

Golden Skies - A recount in three chapters

Recounting Life in World War II

By Obediah Stoneheart

Chapter one continued - Wrath of the Luftwaffe - a first person narrative

We spent the rest of the night in the church, which mercifully dodged the air raid that evening. (I hear it has now fallen to the deadly Nazi bombers.) Mother, who had sustained a cut to her forehead, stoically prayed for father and for our safety, even though to me, everything seemed hopeless and abysmal. Our mother was a rock of faith. The Reverend looked sadly upon us and the other homeless refugees, who huddled along the cold church pews.

Whimpers echoed up from the people grasping tiny candles, dotted everywhere like distant city lights, their sorrowful sounds soaring up to the ancient wooden eaves. The stained-glass windows were lifeless. Later, when she thought I was asleep, I heard mother whispering to the vicar. She returned to us with a sad smile, and without even saying it, I knew this was the last time we would be together in the city. I knew what the vicar had told her she must do.



It was time for us to leave. What will become of us?

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Decode, explore and explain the meaning of new vocabulary:

| Word: | Meaning: |
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Read and retrieve: Name a part of the church from the text. (1 mark)

..... [1 mark]

Infer: Find the paragraph which begins: ‘We spent the rest of the night in the church’. What do you think the word ‘stoically’ might mean, when describing their mother? Give your reasons. (1 mark)

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..... [1 mark]

Choice: Why did the author end this episode with a question? (1 mark)

Bonus words to use ‘gives a sense of’ (1 mark)

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..... [2 marks]