The Darling Buds of May

While reading
Chapters 1–2

1 Match the questions with the answers.
   a How many children do Ma and Pop Larkin have? …..
   b How many minutes does it take Pop to drive home? …..
   c How many answering voices does Pop hear? …..
   d How many pigs does Pop have? …..
   e How many horses does Pop have? …..
   f How many hours do Mariette and Mr Charlton spend in the woods? …..
   g How many miles is it to town from the Larkin farm? …..
   h How many glasses does Pop pour the cocktail into? …..
   1) Ten.  2) Five.  3) Two.  4) Four.  5) Six.  6) Three.  7) One.  8) Eight.

2 Match the sentences with the people who say them.
   a ‘Are you kids OK in the back?’ …..
   b ‘We can have one while the food is in the oven,’ …..
   c ‘We sent two — maybe three. Here’s another. You have to fill in the form …’ …..
   d ‘I saw you riding at Barfield last Easter,’ …..
   e ‘Did you see me ride at Newchurch, too?’ …..
   f ‘Fruit? Ice-cream? Cake? What would you like?’ …..
   g ‘You’ve got a nice safe job. But are you happy?’ …..
   h ‘How did you like Mr Charlton? What was he like?’ …..
   1) Mr Charlton says to Mariette.
   2) Pop says to his children.
   3) Mariette says to Mr Charlton.
   4) Ma says to Mr Charlton.
   5) Ma says to Pop.
   6) Mr Charlton says to Pop.
   7) Pop says to Mr Charlton.
   8) Ma says to Mariette.

3 Draw a picture of the Larkin family’s farm.

Chapters 3–4

4 Are these sentences right (√) or wrong (✗)?
   a When Mr Charlton wakes up in the morning, he feels very well. √
   b Mariette lets Mr Charlton wear her pyjamas, which are blue with pink flowers on them. ✗
   c Ma asks Mr Charlton if they can call him Charley. ✗
   d The Rolls Royce that Pop buys is white. ✗
   e Mr Charlton tells Pop that he never has back ache. √
   f Mr Jennings isn’t interested in Mr Charlton because not many strawberry pickers know anything about paperwork. ✗
   g Mariette tells Mr Charlton not to talk to any other women. ✗
   h Ma earns fifteen pounds on the first day of strawberry picking. √

5 Match the letters (a–h) with the numbers (1–8) to complete the sentences.
   a In the morning, when Mr Charlton wakes up, he can’t remember ….
   b When Mr Charlton closes his eyes, the room starts ….
   c Mr Charlton puts his hand to his head and is surprised ….
   d In the morning, Pop gives Mr Charlton a drink that is ….
   e Mr Charlton remembers the noise of typing and ringing phones, and it ….
   f The Brigadier hopes that the table is strong enough ….
   g Pop likes Edith Pilchester because he can always ….
   h Mr Charlton thinks that he will enjoy being in the tent ….
   1) for the weight of so much food.
   2) more than being in the hot sun.
   3) putting on Mariette’s pyjamas in the night.
   4) to spin.
   5) have a joke with her.
   6) isn’t a pleasant thought.
   7) the colour of blood.
   8) to find that it is still there.
6 Discuss these questions with another student. What do you think?
Do you think that living in the country is better than living in the city? Why or why not? What does the country have that the city doesn’t have? What does the city have that the country doesn’t have? Would you like to live in the country? Why or why not?

Chapters 5–6
7 Complete the sentences with words from the box.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>donkey</th>
<th>four</th>
<th>gymkhana</th>
<th>half</th>
<th>home</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>pleased</td>
<td>red</td>
<td>television</td>
<td>terrible</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

a Miss Pilchester thinks that most things in life are ............ .
b Miss Pilchester enjoys planning the ............ every year.
c As usual, the ............ is on in the Larkin house when Pop meets with Dr Leagreave.
d After his second day in the strawberry fields, Mr Charlton’s face is ............ .
e After her third whisky, Pop offers to drive Miss Pilchester ............ .
f Mr Charlton is up at ............ past four on the day of the gymkhana.
g Pop is ............ when Mr Charlton calls him ‘Pop’ instead of ‘Mr Larkin’.
h Miss Pilcherest arrives ............ hours later than planned.
i At four o’clock, Miss Pilcherest rides in the ladies’ ............ race.

8 Work in pairs. Role play the conversation.
Student A is Pop and Student B is Sir George Bluff-Gore. Pop should tell Sir George that he wants to buy Bluff Court from him and then give him reasons why he wants to do this. Sir George should tell Pop that he doesn’t want to sell Bluff Court to him and then give him reasons why he doesn’t want to do this.

9 Discuss these questions with another student. What do you think?
Do you think Miss Pilcherest likes kissing Pop? Why do you think this? Do you think Pop likes kissing Miss Pilcherest? Why do you think this? Why do you think Pop kisses Miss Pilcherest even though he is married? Do you think it is right or wrong for Pop to kiss Miss Pilcherest? Give reasons to support your answer.

10 Discuss these questions with another student. What do you think?
Why do you think the young man suggests that Miss Pilcherest and the donkey are sisters at the end of Chapter 6? What do you think he means by this statement? Do you think he is being nice or mean to Miss Pilcherest? Why do you think this? How do you think the young man’s statement makes Miss Pilcherest feel? Why do you think this?

Chapter 7
11 Finish these sentences.

a At the gymkhana, Pop spends most of the afternoon saying ............ to people.
b About fifty or sixty people go to Pop’s cocktail ............ .
c The Barnwell sisters tell Pop that they just like to see so many people ............ themselves.
d It is a warm, cloudy evening and the ............ is on its way.
e Miss Pilcherest tells Pop that she will have a nicer time when he keeps his ............ .
f Angela Snow drinks her Rolls Royce cocktail very ............ .
g At the party, Mr Charlton asks Pop if he can ............ Mariette.
h Pop is standing on a ............ when he tells everyone about the wedding plans of Mr Charlton and his daughter.

12 Circle the right words.

a The gymkhana is a great failure / success.
b Pop tells everyone to come to the party at eight / seven o’clock.
c The Barnwell sisters are big / little ladies from the village.
d Lady Rose agrees with Pop and wants to pull Bluff Court down / up.
e Lady Rose tells Pop that it won’t be easy / hard to change her husband’s mind about Bluff Court.
f Pop agrees to hold / kiss Miss Pilcherest because a promise is a promise.
g Angela Snow thinks that the gymkhana in her village is boring / exciting.
h The first / last firework goes off under Ma.
Chapters 1–2

1 Match the people with the descriptions.
   a Pop …..
   b Ma …..
   c Mariette …..
   d Montgomery …..
   e Primrose …..
   f Mr Charlton …..
1) is Ma and Pop's only son.
2) is seventeen years old, with long, black hair and dark eyes.
3) is a happy man who thinks that everything is perfect.
4) looked exactly like Mariette when she was seventeen.
5) is pale, wears glasses and a dark suit, and carries a small black case.
6) is Mariette's younger sister.

Chapters 3–4

2 Match the letters (a–e) with the numbers (1–5) to complete the sentences.
   a In the morning, the sound of Pop's voice crashes around inside …..
   b Pop gives Mr Charlton a drink called …..
   c The next morning, it is hot, so Ma suggests that the family …..
   d While they are going for a ride in the Rolls Royce, Mariette …..
   e The Brigadier is a tall, thin man with white hair and …..
      1) a moustache.
      2) the Larkin Special.
      3) says that it is like riding on air.
      4) eat outside.
      5) Mr Charlton's head.

Chapters 5–6

4 Write in, on or at in the sentences.
   a When Pop gets home the next evening, he finds Miss Pilchester ……… the yard.
   b Miss Pilchester is very good ……… helping to plan activities in the village.
   c In her mind, Miss Pilchester can already see the field ……… gymkhana day.
   d When Pop and Miss Pilchester walk to the house, Ma is ……… the kitchen cutting meat.

5 Write Ma, Mariette, Miss Pilchester, Pop or Sir George in the sentences.
   a ……… asks what people drink at cocktail parties.
   b ……… arrives at the farm in a taxi at half past ten.
   c ……… tells Miss Pilchester that she has a very rude man on the phone.
   d ……… tells Miss Pilchester that Mariette and Mr Charlton can go in the car.
   e ……… owns the largest house in the area, and Pop wants to buy it.

Chapter 7

6 Complete the sentences with words from the box.

arms dress hides money nothing party table whisky

a Pop can't remember who exactly was invited to the ………
   b At the cocktail party, a big ……… is covered with food, champagne and glasses.
   c Pop is a little unhappy because the Barnwell sisters have ……… to drink.
   d Pop adds a little ……… to the My Darlings that he gives to the Barnwell sisters.
   e Lady Rose tells Pop that a small amount of ……… can come straight to her.
   f Angela Snow is wearing a pale, yellow ……… with a low neck.
   g When the fireworks start to go off, Miss Pilchester ……… under the stairs.