

Before-reading questions

Reader's own answer.

During-reading questions

CHAPTER ONE

- 1 They worked at a brewery. He was a sales representative and she worked in Finance.
- 2 She has written to say goodbye because she has cancer.
- 3 Harold's conversation with the girl at the petrol station makes him decide this. She tells him that people must have faith.

CHAPTER TWO

- 1 A child was the last thing his mother wanted and his father did not like hearing him at mealtimes. At school, he tried hard not to get attention and the teachers thought he was stupid.
- 2 David is Maureen and Harold's son. When he was six, he almost drowned.

CHAPTER THREE

- 1 At first, she is sure he will come back, but she tells herself that if he wants to go, then he can. After Harold calls her, she is cross with him for spending their money on hotels.
- 2 Maureen was angry with Harold because of David. She had cried and hit him. "It's all because of you!" she had shouted. Then, she had moved her clothes into the guest bedroom and cried at night. They stopped speaking to each other very much except to say hello and goodbye.
- 3 She decides to call Harold's doctor because David tells her to.

CHAPTER FOUR

- 1 They called him "Harold no-mum" because his mother had left him.
- 2 He sees two deep cuts on the woman's arm. He realizes that she has been cutting herself and cannot be as happy as she wants people to think that she is.
- 3 She is from Slovakia. She was a doctor before she came to England.

CHAPTER FIVE

- 1 As Maureen is talking to the doctor about Harold, she suddenly sees things from his position and now she feels sick and angry with herself. She is also probably not sure that he has Alzheimer's.
- 2 It means to look someone in the eye when you are with them or talking to them.
- 3 On the morning he left, she was angry with him about the jam. She has stopped sleeping with him and their marriage has not really been a marriage for twenty years.

CHAPTER SIX

- 1 He has learned that the world is full of people putting one foot in front of the other – meaning that they keep slowly moving forward despite the good and bad things in life that happen to them – and that everyone is small and alone.
- 2 He told her that David was having a wonderful time at university.
- 3 She realizes that, if Harold should be blamed, she should be blamed, too.

CHAPTER SEVEN

- 1 Queenie has started sitting up and she shows people Harold's postcards. She is waiting for Harold.
- 2 Mick is a journalist. He writes a story about Harold for the *Coventry Telegraph* and includes the photo he took of Harold. Then, national newspapers buy the story and the radio begins reporting it. People talk about it in shops, pubs, parks and offices. Newspaper and TV reporters wait outside Maureen's house, wanting to learn more about Harold. Soon, a young man called Wilf joins Harold, and a woman tries to give him money.
- 3 Harold worries about feeding it and keeping it safe on the busy A61. It slows his journey because he has to move to the quieter B6123, which must be less direct.

CHAPTER EIGHT

- 1 **Example answer:** Harold had a difficult life as a child and this has affected him. (In Chapter Two, the writer says that he "moved through life with his head hanging down".) The walk has made him stronger and his body is now "taller and wider".
- 2 She takes down the net curtains and lets the light in.

CHAPTER NINE

- 1 **Example answer:** It is the only time that he can get away from the group and feel part of the earth and life, and his memories.
- 2 She is angry because Rich Lion does not know Queenie and has left Harold. He has not made the pilgrimage for Queenie. He just wants everyone to think that he is amazing, and to get his children back.

CHAPTER TEN

- 1 He cannot remember his son's name and feels terrible regret. All he wants is his child.
- 2 Harold got into the brewery one night and did something terrible. Queenie let Napier blame her for it. She got fired and disappeared.
- 3 She feels bad because she did not tell Harold the truth about her aunt, who did not get better.

CHAPTER ELEVEN

- 1 One "head" is the cancer.
- 2 She thinks about Harold and her father.
- 3 It is death.

CHAPTER TWELVE

- 1 He is frightened that he is going to forget about David, and Maureen and himself.
- 2 He made Maureen fall back in love with him.
- 3 In Chapter One, it says, "When they first met, nothing had mattered to Harold more than making her laugh." He has not been able to do this for a very long time.

After-reading questions

- 1 **Example answer:** As he walks, Harold starts to think about his past and David, and what happened with Queenie at the brewery after David’s death. He also thinks about when he was a child and what happened to him. He learns a lot about himself from this. Maureen starts to think more about Harold and David, and realizes that the way she has always seen what happened may not be the truth. She realizes that Harold did love David and wanted to be close to him, but did not know how to be. She misses Harold and slowly falls in love with him again as she watches him becoming stronger. Maybe both Harold and Maureen begin to see how David’s death has damaged their marriage, and they decide to save it “one day at a time”.
- 2 **Example answer:** Maybe Harold blames his past for David’s death. He feels he could not be close to David because of how his own father was with him.
- 3 **Example answer:** No, he is dead, but Maureen talks to David in her mind because she misses him so much. She also needs advice as she tries to understand what is happening to Harold, and what she should do.
- 4 **Example answer:** It is important because going by car is easy and Harold needs to show Queenie how much she means to him. He also knows, perhaps, that it will give him time to think, and this is what he needs.
- 5 *Reader’s own answer.*

Exercises

CHAPTER ONE

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

CHAPTER TWO

2	Regular	Irregular
	regretted	hung
	shivered	hit
	retired	fell
	drowned	woke
	wondered	shook

CHAPTER THREE

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

CHAPTER FOUR

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

CHAPTERS FIVE AND SIX

- 5 1 Maureen **dusted** and vacuumed for hours to make the house clean.
- 2 She thought that Harold might have **Alzheimer’s** because he kept forgetting things.
- 3 The fields were full of flowers and wild **garlic**.
- 4 Queenie took the **blame** and Harold regretted it badly.
- 5 Maureen **blamed** Harold because he did not go in the water when David nearly drowned.
- 6 Harold had bought a suit for David’s **graduation** from university.
- 7 David could not find a job after he **graduated**.
- 8 After Harold left her, Maureen felt sad and **depressed**.

CHAPTER SEVEN

- 6 1 He **had made** a mistake at Bath and gone the wrong way, losing a day. He **had corrected** that now.
- 2 He knew that he **had lost** her love.
- 3 And then there **was** the cost. The hotels were cheap but he could not keep spending their retirement money like this.
- 4 "I see." His blood **had gone** still and cold.
- 5 It **had** a small hole in it but he could still open and close it.

CHAPTER EIGHT

- 7 1 Wilf
2 Kate
3 the gorilla man
4 Harold
5 Rich
6 Maureen
7 Rex

CHAPTERS NINE AND TEN

- 8 1 f 2 a 3 h 4 d
5 e 6 c 7 g 8 b

CHAPTERS ELEVEN AND TWELVE

- 9 1 He said that his name was Harold Fry and that he had walked a very long way to save Queenie Hennessy.
- 2 The nurse said that Queenie was confused and in pain. But that she had waited, just like Harold had said that she should.
- 3 Harold said that it seemed a long time since he had seen Queenie in the stationery cupboard.
- 4 Harold said that Queenie could not speak.
- 5 Harold said that as he had walked, he had been remembering so many things that he had forgotten.
- 6 Maureen told Harold that she loved him, and that was what he had done.

ALL CHAPTERS

- 10 1 b 2 e 3 h 4 a
5 c 6 g 7 f 8 d

Project work

Reader's own answers.