

Golden Skies - chapter two - Obediah's diary entry - Evacuation!

	Monday 28th September 1940
	Dear Diary,
	How quickly a week has passed! The city air raid is all but a distant memory now. By comparison, our life in the city seems like a dream - well, more of a nightmare compared to the idyllic countryside we now inhabit.
	Mother wrote today. She has been injured in the bombings, and now she does not regret her decision to send us to safety. I can vividly remember our departure, standing on that platform. The massive, monstrous steam train was like a dragon: hissing, puffing, spitting and Mabel was just as terrified as I (secretly) was.
	Mabel has stopped crying at night - at last, poor thing. She misses mother terribly. I have to put a brave face on it, but of course I miss her too. Wilton (our new home) is a tiny country village and we live on the nearby farm. On the train, Mabel was clamped to me for the whole journey like a padlock, but now she has started to explore the farm, and we may have made a new friend - although we don't know her name. She lives on the edge of the woods and sometimes waves and smiles. She looks a little older than me, 12-ish, I think.
	Mr and Mrs Tomkins, our new pretend parents, have warmed to us greatly since picking us up at the village hall. I felt like a lost parcel, standing there with Mabel, a few belongings in our battered case and labels around our necks. Then, two elderly, pleasant-looking people grabbed us into a friendly hug. Mrs Tompkins smelt of flowery soap like lavender; he smelt of pungent, stale tobacco and manure. They took us off in a rickety, horse-drawn cart to this cosy farm cottage. It is a small, sturdy home, with a smoking chimney and chickens running around like naughty children, panicking whenever you approach. We have all sorts of chores, but the Tompkins have promised us we may explore the woods this weekend if we behave and work hard. I think they want to see if they can trust us before they let us too far away from their apron strings.
	Those woods do look like they might be full of adventure... And I am intrigued to meet the smiling girl. Perhaps we will see her tomorrow?

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Read to your partner. Take turns. As you read, annotate the text.

Decode, explore and explain the meaning of new vocabulary:

Word:	Meaning:
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Read and retrieve: Copy a group of words which show that Obediah is hiding his fears. (1 mark)

..... [1 mark]

Read and retrieve: Mabel was 'clamped to me like a padlock'. What does this suggest about Mabel? (1 mark)

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..... [1 mark]

Infer: What is your impression of Obediah as an older brother to Mabel? (1 mark)
Bonus words to use: The impression I have of Obediah is... (1 mark)

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..... [2 marks]

Author's choice: What are the features of a diary entry? Try to find three. (3 marks)

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..... [3 marks]