

The Butterfly Lion

Chilblains and Semolina Pudding

1. How old is the narrator when he decides to run away from boarding school?
2. Give two reasons why the narrator is miserable at this time.
3. What escape route does the narrator use?
4. Why do you think he tries to disguise his uniform?
5. Do you think the narrator is being brave in this chapter? Why? What other words would you use to describe him?

Strange Meeting

1. Name three things the narrator notices about the old lady when he first meets her in the rain.
2. How does the old lady describe her dog, Jack, so as not to worry the narrator?
3. Why does the old lady's house look as if it has 'grown out of the ground'?
4. Who do you think Bertie is?
5. Describe how you think the narrator feels as he sits in Millie's kitchen.

Where is Timbavati?

In this chapter, the story changes. We have a different setting. Draw and label the different settings we have come across in the book so far.

Chapters 1 & 2

Chapter 3

The Butterfly Lion: Bertie and the Lion

1. How does the lion cub try to protect itself against the hyenas?
2. What makes the hyenas run away?
3. Give one reason why Bertie's father says he can't keep the lion cub.
4. Give one reason why Bertie's mother says they should keep the lion cub.
5. What changes happen to Bertie's mother after they allow the lion cub to live with them?
6. Explain why you think Bertie's mother has been so sad up till this time.

The Butterfly Lion: Running Free

1. Where is Bertie being sent to school? When does he have to leave?
2. Why is the Frenchman in Africa?
3. What does Bertie do for the first time in his life when his father tells him his lion is to be taken away?
4. Why can't the lion be set free into the wild instead of going to the circus?
5. What does Bertie make up his mind to do that night?
6. Explain why you think the lion follows Bertie after he leaves him on the top of the *kopje*?

The Butterfly Lion: The Frenchman

- 1) Why was Bertie's father angry? Which words and phrases show this?
- 2) What was the weather like on the day the Frenchman came?
- 3) Which 3 clues in the text tell you that the lion was starving?
- 4) What did the Frenchman call the lion? Why did he call him this?
- 5) How did Bertie know that the lion couldn't survive in the wild? Why?
- 6) What did Bertie promise the lion?