

About a Boy

Book key

1.1 1 C 2 A 3 B 4 D

1.2 Open answers

2.1 1 X 2 X 3 ✓ 4 ✓

2.2 1 a hasn't got b London c Cambridge
d wants e believes

2 a Marcus b Will c Fiona d Angie
e Mark f Suzie

3 Single, Alone, adult, Thursday

2.3 1 1 a second, b first

2 a second, b first

3 a first, b second

2 2 had enjoyed, didn't want

3 had separated, moved

4 had been, was

5 laughed, had sung

2.4 Open answers

3.1 Possible answers:

1 Fiona, because she had taken some pills/tried to kill herself.

2 Will, Suzie, Megan and Marcus. They've been to a picnic/in the park.

3 They go to the hospital.

4 Fiona comes home/Marcus finds a letter from her.

3.2 1 b 2 d 3 a 4 h 5 e 6 c 7 f 8 g

3.3 1 didn't look, wouldn't laugh

2 wouldn't worry, didn't cry

3 wouldn't like, knew

4 would be, had

5 could find, would feel

6 were, would be

3.4 Open answers

4.1 1 b 2 a

4.2 1 Chapter 5 a 2 b 4 c 1 d 3
Chapter 6 e 2 f 4 g 1 h 3

2 Open answers

4.3 1 Marcus said he hated going to the hairdresser.

2 Marcus told his mum (that) Will had bought him some trainers.

3 Fiona told Will (that) Marcus was doing fine.

4 Fiona told Marcus (that) if he needed clothes, she would get them.

5 Fiona said (that) Will wasn't going to open the door.

6 Will told Marcus (that) he could tell him about music.

4.4 Open answers

5.1 (Example answers)

1 Eight: Fiona, Marcus, Clive, Lindsey, Lindsey's mum, Will, Suzie, Megan

2 Suzie, because Will has lied about Ned.

3 Rachel, a beautiful artist with a twelve year old son.

4 Ali, who looks cool but behaves badly.

5.2 1 E 2 F 3 B 4 A 5 C 6 D 7 F

5.3 1 Will shouldn't be alone at Christmas.

2 Marcus should have more friends.

3 Fiona should be more relaxed.

4 Ali shouldn't worry about his mother's boyfriends.

5 Families shouldn't be so complicated!

5.4 Open answers

6.1 1 c 2 b

6.2 1 E 2 A 3 B 4 D 5 C 6 F

6.3 1 When Marcus told Will about Fiona, he wasn't very helpful.

2 Fiona told Will about her problems when they met in a pub.

3 When Marcus saw the newspaper, he started worrying about Ellie.

4 Marcus followed Ellie when she jumped off the train.

5 When Ellie broke the shop window, Marcus was embarrassed.

6 Some people ran down the street when they heard the noise.

6.4 Open answers

Talk about it Open answers

Write about it Open answers

Project Open answers

Discussion activities key

1 Suggested answers: Advantages: you've got lots of free time, you don't get tired, you don't have problems with your boss; Disadvantages: you might get bored, you don't meet people as easily, you don't learn new things, you have no routine, you don't earn money

2 Suggested answers: Fiona: money problems, finding somebody to look after her son when she wants to go out, educating Marcus alone; Marcus: making new friends, bullies, getting to know his new teachers

3 Open answers

4 Fiona isn't really there but if she were, maybe she was spying on them or taking a walk. Marcus imagines this because Fiona is trying to kill herself.

5 Open answers

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- 6 The other kids laugh at him. Later in the book they throw sweets at him and steal his trainers. They do this because Marcus is different from the other children. Marcus probably feels very unhappy and maybe afraid. He could try to be more like the other kids or tell a teacher or his mum. Open answers.
- 7 Open answers
- 8 In Great Britain, people normally have a holiday at Christmas and they eat and drink a lot and see friends and relatives. Many people have parties. It's typical to eat turkey and people decorate their houses with lights and a Christmas tree.
- 9–13 Open answers.

Activity worksheets key

- 1 a John and Christine
b Marcus
c Marcus's dad
d Will
e Fiona
f Angie
g Suzie
- 2 simple–complicated
lovely–horrible
shallow–deep
weird–normal
lost–won
push–pull
guilty–innocent
selfish–generous
- 3 a behaviour b pushchair c sandwich
d loaves e brightly f expected
- 4 a ~~X~~ b ✓ c ✓ d ~~X~~ e ✓ f ✓ g ~~X~~
- 5 a interesting > boring
b face > hair
c Three > Two
d socks > shoes/trainers
e restaurant > pub
f woman > man

- 6 a hadn't b frightened c in d most e was
f put g coping
- 7 a He bought him a book of *Countdown* quizzes.
b He helped her open a present.
c He first met her on New Year's Eve.
d He thought it was Marcus.
e He wanted her to be his girlfriend.
f He was wearing a hairy jumper and a pair of bright yellow trousers.
g He had large pictures of singers and sexy actresses.
h Because he thought Rachel would think he was stupid.
- 8 a depressed b joke c toy d lie e leather
f shoulder g downstairs
- 9 a 3 b 5 c 1 d 7 e 6 f 2 g 4
- 10 a Ellie b Marcus c Rachel d Will e Fiona
- 11 a troublemaker b off c down d speech
e effects f shook g advice
- 12 a What did the policewoman ask Marcus and Ellie?
b Who called Ellie's mum?
c What was the shop owner wearing?
d What did Ellie do to Ruth?
e What was Will afraid of?

Progress test key

- 1 a ✓ b ~~X~~ c ~~X~~ d ✓ e ✓ f ✓ g ~~X~~ h ~~X~~
i ✓ j ✓
- 2 a 2 b 4 c 6 d 1 e 8 f 7 g 5 h 10
i 3 j 9
- 3 a Fiona b Rachel c Ali d Will e Clive
f Angie g Suzie h Lindsey i Ellie j Marcus
- 4 a involved b weird c duck d pumped
e truth f trainers g cope h fancied i hugged
j cardboard