

Golden Skies - chapter three - Obediah's letter home

	27 Brigg Cottage
	Taunton
	SM1 2RD
	10 th October 1940
	Dearest Mother,
	Oh, how we are both missing you dearly! Mabel sends a hug and a kiss. I am sending you a very manly handshake and a strong salute, seeing as you have put me in charge of her. Of course, I am looking after her as you asked. We hope you are feeling much better and that life in the city is not too dangerous - surely your injuries have fully healed by now? We miss seeing our friends and we would give anything to see you again! However, as you will read below, we have been on quite an adventure...
	On the first night here with our new carers, Mr and Mrs Tompkins, Mabel and I laid our heads on the clean, soft, lavender-soaked pillows, quietly thanking God for our safety. After such a trying day, I am sure you can imagine that we went out like snuffed candles. The only thing that disturbed us was a strange thud in the distance which we took to be thunder. It was no such thing - as you will see!
	Even though neither of us slept at all well, the following morning a bright dawn flared through the window, awaking us early. We have come to realise this is quite a pretty little village, though this house is rather decrepit. Mr and Mrs Tompkins are so very kind - we are terribly lucky! After breakfast (and a few easy chores) they allowed us to explore our new territory. When we stepped out of the door and looked towards the dense woodland near the house, Mabel caught sight of the small figure we had glimpsed yesterday. You know how easily she makes new friends. She went off like a rabbit, crying, "Quickly! Let's see who that is!"
	Within minutes, we were chattering like best friends. Darcy, a short skinny blond thing, led us through a tiny hole in a thicket and showed us a path that looked ripe for exploration. She said she had something she simply must show us. And here, we were met by a sight that left us all gaping in shock! Read on - and I do hope you believe us!

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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 the children went straight to sleep. (1 mark)

..... [1 mark]

Read and retrieve:

How does the first paragraph make the reader want to continue? Find evidence. (1 mark)

..... [1 mark]

Infer: Why do you think Obediah gives a firm handshake and a strong salute in the letter to his mother? (1 mark)

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..... [1 mark]

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

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..... [3 marks]