

Before-reading questions

- 1 *Reader's own answer.*
- 2 *Reader's own answer.*
- 3 *Reader's own answer.*
- 4 *Reader's own answer.*
- 5 *Reader's own answer.*

During-reading questions**CHAPTER ONE**

- 1 Because he has a job there with the Shell Company – a business that sells fuel.
- 2 A naked man
- 3 Polo is a very old ball game from Central Asia. Players ride horses and seven-and-a-half minutes of play is called a chukka. The Major cannot play polo on the ship because it is played on horses.
- 4 Because he thinks that Roald was laughing at his special game.

CHAPTER TWO

- 1 Miss Trefusis takes the orange from the bowl with a fork. Then she carefully takes away the skin and eats the orange, all with a knife and fork.
- 2 White powder
- 3 Because they are different lengths and he changes them so his hair looks like it is growing.

CHAPTER THREE

- 1 It takes a day and a night to get to Dar es Salaam.
- 2 In the large Shell Company house outside Dar es Salaam.
- 3 If a car hits a snake, then the snake might fly in the air and then fall into the car, on top of the people in the car.
- 4 The black mamba

CHAPTER FOUR

- 1 450 miles from Dar es Salaam

- 2 The snake's bright yellow-green skin and great size.
- 3 A long pole and a big bag

CHAPTER FIVE

- 1 To stop the Germans escaping and to take them to the prison.
- 2 In the forest
- 3 Because he thinks that Roald is surrendering.

CHAPTER SIX

- 1 A pilot
- 2 Flying a plane on your own, without a teacher.
- 3 Because it is getting dark, and his fuel is low.
- 4 For five months

CHAPTER SEVEN

- 1 4 hours and 40 minutes
- 2 The British are fighting against the Italians and the Germans.
- 3 A pilot called David Coke.
- 4 The bombers turn to fly between the mountains.

CHAPTER EIGHT

- 1 More than 200 German planes
- 2 A pilot climbs calmly on to a wing of his plane and jumps off.

CHAPTER NINE

- 1 The most important RAF man in all of Greece.
- 2 A parcel
- 3 To stay in Greece when the Germans take the country and fight against them secretly.
- 4 Because, for the first time in his life, he spends a day and a night without seeing another person.

CHAPTER TEN

- 1 Because Roald's group of ships is often attacked by Germans.
- 2 On a black, wet night in early autumn 1941.
- 3 You have to speak to the operator first.

- 4 Roald's mother is standing calmly outside the gate of the house, waiting for the bus.

After-reading questions

- 1 *Reader's own answer.*
- 2 *Reader's own answer.*
- 3 *Reader's own answer.*
- 4 *Reader's own answer.*
- 5 The German men are the enemy. They need to go to prison so they cannot become soldiers and fight in the war for Germany.
- 6 *Reader's own answer.*
- 7 *Reader's own answer.*
- 8 *Reader's own answer.*
- 9 *Reader's own answer.*
- 10 Because he is following orders (and perhaps he does not understand the importance of the new information).

Exercises

CHAPTER ONE

- | | | |
|---|---------|---------|
| 1 | 1 false | 2 false |
| | 3 true | 4 true |
| | 5 false | 6 true |

CHAPTER TWO

- 2 1 She **took** (take) it from the bowl with a fork.
- 2 I sat there and **thought** (think) about all the things I did with my fingers.
- 3 When I **saw** (see) U. N. Savoury's name, I could not believe it.
- 4 "They're all strange," I **told** (tell) myself for the hundredth time.
- 5 Three days later, as we passed through the Suez Canal, I **got** (get) the answer.
- 6 I **flew** (fly) out of the room and shut the door.

CHAPTER THREE

- 3 1 There were no boring grey clothes, and I never had to **get** (get) on a bus or a train.
- 2 We visited Shell customers who **bought** (buy) our fuel for their machines.
- 3 If the car hit a snake, then the snake might **fly** (fly) in the air and then fall into the car, on top of you.
- 4 Salimu **sat** (sit) down, put one leg straight out behind him, **held** (hold) the rake in his hands and waited.
- 5 "It's OK," he called. "I've **broken** (break) its back. It's shaking, but it can't move."

CHAPTER FOUR

- 4 1 "Come **quickly**!" he shouted in Swahili.
- 2 He ran **bravely**, waving his arms.
- 3 "He carried me as **carefully** as one of his babies."
- 4 "Walk **quietly** and stand by the window."
- 5 The man moved **slowly** round the room until he was by the snake's tail.

CHAPTER FIVE

- 5 1 c 2 e 3 a 4 f 5 b 6 d

CHAPTERS SIX AND SEVEN

- 6 1 I did not really know **how** to fly a Gladiator.
- 2 "We've got **what** you can see on this field!" he said.
- 3 This was a place **where** pilots disappeared every day.
- 4 "What do I do **when** I meet a One-O-Nine?"
- 5 "I can't teach you **how** to fight Germans in one easy lesson."
- 6 I knew **what** bombs exploding in water looked like from photographs.

CHAPTERS TWO, SEVEN AND NINE

- 7 1 He was an **unkind** man who might leave you in the sea.

- 2 Because I was so tall, I was very **uncomfortable** in a Hurricane.
- 3 I remember that I was **unafraid** – I wanted to do my job well and not make a mistake.
- 4 We all left the CO's tent feeling very **unhappy**.
- 5 I was a very **unimportant** pilot, but I had to try to make him understand.

Project work

Reader's own answers.

CHAPTER EIGHT

- | | |
|---------------|-----------|
| 8 Down | Across |
| 1 protect | 2 calm |
| 3 bullet | 3 battle |
| 5 destroy | 4 tent |
| 7 enemy | 6 explode |
| 9 pilot | 8 engine |
| 10 land | |

CHAPTER NINE

- 9 1 "The enemy must not get this. **Look after** it with your life. "
- 2 "If you're **shot down**, make sure you burn it," the Air Commodore said.
- 3 "In thirty minutes that plane will **get back** to its squadron."
- 4 "We'll be lucky if we **get away** before the Germans arrive."
- 5 As the fourth pilot was **taking off**, the German planes arrived.
- 6 When the sun **went down**, it became dark almost immediately.

CHAPTER TEN

- 10 1 The squadron doctor shook his head.
- 2 Life in Britain was difficult during the war.
- 3 I'm trying to find my mother after three years away.
- 4 An operator found the number for one of my sisters.
- 5 She knew my voice immediately.
- 6 I ran down the steps and straight into my mother's arms.