The Kingdom by the Sea
Robert Westall

Answer the following questions in full sentences

Chapter 1

1. How does the novel start?
2. What do we know about the boy’s family?
3. Write a paragraph explaining what happens in the air raid.
4. What does Harry do with his rabbits?
5. How does he feel about his aunt?
6. What does he decide to do?

Chapter 2

1. Describe Harry’s dream.
2. What does he meet on the beach?
3. Describe what happens in the chip shop.
4. What will Harry have to watch out for now?
5. Do you think Harry’s new companion will help him or cause him difficulty?
6. Write a paragraph about what you would do if you were in Harry’s situation.
7. What sort of character do you think Harry is? Choose words from the box below.

BRAVE LONELY ISOLATED LOST ADVENTUROUS
TIMID SCARED LOVING ANGRY CHILDISH
Answer the following questions in full sentences

Chapter 3

1. What sort of morning is it?
2. What does Harry do?
3. Describe what happens between him and his dog.
4. What does he find on the beach?
5. What does he remember his father telling him?
6. What items are in the attaché case?

Chapter 4

1. What had gone wrong on his trip to town?
2. What items had he bought, and why?
3. Describe his second visit to the chip shop.
4. How did the dog respond to the air raid?
5. Why does Harry have to leave the beach soon?
6. Which of these words would you use to describe Harry, say why and try to give an example from the book.

SENSIBLE    A GOOD LIAR    BRAVE    FOOLISH
RESOURCEFUL    MATURE    LOVING    CHILDISH
Answer the following questions in full sentences

Chapter 5

1. What was the Black Market?
2. How does Don behave?
3. Name the members of the family, and what do we know about them?
4. How does Harry prepare himself to travel?
5. What has he learned?
6. What does “nostalgia” mean, and how does Harry express it?

Chapter 6

1. Describe, in your own words, the attempt made by the two roughs to steal from Harry.
2. Where does he pass the night?
3. How does he feel when he awakes?
4. How does the farmer react?
5. How does Harry defend the dog?
6. How does he feel about his family by the end of the chapter?
7. There have been two life-threatening episodes in this chapter. What do you think of the way that Harry has dealt with both of them? How would you react?
Answer the following questions in full sentences

Chapter 7

1. What sort of shelter does Harry find?
2. To whom did the shelter belong, and what do we find out about them?
3. How did Harry leave the place?
4. Why was the door unlocked?
5. What does this tell us about war-time society and its values? How different is our society?
6. How does Harry feel about the old man?

Chapter 8

1. What was Druridge Bay used for?
2. Describe the man Harry meets.
3. What is Harry and Don's bedroom like?
4. What do they find on their first morning?
5. Why does Joseph make Harry go?
6. Which of these words do you think describe Harry? Write at least one sentence for each word, explaining as fully as possible whether you think it describes him accurately.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LOST</th>
<th>CARING</th>
<th>LONELY</th>
<th>MATURE</th>
<th>WILLING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ADAPTABLE</td>
<td>HARDWORKING</td>
<td>HARDENED</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Answer the following questions in full sentences

Chapter 9

1. What has Harry learned from Joseph?
2. What does Harry find in the pillbox?
3. What stops Harry from eating?
4. Write a paragraph describing the character of Arthur, carefully choosing examples from the text.
5. How does Harry feel when he returns to the barracks from the Naafi.
6. What does Harry learn to do on his first day with the soldiers?
7. What does he enjoy doing the most with Uncle Artie?
8. Describe the event with the pilot and his girlfriend.
9. How does Harry feel about the couple?
10. How do they leave the pillbox?

Chapter 10

1. Explain in your own words how Harry feels about Artie.
2. What does Artie warn Harry about?
3. How does Harry injure himself?
4. What does Artie say to Harry now that he knows the truth?
5. How does Artie take care of Harry?
Chapter 11

1. What effect does Merman have on the other soldiers?
2. How does Harry feel about M?
3. What does Merman offer Harry when the others are gone?
4. What do you think Merman is suggesting?
5. What does Artie mean when he tells Merman: “They’ll put you away in Colchester for 5 years.”

Chapter 12

1. What has caused Harry to feel miserable, and why?
2. What does Merman seem to be suggesting to Harry?
3. At what point does Harry realise what Merman wants?
4. How does the writer portray this homosexual encounter? Try to explain the feelings of Harry, Artie and Merman.
5. Do you think that the writer is being fair to homosexuals?
6. What does Harry remember most about Merman later?
7. Write a paragraph explaining what you think Uncle Artie did for Harry and decide how important you think it is.
Answer the following questions in full sentences

Chapter 13

1. Describe Harry’s mood at the beginning of the chapter.
2. What does the woman ask him to do?
3. What things at the cottage remind him of his past?
4. How does he spend the evening?
5. The two women show Harry great kindness and hospitality. Do you think that people still behave like that today?
6. Which of these words do you think describe Harry? Write at least one sentence for each word, explaining as fully as possible whether you think it describes him accurately.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SENSIBLE</th>
<th>A GOOD LIAR</th>
<th>BRAVE</th>
<th>MATURE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MOODY</td>
<td>CHILDISH</td>
<td>ADAPTABLE</td>
<td>NAIVE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Chapter 14

1. Describe the scene at the beginning of the chapter; what does Harry notice and feel?
2. What are the islanders of Lindisfarne like? Give examples.
3. Why do the kids pick on Harry?
4. Describe what happens, and what we learn about Harry.
Answer the following questions in full sentences

Chapter 15

1. What mistake does Harry make?
2. Describe what happens as Harry tries to cross to the mainland.
3. How does Harry feel about the dog? How do we know?
4. How does he feel about the sea now?
5. How does Don get down from the watchtower?
6. How would you describe Harry’s feelings at the end of the chapter?

Chapter 16

1. What does Harry notice about the man who rescues him?
2. What does the vet do?
3. What does Mr Murgatroyd do for Harry?
4. What do you think is the reason for Mr Murgatroyd being strange? Can you work out his history?
5. In this story Harry has met both kind and unkind people; Copy and complete the chart below, seeing how many of the people you can remember, and decide whether they have been kind or unkind.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>UNKIND</th>
<th>KIND</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chip shop owner</td>
<td>Lady in chip shop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Merman</td>
<td>Artie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farmer</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Answer the following questions in full sentences

**Chapter 17**

1. What does Mr Murgatroyd do for Harry?
2. What is Mrs Clive’s worry?
3. What did Mr Murgatroyd do that got him into trouble?
4. How does Mrs Clive change her mind, and what does this tell us about Harry?
5. What sort of community is this?
6. How does Harry feel about his family now?

**Chapter 18**

1. What has happened to the relationship between Harry and Mr Murgatroyd?
2. What does Mr M suggest for the future?
3. What still scares Harry?
4. What does Mr M decide?
5. It seems that Harry has come almost to the end of his journey. What do you think he has learned, and how has he changed?
Answer the following questions in full sentences

Chapter 19

1. How does Harry feel about his kingdom?
2. How long does it take by car to return to Northshields?
3. Describe the events that take Harry and Mr M to Harry’s family.
4. How does Harry’s father feel about seeing Harry?
5. Try to explain how and why Harry doesn’t fit into his family anymore.
6. Does the novel end as you would expect? Explain your answer.
7. Write your own ending for the novel; be prepared to discuss it with the class.
Imagine your school has been bombed. All your friends and teachers are safe, but the place is completely destroyed.

What would you miss?
What would you do with your time?
How would you feel?
What would your future be like?

Write your story...........................................
RESEARCH

1. When was the Second World War?
2. Britain was one of the Allied Forces. Who were the other Allies?
3. Who were they fighting against?
4. Why was Britain involved in the war?
5. What was the symbol of the Nazis? What did it look like?
6. What was the Blitz?
7. Where did people go during air raids? Why?
8. How did people know when an air-raid was beginning and ending?
9. What is shrapnel? Why might it be dangerous?
10. What was the Home Guard? What did they do?
11. What was rationing? Why were food and clothes rationed during the war?
12. What was the Battle of Britain?
13. How was England defended from incoming enemy aircraft?
14. What was a “blackout”?
15. What were sandbags used for?
16. What shortages did the population experience?
17. Which English cities suffered the most damage?
18. What was the German Air Force called?
19. Why was South Shields bombed?
20. What were barrage balloons used for?
Extension Activities

Chapter 3

Don and Harry experience an air raid at first hand. Write a diary entry from Don’s point of view. Try to explore what the sights, sounds and smells would mean to him.

*Remember to write in the first person and to make it descriptive.*

Chapter 4

You are a Police Constable and have been working on the disappearance of Harry Baguley. You hear that a boy fitting his description has been seen in town with a large dog. Write a report based on witness statements, describing Harry’s appearance and activities.

*Remember to write in the passive voice: e.g. “a boy was seen” and to use speech marks when recording what witnesses have said.*

Chapter 6

You are the farmer injured by Harry. Write your statement for the Police, accusing Harry of trespassing and assault. You want the Police to think that you are completely innocent and that you did not provoke Harry at all.

*Remember to write in the first person and to use the past tense.*
Chapter 9

When the pilot and his girlfriend leave the pillbox she leaves Harry a letter. Write that letter.

*Remember to use paragraphs and to begin and end the letter in the usual manner.*

Chapter 11

Write an essay comparing Merman and Uncle Artie.

*Consider appearance, characteristics, how others see them, the effect they have on others, and how Harry feels about both of them.*

Chapter 13

The old lady is obviously a “larger than life” character. Write a biography of her, including all her life and loves. Use all the details in the text, and you may add a few of your own as well.

*Remember it must be written in the past tense and in the third person.*

Chapter 15

By the end of this chapter Harry feels completely without hope. He has lost everything that he ever valued, his dog is seriously injured and his beloved sea has just become his enemy. Write a poem that explores his feelings.

*Consider writing a sonnet. Your poem doesn’t have to rhyme.*
**Chapter 18**

Draw a **picture time line** showing what has happened to Harry on his travels. You must draw the various characters that Harry encounters and describe how they treat him.

*Remember to keep the characters and events in order. You may use symbols.*

**Chapter 19**

Design a **book cover**, including blurb, about the story.

*Remember to illustrate it and to use comments from other writers to recommend the book.*