About a Boy

While reading
Chapters 1–2
1 Write the names to finish the sentences.
Will Marcus John and Christine Fiona Angie Suzie Marcus’s dad
a ……………… would like Will to be godfather to their new daughter.
b ……………… had a normal life until he was eight, and then a confused one after that.
c ……………… lives in Cambridge with his girlfriend, Lindsey.
d ……………… doesn’t like having complicated relationships with women.
e ……………… had moved to London because of a new job.
f ……………… said she wasn’t ready for a serious relationship yet.
g ……………… 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.

a Suzie was annoyed when Will told her about Paula’s veorhibau ………………
b Suzie’s daughter, Megan, was sitting in a hurphcsia ……………… in the park.
c Marcus threw a piece of his dihnsacw ……………… at a duck.
d The park-keeper thought Marcus had thrown enormous oelavz ……………… at the duck.
e Fiona was wearing a hairy jumper and some rgyvhib ……………… coloured earrings.
f Will hadn’t cpedete ……………… anyone to break into his world.

4 Are these sentences right (√) or wrong (×)?

a Will said that he couldn’t take Ned to the picnic because he was ill. √

Chapters 5–6
5 Underline the wrong word and put the right one.

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

6 Circle the extra word in the sentences.

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

Chapters 7–8
7 Answer the questions.

a What did Will buy Marcus for Christmas?
……………………………………………..
b What did Will help Megan to do?
……………………………………………..
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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) …………………

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 (✗)?
   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.
     [✓]

   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 ............... .