

Tom's Midnight Garden - Chapter One, Two & Three

| Chapter One - Exile | |
|---|---|
| 1 | Why was Tom so angry at the beginning? |
| 2 | Why were the boys allowed to climb the apple tree? |
| 3 | What were they going to do that holiday? |
| 4 | Why was Tom having to go away? Why isn't measles such a problem for us now? What did you have when you were baby? |
| 5 | 'Tom closed the car window and sat back in his seat, in hostile silence.' What mood was he in? What does 'hostile' mean? |
| 6 | Why would Tom have preferred his uncle to have been brutal? |
| 7 | Why couldn't Tom climb the cathedral tower at Ely? |
| 8 | What are the houses around the big house described? Is it a simile or a metaphor? |
| 9 | 'old dust that it had been nobody's business to disperse'. What does that mean? |
| 10 | The author has written an interesting sentence about the grandfather clock ticking. What is she trying to get across to the reader? |
| 11 | Why was Tom so angry at finding bars on the window of his bedroom? |
| Chapter Two - The Clock Strikes Thirteen | |
| 12 | Why did Tom find it so hard to sleep? |
| 13 | Why didn't he say anything about not sleeping? |
| 14 | Why didn't he just lie in bed and read? |
| 15 | What does the fact that he doesn't ever turn the light back on tell us about him? |
| 16 | Why, when he got up, did he head for the larder? |
| 17 | Why was aunt Gwen so upset? |
| 18 | Why was his uncle so insistent that he stay in bed at night? |
| 19 | Why did Tom take particular notice of the clock that night? |
| 20 | Why didn't Tom find it striking the wrong hour so annoying this time? |
| 21 | What argument did Tom have for getting out of bed? |
| Chapter Three - By Moonlight | |
| 22 | Why didn't Tom wear his dressing-gown? |
| 23 | How did he arrange to get back into the flat? |
| 24 | What was the problem once he got downstairs? |
| 25 | How did he intend to get enough light to see the clock? |
| 26 | Why was Tom so indignant when he saw the garden? |
| 27 | 'The scene tempted him even now:' What is the author trying to say? |
| 28 | Why didn't he run out into the garden? |
| 29 | 'she looked at him, but looked through him too, as though he were not there. Tom's heart jumped in a way he did not understand.' Why do you think his heart jumped? |
| 30 | The maid and the objects in the hall didn't just 'disappear'? What did happen to them? |

Tom's Midnight Garden - Chapters Four, Five and Six

| Chapter Four - By Daylight | |
|---|--|
| 1 | Why had he to be careful when trying to shame his aunt and uncle about the garden? What are 'innocent-seeming' references? |
| 2 | Why did Tom end up being annoyed at the end of his conversation with his uncle? |
| 3 | What did he do next to try and get aunt Gwen to admit they had lied about the garden? |
| 4 | Why was Tom frightened at being told that hyacinths didn't flower in the late summer? |
| 5 | What did Tom notice about the bolt when he tried to pull it this time? |
| 6 | Why did Tom feel sick in his stomach as he was about to open the door? |
| 7 | What was interesting about the man under the car? |
| 8 | Why did Tom burst into tears when the man said that he didn't have a maid? |
| 9 | What did Tom see from the back door that gave him hope? |
| 10 | Did the clock provide answers for him when he looked at it? |
| 11 | When did he know, at what exact point, that the garden would be there again that night? |
| Chapter Five - The Footprints in the Dew | |
| 12 | At what time did Tom walk into the garden? |
| 13 | What was odd about that? |
| 14 | Tom started walking around the edge of the garden but got impatient, why? |
| 15 | 'As he slipped along, like a coast...' Why is that an odd thing for the author to write about Tom? |
| 16 | 'Beyond the pond and the summer-house was another path, meandering in idle curves.' What sort of path was it, how do you know? |
| 17 | Why, do you think is a hedge more easily passed than any wall? Think about the difference between the two - their properties. |
| 18 | What surprised him about the hedge? |
| 19 | The gander 'stretched his wings out into a splendid double curve - every pinion apart -...' Can you explain exactly what the gander did? What is a pinion? Can you work it out from what the bird did? |
| 20 | What object, in particular reminded him of the passing of time? |
| 21 | What item did he find that tells you something about the people who use the garden? |
| 22 | What amazing thing did he discover at the end of the chapter? |
| Chapter Six - Through a Door | |
| 23 | Why did Tom turn back once and not open the door to the garden? |
| 24 | What was odd about the garden each time he visited? |
| 25 | What was Tom's first interest in the garden? |
| 26 | What did he find odd about climbing the tree? |
| 27 | How did he decide to get around not being able to open doors? |
| 28 | When Tom was in a fit of anger, at not getting through the south wall door, what did Tom find he could do? |
| 29 | Which part of his body did he worry about most when passing through the gate? |
| 30 | What troubled Tom about that stormy night, other than the tree falling? |
| 31 | After the storm night what gave him a shock the following night? |

Tom's Midnight Garden - Chapter Seven, Eight and Nine

| Chapter Seven - Report to Peter | |
|--|---|
| 1 | Why did Tom doodle a grandfather clock on the letter for Peter? |
| 2 | What does the phrase 'to put the clock back' mean? |
| 3 | Uncle Alan didn't mind answering Tom's questions; what did he object to about them? |
| 4 | Why is Tom asking all these questions about invisibility, and time, and trees falling down and then standing back up again? |
| 5 | How many children has he seen in the garden? Their names? |
| 6 | Why did Tom write Private and BAR all over this letter to Peter? |
| 7 | Why was it fortunate that his Uncle and Aunt had laughed at him when he was asking all those questions? |
| 8 | Why was Tom so surprised but upset to learn that he had only ten more days there? |
| Chapter Eight - The Cousins | |
| 9 | Was Hubert a boy? How do we know? |
| 10 | Edgar had 'brindled hair and brindled brown eyes'. What might that mean? |
| 11 | Why should Tom have like Edgar the best? |
| 12 | How did the girl behave when she was in the garden? What did she do, how would you describe it? |
| 13 | Why was it a pity they only had one air-gun between them? |
| 14 | What does James action tell you about James? |
| 15 | How did Tom know that Hatty had often been left behind and had to find the boys again? |
| 16 | What was the only game that the boys would play with Hatty? How did they play it? |
| 17 | Hatty says: 'I see everybody, and nobody sees me...' What might that mean? |
| 18 | Why did Tom run after the boys to try and catch them? |
| 19 | How could he manage to get inside the house that goes with the garden? |
| 20 | But what did he find happening as he walked along the hall, hoping to go upstairs? |
| Chapter Nine - Hatty | |
| 21 | Did Tom see the boys all the time in the garden? How do we know? What word tells us? |
| 22 | How did the boys get round being told not to pick apples? |
| 23 | How might the adults find out that they'd been eating the apples? |
| 24 | How did Tom know the dog was aware of him? |
| 25 | Why was Tom so astounded? What did it mean? |
| 26 | How did she explain her behaviour to the other boys? |
| 27 | Why was Tom 'waiting his chance'? |
| 28 | How did he find Hatty? |
| 29 | How long had she been watching Tom? |
| 30 | Why do you think she said that she was a princess? What do we know about her life so far? |

Tom's Midnight Garden - Chapters Ten, Eleven & Twelve

Chapter Ten - Games and Tales

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|---|--|
| 1 | How did Hatty show Tom to hide from a search? |
| 2 | Why did Hatty pull a grimace, awkwardly? Was it her who left the letter? Why didn't she own up? How did she feel? |
| 3 | The blackbird in among the currant bushes. What did Hatty mean by - 'It's lucky we found it...I'm afraid that Abel...' she shook her head. 'I really think he's rather see birds starving than eating his fruit'? Why does she pause and not finish her sentence about Abel? |
| 4 | Why didn't Tom join in throwing all the feathers from the bag around and having fun like Hatty was? |
| 5 | Why did Hatty tell him so many secrets and stories? What was she afraid of? What did she hope might happen if she told him all this? |
| 6 | Why didn't Tom believe Hatty's sad story about Abel? |

Chapter Eleven - The River to the Sea

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| 7 | What happened to all the questions he wanted answered about the garden? Why did he never ask them in the garden? |
| 8 | What are the three reasons Hatty gave for not being able to play or make bows and arrows? |
| 9 | What did Abel mean when he warned Hatty - '...take care he don't teach you trouble with it...trouble for yourself'? |
| 10 | How do we know that Abel didn't want Hatty to get into trouble over the broken pane in the greenhouse? |
| 11 | 'The geese had goslings with them, and always fought a spirited rearguard action in their defence.' What does it mean? What did they do? |
| 12 | Why didn't Tom think much of the river? |
| 13 | Why was Hatty only interested in this river? |
| 14 | Was Hatty bothered about her aunt? What were her feelings towards her? How do you know? |
| 15 | What was the problem with the geese watching Hatty and Tom so sharply and carefully? |

Chapter Twelve - The Geese

| | |
|----|---|
| 16 | Why did the aunt slam the window as Abel was trying to answer her questions about the geese? |
| 17 | 'Hatty was with them, attracted by the excitement, and not realising its significance for herself.' What does the bit about not realising mean? |
| 18 | Why did Abel warn about the dog and why did everyone just ignore it? |
| 19 | How do we know the aunt was not in a good mood and that someone would suffer for this incident? |
| 20 | Why were there those lamenting cries from Abel as they herded the geese back to the meadow? |
| 21 | Why was Hatty's face so white when she came after her aunt called her? |
| 22 | Why did her Aunt not ask her any questions? Ask her to explain? |
| 23 | Why did Tom turn his face away, when Hatty was right in front of her aunt? |
| 24 | Why, this morning especially, could Tom not leave the little girl in black to cry and cry? |
| 25 | Why did Tom not contradict her any more about her being a royal princess? |

Tom's Midnight Garden - Chapters Thirteen, Fourteen & Fifteen

| Chapter Thirteen - The Late Mr Bartholomew | |
|--|---|
| 1 | What was the difference with time in the flat as compared to the garden? |
| 2 | Why did Aunt Gwen and Uncle Alan take his request to stay in different ways? |
| 3 | Why was Tom not very excited about all the excursions and trips Aunt Gwen said that she would plan? |
| 4 | Why had Tom not noticed that he'd been standing in a puddle at the bus stop? |
| 5 | '...but a cold, once it has its fingers on its victim, will seldom lose its grip before the due time.' What does this mean? |
| 6 | Why did Tom not want to read or play chess? |
| 7 | What made him think he could ask Mrs Bartholomew about Hatty, and why? |
| 8 | Why did Tom believe that this old lady, who didn't like children, would like him and help him? |
| 9 | How did Tom nearly give his secret away when he was talking about Mr Bartholomew to Gwen and Alan? How did he get out of trouble? |
| 10 | Why did Hatty laugh when Tom asked what it was like to be a ghost? |
| 11 | Why was Hatty so upset about Tom insisting she was a ghost? |
| Chapter Fourteen - The Pursuit of Knowledge | |
| 12 | Why was Tom so certain that it was Hatty who was the ghost? |
| 13 | Where was the first place Tom looked to try and put a date on the clothes people wore in Hatty's garden? Was it any good? |
| 14 | What were the two pieces of information that finally helped him get somewhere with this? |
| 15 | Did he prove to himself that Hatty must be a ghost? What was the proof? |
| Chapter Fifteen - The View from the Wall | |
| 16 | Why didn't Hatty answer Tom when he called and called? |
| 17 | What was the deal Abel had made with Hatty? |
| 18 | Why did Tom laugh shortly when he saw the knife that Abel had given Hatty? |
| 19 | Why was it so silly of Hatty to carve her initials into the tree trunks? |
| 20 | What was the main reason that Hatty didn't learn to 'swarm' up trees quickly? |
| 21 | Why could the boys in the garden never shoot any birds? |
| 22 | Why did Tom change his mind about climbing and walking along the wall? Why is the 'him' in italics? |
| 23 | What stopped Tom telling Hatty everything he saw beyond the wall? |
| 24 | What was so puzzling to Tom about Abel's actions? |

Tom's Midnight Garden - Chapters Sixteen, Seventeen & Eighteen

| Chapter Sixteen - The Tree-House | |
|---|--|
| 1 | Why did Peter burn Tom's correspondence (letters)? |
| 2 | Why did Peter work half-heartedly on his construction in the garden? |
| 3 | Why did his mother feel uneasy? |
| 4 | '...there is all the difference in expense, between having two children and having none at all.' What does the author mean? |
| 5 | Why was Peter's mother 'almost frightened' when Peter wondered if he could go and stay with Aunt Gwen too? |
| 6 | Why had Tom's tree-house had a head start? |
| 7 | Why was Hatty so excited about the tree-house they were constructing? |
| 8 | How do we know that Abel certainly must have known about the tree-house? What did he do that showed this when Hatty fell? |
| 9 | What or who did Abel think Tom was? How do we know? |
| Chapter Seventeen - In Search of Hatty | |
| 10 | Why did Tom not just go through the door, passing through like a ghost? |
| 11 | Why did Abel speak to Tom, when he was going to ignore him? |
| 12 | Why did he halt at the bottom of the staircase? Why was he reluctant to climb it? |
| 13 | What was Tom's secret fear? |
| 14 | How was the first floor landing different from the first floor landing of the house he actually lived in (when he was back in his own time)? |
| 15 | How did Tom try to work out which room Hatty was in? |
| 16 | Why was Tom so startled when he realised the man was James? |
| 17 | Why did James look around him uneasily in his mother's room? |
| 18 | What were the two problems James foresaw about Hatty earning a living or getting married? |
| 19 | What did James's mother think might happen in the future that made her warn James? What did she think he might do, and why? |
| Chapter Eighteen - The Bedroom with Two Barred Windows | |
| 20 | Why did Hatty want Tom to come through the door slowly? |
| 21 | Why had Tom not noticed that Hatty was getting older too, like James? |
| 22 | What did Tom realise when he saw the bars on the windows? |
| 23 | Why would Tom rather have fewer baths and keep Hatty's room and the view from it? |
| 24 | What was the difference that Hatty pointed out when Tom said he came every night? |
| 25 | What was the problem when he wanted to go back to his own time? |
| 26 | What did Tom remember when he woke up back in his own bedroom? |

Tom's Midnight Garden - Chapters Nineteen, Twenty and Twenty-one

| Chapter Nineteen - Next Saturday | |
|---|---|
| 1 | Why did Tom even begin to think about being adopted? |
| 2 | Why did he hate the grandfather clock that morning? |
| 3 | What was different about this river as compared to the one just outside the garden? |
| Chapter Twenty - The Angel Speaks | |
| 4 | Why did Tom not know how he would find Hatty that night? |
| 5 | What took him by surprise when he opened the garden door? |
| 6 | Could Hatty skate properly the first time he saw her on the pond? |
| 7 | What did Hatty mean by telling Tom he was thinner? |
| 8 | Why did Tom not bother to wonder about what she said? |
| 9 | Why was Hatty reluctant to solve the grandfather clock problem? |
| 10 | Why did Hatty pause before opening the grandfather clock? |
| 11 | How did they solve the problem of finding a Bible? |
| 12 | Why was Abel so amazed at seeing Tom with the Bible? |
| 13 | Did Hatty understand what the passage was all about? |
| 14 | Why did Tom not follow Hatty to the pond? |
| Chapter Twenty-one - Time and Time Again | |
| 15 | How did Aunt Gwen answer Tom when he asked, 'What is Time?' |
| 16 | Why was Uncle Alan so angry about the angel? |
| 17 | How did his Uncle try to make amends for being so angry in the morning? |
| 18 | Why did Tom end up wanting to cry? |
| 19 | How did Rip van Winkle help Tom to get a grip with Time? |
| 20 | How did he know, that night, that it was not the same winter's day as when he'd last met Hatty? |
| 21 | How did he pick Hatty out from the crowd of people on the ice? |
| 22 | Why didn't Tom have ice skates? |
| 23 | Why was Tom's idea about the skates such a good one? Why did Hatty not understand? |
| 24 | Why did his aunt come into the bedroom on his return? |

Tom's Midnight Garden - Chapters Twenty-two & Twenty-three

| Chapter Twenty-two - The Forgotten Promise | |
|---|---|
| 1 | Why couldn't Tom find out which year Hatty wrote the note she left in the secret place? |
| 2 | Why did Tom gloat so much over the skates? |
| 3 | What did he do to make the skates useable? |
| 4 | How would he ensure the boots fitted well? |
| 5 | How did Tom work out that he could stay for ever in the garden? |
| 6 | Why was he upset about not writing to Peter? |
| 7 | Why were there tears in Peter's eyes? |
| 8 | Why wasn't Hatty sure if it was Tom or not? |
| 9 | Why was Hatty not amazed at Tom having her skates? |
| 10 | What was the mix-up when Tom said 'Can you?' about Hatty skating down to Ely. |
| 11 | What did Abel think about Tom this time? How do you know? |
| 12 | Why was the inn's name so odd? |
| Chapter Twenty-three - Skating | |
| 13 | How long did the frost last? |
| 14 | What happened at Cherwell? |
| 15 | What was the skating policeman compared to? Why? |
| 16 | Why was Hatty looking around nervously? |
| 17 | Why did his skates leave 'no cut or bruise upon the surface of the ice'? |
| 18 | Why did they not skate with linked hands? Why would it have looked odd? |
| 19 | What happened to the muff? |
| 20 | Why did the men at the alehouse laugh at Hatty? |
| 21 | Why did it take so long to reach Ely, because they saw the cathedral tower for a long time? |
| 22 | How much would it cost to go up the tower? |
| 23 | Why did Tom at the end not worry about talking to Hatty, but leave it till later? |

Tom's Midnight Garden - Chapters Twenty-four & Twenty-five

| Chapter Twenty-four - Brothers Meet | |
|--|--|
| 1 | What was wrong with how Peter dreamed that Thursday night? |
| 2 | What was it that he dreamed of that night? How did he know what it was? |
| 3 | Why did he not count sheep to send himself to sleep? |
| 4 | How many steps were there to the top of the tower? |
| 5 | What were the black holes they saw from the top of the tower? |
| 6 | What did they feel as they 'looked back along the way they had come, from Castleford'? |
| 7 | How did Tom know, 'even before he turned, that it was Peter'? |
| 8 | What did Hatty notice as she looked at both of the boys? |
| 9 | Why was Peter so querulous at not finding them in the garden? What does querulous mean? |
| 10 | What did Peter notice about Hatty that Tom hadn't? |
| 11 | Why did she cry out in fright that it was late? |
| 12 | The three old men - 'they considered themselves of the age and experience to give Hatty advice.' What does that mean? Read on a bit for a couple of paragraphs and explain. |
| 13 | How did the old man say the boy/man who fell through the ice got rescued? |
| 14 | Why were they skating back in the night? |
| 15 | The moon came out and was bright enough for them to see, but what else did it point out to them? |
| 16 | Was Hatty's home on the way home for Barty? How do you know? |
| 17 | Why was Tom cross with Hatty? |
| 18 | Why was Hatty ignoring Tom? |
| Chapter Twenty-five - Last Chance | |
| 19 | Why did Aunt Gwen stop dead? Why didn't she scream or go to wake Alan up? |
| 20 | Why did she decide to manage this herself, to tackle Tom herself? |
| 21 | Why did Gwen not talk to Tom about the door? |
| 22 | Why did Tom think he'd ended up back in his time when he had been determined to stay in Hatty's time? |
| 23 | '...and what little presents he would take with him to his mother and father and Peter. Tom could not <u>feign</u> interest in what seemed so far away in time.' What does feign mean? |
| 24 | How did Tom manage to get past Aunt Gwen this night; after all she'd left both bedroom doors open? |
| 25 | Why did the different lock on the door not stop him and make him realise that he wasn't going to get in the garden? |
| 26 | Why did he scream for Hatty? |

Tom's Midnight Garden - Chapters Twenty-six & Twenty-seven

| Chapter Twenty-six - The Apology | |
|---|--|
| 1 | Why was he so upset when he woke up? |
| 2 | Why didn't he tell Aunt Gwen what was wrong, when she asked? |
| 3 | Why did they decide to drive him home in the car? |
| 4 | Why did Aunt Gwen make 'a move to the front door', when she was told that Mrs Bartholomew wanted to see the boy? |
| 5 | The old lady was just as Tom expected except for one thing, what was it? |
| 6 | Why did Mrs B behave so strangely when he told her his surname? |
| 7 | Why were 'the words of the little old woman' meaningless? |
| 8 | Why did Tom get confused about Hatty still being alive? |
| 9 | As she talked what did he begin to notice? |
| Chapter Twenty-seven - A Tale for Tom Long | |
| 10 | What year was the great frost in? |
| 11 | Why had Hatty not talked to Barty much before? |
| 12 | When did Barty say he'd decided to marry Hatty? |
| 13 | What was the proposal Barty made Hatty? |
| 14 | When did she put her skates in her secret place? |
| 15 | Why couldn't she sleep on the night before her wedding? There are three reasons. |
| 16 | How did she see the garden in the storm without going outside? |
| 17 | Why hadn't Tom seen Hatty in the storm? |
| 18 | Why did Hatty not recognise that Tom was wearing pyjamas all the time he was in the garden with her? |
| 19 | Why did Abel complain about the fir tree? |
| 20 | Why was she better off, in marrying Barty, than the rest of the Melbourne family? |
| 21 | Why did the house look different when Hatty came to the house for the auction? |
| 22 | Why did they buy the grandfather clock? |
| 23 | Why didn't they live in the house when they'd bought it? When did they move in? |
| 24 | What did Tom realise about his time in the garden? |
| 25 | What else had made the garden appear? |
| 26 | Tom jumped up to go, but then sat down again, why? |
| 27 | Why did Tom run back upstairs and give Hatty a big hug? |