

Golden Skies - chapter three - Obediah's Letter (continued...)

	We gasped and gaped in awe.
	A twisted, smashed metal carcass was strewn within the lower branches of a copse of smouldering oak trees. Through the glimmers of sunlight, we could barely recognise it as a crashed aeroplane. (Now we knew what that thud had been in the night!) It bore the sign of the Swastika. "It's the Nazis!" I warned them, in hushed tones, looking around for the occupant. (Fear not, mother - we were lucky this time!) Stealthily, we approached and peeped within the wreck, me leading, of course. Mabel screamed.
	"Is he dead?!" cried Darcy, crying uncontrollably. I thought Mabel was going to vomit, but she is made of sterner stuff and, before I could stop her, she reached out to touch the charred corpse.
	Noticing something odd - something shining - I climbed into the empty seat behind our dead enemy (even so, I was terrified!). The whole fuselage creaked and loosened, and I swiftly jumped down, rocking the plane. The German's body flopped sideways like an over-cooked dead fish. It was a gruesome sight. We were all set to flee and seek help when a metal box tumbled to the forest floor with a hefty clank. A flap opened: a pool of golden coins fanned out over the mud.
	"Treasure!" said Mabel, her eyes alight with gold. "Bless this greedy Nazi! He's made us rich!"
	That very afternoon, the local museum curator told us the coins are genuine, and better yet, we found them which makes us the owners! Oh mother! What fortune is this? We have wealth beyond our dreams! We are unbelievably rich! There is no need for you to work any longer, mother; come to us with haste! We can buy a place here, where it is safe. We can be a family once again!
	Your loving son and daughter, Obediah and Mabel xx



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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: Which words tell you that Obediah took the lead at the crash site. (1 mark)

..... [1 mark]

Read and retrieve: How did the two girls react to their discovery? (1 mark)

..... [1 mark]

Infer: What does this suggest about the writer (Obediah) view of girls? (1 mark)

..... [1 mark]

Author's choice: If this was a more modern-day story, how do you think the role of the girls would be written in a different way? Think of two changes (2 marks)

In a modern version of this story, the girls would

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..... [2 marks]