village team was ..... was chosen to be the 'twelfth man' for ..... team. He was only going to play if someone was hurt, but he was very happy. .... and the ladies arrived to watch the match after it started. .... played well but he only got a score of 11.

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..... played cleverly and got the biggest score for the Hall. His son, ....., even went out of the game before him. .... played very well for the village team and scored 81. He hit a ball which nearly hit ..... and her mother. But the ball hurt one of the men from ....., Pollin, so ..... had to play. The village team needed only three more points to win when ..... caught a ball that Ted Burgess had hit. This meant that ..... was out of the game.

## Chapters 14–15

### While reading

#### 10 Finish these sentences.

- a In the concert Marian played the piano because .....
- b Ted was probably nervous when he stood up to sing because .....
- c Leo liked Ted's second song because .....
- d Leo was surprised after his first song because .....
- e Marcus probably told Leo he looked like a sick cow because .....
- f Marcus probably said that the village people smelled terrible because .....

#### 11 Discuss this question with another person or write your answer.

How was the fifth Viscount Trimingham's position similar to Lord Trimingham's?

## Chapters 16–17

### While reading

#### 12 Are these sentences definitely true, probably true, or probably not true? Discuss your opinions with another person.

- a Marian is kind to children and old people
- b Leo believes that it is wrong for Marian to send letters to Ted now because she is going to marry Lord Trimingham.
- c Marian still loves Ted.
- d Marian was only kind to Leo because she wanted to use him.

- e The relationship between Marian and Ted was Ted's fault.
- f If Leo stops taking the messages, Marian and Ted will stop loving each other.

## Chapters 18–21

### While reading

#### 13 Answer these questions.

- a Why does Leo tell Marcus that he knows where Marian is?
- b Why does Leo post the letter to his mother?
- c Explain 'The cats were away and the rest of us were very glad.' (page 106)
- d What does Mr Maudsley know about Ted?
- e Why is Leo unhappy about seeing Marian again after she has come back from London?
- f Why must Marian marry Hugh?

## Chapters 22–25

### While reading

#### 14 Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)?

- a Leo thinks Ted may kill Lord Trimingham.
- b Marcus likes the tie Leo received from his aunt.
- c Leo suggests that they visit a castle on his birthday.
- d Marian doesn't go to visit Nannie Robson.
- e Leo doesn't see Marcus after that summer.
- f Marian's grandson wants Leo to visit Marian.

#### 15 Give your opinion.

Why did Leo's experiences at Brandham mean that he 'lived mainly without friends' all his life? Do you think this is true to life or not?

### After reading

#### 16 Write:

- a Explain what happened at Brandham Hall in the summer of 1900 in not more than 250 words.
- b Leo's opinion of Lord Trimingham, Marian and Ted change during the story. How do his opinions change? Do you think Leo is right or wrong to change his opinion of each one?
- c Does the writer give a true picture of the mind of a boy of 12 years old? Which parts of the story do you find true to life or not true to life?

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## Chapters 1–2

- 1 There are mistakes in these sentences. Write the correct information.
- Leo's star sign is the Virgin.
  - Leo's classmates think his spell made Jerkins and Strode ill.
  - Many boys at Leo's school had fever so the headmaster wouldn't let them go home.

## Chapters 3–5

- 2 Write *right* (✓) or *wrong* (X) or *it doesn't say* (?)
- Leo didn't like Mrs Maudsley at the beginning of his visit.
  - Marian thinks Leo's clothes are ugly.
  - Marian lies to her mother about the trip to Norwich.

## Chapters 6–7

- 3 Match the two parts.
- |                   |                       |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| a Leo ...         | 1 apologises.         |
| b Marcus ...      | 2 becomes ill.        |
| c Marian ...      | 3 delivers a message. |
| d Trimmingham ... | 4 has a damaged face. |

## Chapters 8–9

- 4 Complete with the correct word.  
 cloth farmer haystack leg letter messenger  
 Leo cuts his ..... after jumping off a .....  
 Ted Burgess puts a ..... over the cut and  
 gave Leo a ..... Lord Trimmingham compares  
 Leo to Mercury, the ..... of the gods. Leo  
 said he likes Trimmingham more than Ted, who is  
 only a .....

## Chapters 10–11

- 5 Write *right* (✓) or *wrong* (X).
- Leo didn't tell the Maudsleys about his visits to Ted Burgess's farm.
  - Leo fights with Marcus when he says that Marian spoons with him.
  - Leo looks at the letter because he is afraid Marian might be in danger.

## Chapters 12–13

- 6 Choose the right words.
- Leo didn't *expect* / *want* to play in the cricket match.
  - Leo believed that a good cricket player must be *clever* / *strong*.
  - Marian seemed to want *the Hall* / *the village* to win the match.

## Chapters 14–15

- 7 Complete with the correct names. Use some names more than once.  
 Leo Marcus Marian Mr Maudsley  
 Ted Trimmingham  
 At the supper and concert after the cricket match, ..... made a speech. Then ..... played the piano while the cricket players sang songs. .... didn't understand ..... 's song but he liked it. Then ..... sang a song about angels. Finally ..... sang 'Home, Sweet Home', which ..... had requested. Afterwards ..... made jokes about ..... 's singing.

## 8 There are mistakes in these sentences. Write the correct information.

- Leo writes a letter to his mother asking for money.
- The fifth Viscount of Trimmingham died in England in a fight about a woman.
- Trimingham thinks men who kill each other for women are heroes.

## Chapters 16–17

- 9 Circle the right words.
- Marian thought Leo wanted her to *kiss* / *pay* / *thank* him for carrying letters.
  - When Leo first sees Ted, he is *buying* / *cleaning* / *shooting* a gun.
  - Leo writes to his mother that he wants to leave Brandham Hall because he didn't like the *heat* / *messages* / *people*.

## Chapters 18–21

- 10 What happened first? Put the sentences in order and number them, 1–7.
- Mr Maudsley calls Ted a 'lady-killer'.
  - Marcus tells Leo about the bicycle.
  - Leo hears Ted and Marian in the hut.
  - Marcus and Leo find a footprint.

## Chapters 22–25

- 11 Say *right* (✓), *wrong* (X) or *it doesn't say* (?).
- Leo doesn't think that Ted should become a soldier.
  - Mrs Maudsley reads Marian's message to Ted.
  - Mrs Maudsley is shocked when she finds Marian and Ted.