



**CAMBRIDGE**  
International Education

Teaching Pack: *I'm the King of the Castle*

Cambridge IGCSE™ / IGCSE (9–1)

Literature in English 0475 / 0992

Cambridge O Level  
Literature in English 2010

For examination from 2026



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## Introduction

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This *Teaching Pack* supports teachers and learners when studying Cambridge IGCSE / IGCSE (9–1) and O Level Literature in English set texts.

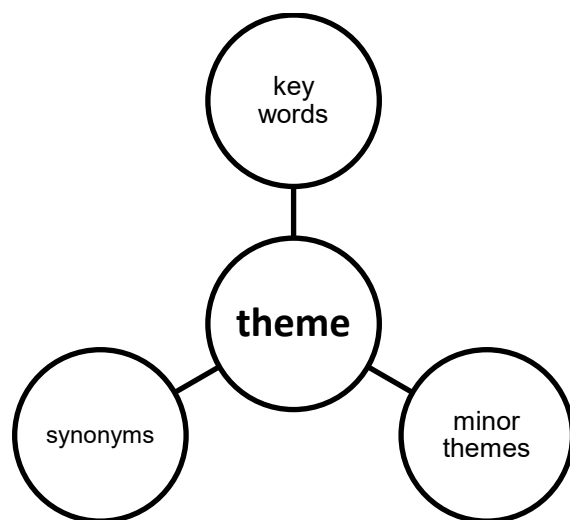
Set texts regularly rotate on the syllabus and may change from one year of examination to the next. Before you begin teaching, check the set text list for the year in which your candidates will take their examinations.

Teachers may use this teaching pack to engage their learners when introducing a set text, or as a revision tool. The content of these set text resources will need to be expanded on to cover what candidates are expected to know and be able to comment on in an examination.

To increase learners' understanding and appreciation of the set text we recommend learners to set up a **reading log**, which could include:

- brief synopses of chapters/acts (in no more than a couple of sentences in their own words)
- a timeline of events (useful when a narrative is arranged non-chronologically)
- a list or diagram of characters and their relationships with each other
- first impressions of main characters
- initial thoughts about the main themes or ideas in the text.

We suggest teachers discuss synonyms and alternative key words for themes that are identified for a text. Create key major theme mind maps and then from each of those key themes map connected and subsidiary/minor themes.



In this pack we have included some useful lesson resources to use with learners.

- Text summary
- Character summaries and quotations
- Reflection and activities
- A quiz.

## Animation videos

This *Teaching Pack* can be used with the videos which were produced using the software *Video Scribe* [www.videoscribe.co/en/](http://www.videoscribe.co/en/), but a range of other alternative animation and storyboarding tools may equally be used:

- [www.storyboardthat.com](http://www.storyboardthat.com)  
Online digital storytelling tool – free and pay for subscriptions available
- <https://wonderunit.com/storyboarder/>  
Storyboarding software – free to download, but has to be installed
- [www.powtoon.com/edu-home/](http://www.powtoon.com/edu-home/)  
Online video and animation creation – free and pay for subscriptions
- [www.animaker.com](http://www.animaker.com)  
Online animated video creator – free and pay for subscriptions
- [https://goanimate4schools.com/public\\_index](https://goanimate4schools.com/public_index)  
Online storyboard, scene and video creation tool – pay for subscription
- <http://plasq.com/apps/comiclife/macwin/>  
Downloadable and app-based tools for creating comic books
- [www.openoffice.org/product/impress.html](http://www.openoffice.org/product/impress.html)  
A tool for creating multimedia presentations
- <https://products.office.com/en-gb/powerpoint>  
Microsoft PowerPoint for simple presentations as well as more complex multimedia presentations.

The teaching pack and videos aim to help learners to understand and think about the key events and themes of the text, key quotations and their meanings, the significance of character behaviour, relationships and actions and how characters are depicted in the set text being studied.

## Lesson resources



Included in this pack are some resources to use with your learners. You may ask your learners to create their own worksheets similar to these, around another text, which they are studying:

**Character summaries and quotations** – learners create their own character summaries including quotations.

**Character animations** – after watching the animation, learners can work in pairs to fill in the blank worksheet.

**Reflection** – after reading the text / watching the videos, learners reflect, consider and explore.

**Quiz** – a fun quiz to test the learners' knowledge of the text before or after watching the videos.

## 1. Text summary

### Chapters 1–2

Following the deaths of his wife and then his father, Joseph Hooper (Mr Hooper) moves into the old family home, Warings, with his 10-year-old son, Edmund (called Hooper in the text). It is a large, ugly and gloomy house. Mr Hooper tries to form a good relationship with his son, but Edmund pushes him away, preferring to be on his own.

Mr Hooper hires a widow, Mrs Helena Kingshaw, to be a housekeeper; she brings her son, Charles (called Kingshaw in the text), who is intended as a companion for Edmund as they are the same age. It is clear from the outset that both Mr Hooper and Mrs Kingshaw are also hoping for a closer relationship, as he is lonely, and she is afraid of having to manage on her own with little money.

Edmund hates the idea of another boy in the house to spoil his selfish and solitary life; he is rude, cruel and hostile to Charles from the moment the Kingshaws arrive. Charles is anxious about having to fit in to yet another strange house and does his best to get on with Edmund but this is hopeless.

### Chapters 3–4

Charles explores the surrounding fields alone, desperate to get away from the house and Edmund, who takes every opportunity to torment and bully him. He is attacked by a crow in a horrifying incident and is traumatised by it. Edmund watches from the house and mocks him about being scared. Later that night, he finds a stuffed crow in the attics and leaves it silently on Charles's bed to see when he wakes up. Charles is again terrified and wishes that both he and Edmund could be dead.

The next day, Edmund takes Charles to the Red Room, which has cases of dead moths. Charles has a phobia of moths and is ashamed of being so afraid of something which can't harm him. Edmund suddenly locks him in the room alone. Charles prays that he and his mother will leave Warings, and he longs to go back to his boarding school where 'he belonged' and felt safe.

Charles makes a plan to run away from Warings hoping that his mother will then understand his misery. Edmund finds out and declares, 'I shall come with you.' There is nothing Charles can do to stop him.

Meanwhile, both Mr Hooper and Mrs Kingshaw are 'gratified with one another', becoming closer and deluding themselves that the boys are becoming friends, ignoring any evidence to the contrary.

### Chapters 5–8

Mr Hooper and Mrs Kingshaw are going to London for the day together, and Charles decides that this will be the best opportunity to escape. In the early morning, he packs a bag and leaves silently, even though he is afraid. 'He felt absolutely alone', and walks until he reaches the dreaded Hang Wood. Most of all, however, he fears Edmund finding him. The wood is dark and wet, but he is feeling proud of how he has managed so far and likes the feeling of being 'completely hidden'. Suddenly, with 'a dull sense of inevitability', Edmund appears and refuses to go back. They go deeper into the wood until the path disappears. It is hard going, and they quarrel until they see a deer which they follow until they are totally lost. Edmund 'crumpled' and then, hearing thunder, he is 'dead scared'. Charles realises that he must take

charge and builds a shelter, reassuring Edmund who is now 'wild with terror'. The storm passes and Edmund takes back control as they struggle on for hours until they reach a pond. They both swim and, for a while, there is no hostility, but Charles knows that he is still scared of Edmund and will always be 'the loser'.

They realise that they have strayed into the forest which is vast. Edmund becomes hysterical that they are really lost. Charles tries to find the way out but comes back to find Edmund half-drowned having banged his head on a stone. Dragging him clear of the pond to save his life, Charles reassures him and lights a fire. Edmund threatens to kill him if he tries to leave on his own.

**Chapters  
9–11**

They spend the night in the woods, which Charles feels is 'another world' he doesn't want to leave, but they are found in the morning and taken back to Warings. When questioned by their parents, Edmund lies about everything, blaming Charles for pushing him in the water and for beating him. Mr Hooper and Mrs Kingshaw will not believe Charles's truthful account; he loses all hope, realising that Edmund is genuinely bad and his mother doesn't want to understand him at all, now thinking only about her own happiness.

She tells him that he will soon be going to Edmund's school, believing this to be good news, and he runs off to an old, deserted shed to be by himself. Edmund has followed him and locks him in. He leaves Charles alone there, terrified, coming back hours later to taunt him and tell him how he will make his life misery at school. Charles is in despair at Edmund's sadistic bullying and chants, 'I'll kill you,' repeatedly.

**Chapters  
12–13**

Mr Hooper, Mrs Kingshaw, Edmund and Charles go out for a day together at Leydell Castle. While the adults chat, Charles climbs high on the ruined walls: 'he was sure-footed...not afraid of any height'. At the top, he feels 'tall, strong and safe...nobody could touch him'. Edmund hates heights but feels he has to follow. When it is time to come down, Edmund is paralysed with fear and cannot move. Charles reaches out a hand to help him balance but Edmund flinches from it, takes a wrong step and falls to the ground.

Edmund is taken to hospital; Charles believes he is dead and feels that it was his fault because he knows he wanted it to happen. In the car on the way back to Warings, he tries to explain to his mother that he was in fact trying to help, but, again, she doesn't listen to him. She joins Mr Hooper at the hospital and Charles is left alone, reassuring himself that now, 'It's going to be alright.' When Mr Hooper and his mother return, they think they are comforting him with the news that Edmund is in fact alive.

**Chapters  
14–15**

Charles is left alone while his mother visits Edmund in hospital. She is still telling herself that Charles is just being 'silly' when he repeats that he hates Edmund and that she need not worry about it. Charles meets a boy, Fielding, who lives on the nearby farm. Fielding shows him a calf being born and Charles enjoys having a real friend. Fielding cannot understand why Charles is so afraid of Edmund, because he is just a bully who cannot actually hurt him. Charles repeats to himself, 'Fielding is mine, this is all mine, it will be alright.'

When Edmund comes home, hostilities resume even though he is in bed. Charles understands that it can only get worse as Edmund threatens him. Charles dreads the start of every day and the continuation of Edmund's 'reign of terror'. Mrs Kingshaw gives Edmund Charles's precious cardboard model, which he deliberately breaks.

**Chapters  
16–17**

Mr Hooper decides that he will marry Mrs Kingshaw, and they make plans for the wedding followed by taking the boys to school. They all go to a circus where Charles is terrified and is sick. Mrs Kingshaw asks Fielding to the house and Charles is again in despair because he knows that Edmund will be 'unbearable'. Fielding is easy-going and full of concern, and tries to include Charles in their games, but Edmund makes it as difficult as possible.

Eventually, Fielding suggests going to his farm but Charles stays behind, unable to share his friend with Edmund. Instead, he takes Edmund's battle chart from his room and burns it. Surprisingly, Edmund says nothing when he returns; Charles is afraid as he knows he is just biding his time for revenge.

The suitcases are packed for them to go to school the next day and, in the night, Edmund pushes a note under Charles's door saying, 'Something will happen to you.' Charles '...knew, suddenly, what to do'. He leaves the house at dawn and walks to the pond in the wood, the only place he has felt safe, and he lies, face down, in the middle. Later, Edmund finds him and thinks, with pleasure, that he caused Charles's suicide. Mrs Kingshaw comforts Edmund, saying that 'everything is all right'.

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## 2. Character summaries and quotations

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### Charles Kingshaw

Charles is a ten-year-old boy who lost his father a few years previously. His mother has little money and is forced to take a succession of live-in housekeeping positions, which is very unsettling for a young boy. A charity pays for him to go to a boarding school, where he is mainly happy. At the start of the novel he arrives at Warings, 'one more strange house in which we do not properly belong'. This is made worse as he is immediately made to feel unwelcome by Edmund, who impresses upon him at every opportunity that he is inferior and even insults his father, who fought in the Battle of Britain. Charles fights back, literally, but Edmund makes it clear that he has all the power. Charles longs for him and his mother to live in their own place.

Edmund very quickly makes life a misery for Charles. He spies on him when Charles tries to go off by himself and uses what he learns to terrify him. Charles wakes to find a stuffed crow on his bed, he is locked into the Red Room with the moths and then in the deserted shed. Charles tries hard to stand up to Edmund's taunts and bullying but he realises he won't win a battle against Edmund's power and cleverness. He wishes that he was back at school, and that Edmund was dead.

Everything is made more terrifying for Charles because his mother refuses to listen to what he is telling her and will not understand that her son is having a terrible time; she actually takes Edmund's side as she is trying to show Mr Hooper that she could be a suitable stepmother. She dismisses Charles's desperate appeals that he hates Edmund, and that they are not friends as just boyish 'silliness'. He sees her as 'ingratiating and without pride'. Charles feels that he has no option but to run away. He would then escape Edmund and perhaps his mother would have to take notice of his unhappiness.

Charles is afraid of running away but enjoys being by himself with no-one to bully or disappoint him. As he makes his way through the wood, he is 'rather proud of himself' and looks forward to 'solving the problems as he came to them'. At last, he feels capable and 'hidden' from the outside world, which has not treated him well. When Edmund turns up, he feels that his positivity and safety is destroyed, but recognises that in the wood, 'they were somehow more equal'. While they are in the wood and then the forest, Edmund continues to insult Charles, but he is unable to hold the power he exerts in Warings. When Edmund is terrified of the thunderstorm and of being lost, it is Charles who takes charge; he will not leave Edmund despite his hatred of him. He recognises that Edmund is actually 'a baby...stupid.... a bully' and that he himself is more responsible. Edmund becomes hysterical and Charles slaps him, feeling pleased that he had been strong and had not 'gone to pieces'. Charles rescues Edmund after he nearly drowns and looks after him carefully, recognising that he had 'an inner strength or resolution that Edmund lacked'.

After they are rescued and Edmund lies about Charles, his mother will not listen to him or even consider his side of the story. He thinks it is 'monstrously unfair', 'like having a wall in front of him which he must batter down', and finally fully understands that none of them know him at all, that he now must 'defend himself against all of them'. His mother is going to marry Mr Hooper and then the appalling truth is revealed, that he will now be going to

join Edmund at his school, where Edmund will have a free hand in bullying him and enlisting the other boys.

When they go to Leydell Castle and Charles is easily able to climb to the top, he felt 'very tall and strong, and safe, too, nobody could touch him...exulting in the freedom of it...he might touch the sky'. He calls out 'I'm the King of the Castle' and, for that moment, he is free of all his worries. When Edmund becomes stuck, he realises he could take revenge but knows he will help him instead. However, when Edmund mistakes his helping hand and falls, Charles feels guilty that he made it happen because he really wanted Edmund to die. He is later horrified when he learns that Edmund has survived, and everything will continue as before.

The brief interlude alone with Fielding, when he is shown how a normal friend behaves, is a revelation to him and he tries to take strength from his easy-going attitude, but even this is ruined when Edmund comes home and he insinuates himself into their play, spoiling everything for Charles. Charles is left without hope and 'he felt alone inside himself'.

When Edmund pushes the threatening note under his door the day before they leave for school, Charles has no strength left to go on and knows he must go to 'his place' in the clearing. Bereft of all friendship or support, his future certainly even worse, he commits suicide in the pond which had once given him 'the best feeling in the world'.

Quotation	This suggests...
<p>'He had come prepared to get on with Hooper, as he got on with most people, because it was safer to do so. But Hooper was something different again, he had never faced this sort of hostility. He was unbalanced by it...confused.'</p>	<p>Charles is a child who has had to learn to cope the best he can with their undesirable circumstances by being pleasant with everyone. It is tragic that he must do this in order to feel 'safe' – a word which recurs throughout the novel. However, he has never had to deal with this sort of situation, and he feels shaky and unsure how to respond.</p>
<p>'He had no good opinion of his own chances against Hooper. Or against anyone. He was not cowardly. Just realistic, hopeless. He did not give in to people, he only went, from the beginning, with the assurance that he would be beaten. It meant that there was no surprise, and no disappointment about anything.'</p>	<p>Charles is planning to run away because he recognises he will always lose against Edmund. It is not that he hasn't tried to stand up for himself, but life has taught him that he will never win. His way of coping is to assume that the worst outcome is inevitable, that there is no point in hoping for the best. He even says, later, that 'he attracted un-luck'.</p>
<p>'People are no good, then, people can never help me. There are only things and places. There is the wood. Terrifying and safe.'</p>	<p>Charles discovers that his mother is marrying Mr Hooper and that he will live at Warings permanently, at the mercy of Edmund. He has no-one to talk to and places like the wood may be frightening but at least he feels safe on his own there. The short sentences emphasise his unwelcome thoughts as he slowly fully understands his predicament.</p>

## Edmund Hooper

Edmund is ten years old and his mother died six years previously. His father, Mr Hooper, has recently inherited the family home, Warings, where they now live. Edmund and his father are not close; Mr Hooper sees that Edmund resembles his mother in that he is secretive, hard and cool; Edmund does not seem to be interested in building a better relationship with him, but instead exploits his lack of authority.

Edmund's sense of entitlement means that he is determined that '*nobody* must come here' because the house is 'private' and belongs to him. He is therefore not pleased when Charles Kingshaw arrives, and he makes himself deliberately unpleasant. Edmund taunts Charles about his dead father, his mother, their poverty and their position in the house. He spies on Charles and discovers ways to bully and terrify him; Charles calls this cruelty a 'relentless persecution'.

Edmund follows Charles when he runs away, presumably because he cannot tolerate the thought that Charles has succeeded in escaping from him. Edmund tries to take control while they are in the wood and forest, but his power is not so complete away from Warings and Charles is able to assert himself at times. This is mainly because he is simply more capable than Edmund and has 'an inner strength or resolution' that Edmund lacks, despite his apparent confidence. Untypically, they seem to enjoy hunting the deer and swimming together, but this truce doesn't last long. When the thunderstorm arrives, Edmund is 'wild with terror...completely beside himself', and relies on Charles's practical help, in building a shelter, and emotional kindness in reassuring him. However, as soon as the storm is over, Edmund returns to normal, saying arrogantly, 'I'll go first, because I'm the leader.'

When they realise that they are totally lost, Edmund becomes hysterical until Charles has to slap him. He realises that Edmund 'couldn't cope alone' but also that 'he was devious, never to be relied upon, or trusted'. This is borne out when Charles saves his life, as his response is not one of gratitude but to threaten him. He takes this further after their rescue when he lies to Mr Hooper and Mrs Kingshaw about Charles's behaviour, hoping to further discredit Charles and attract more of their uncritical sympathy for himself. He is, as Charles realises, both 'bad' and 'cunning' with no sense of remorse.

Edmund is terrified on the walls at Leydell Castle and can't believe that Charles is trying to help him; he cannot recognise the sympathy and kindness being offered. On his return to Warings from hospital he does his best to resume his campaign of intimidation and spite against Charles, from destroying his model to disrupting his friendship with Fielding. Edmund recognises that he will shortly have complete victory and power over Charles due to their parents' marriage and, more importantly, the prospect of being able to continue his bullying at school.

Much of what we learn of Edmund Hooper is from Charles Kingshaw's viewpoint and so is understandably negative. Small glimmers of a different, unfortunate boy, lacking the love, warmth and security of either parent, occasionally appear in the narrative. However, the mention in the final sentences of the novel of Edmund's 'spurt of triumph' at causing Charles's suicide, suggests that the main impression the reader is left with is not of an innocent child but of a vindictive, manipulative and cold character.

Quotation	This suggests...
<p>'Whatever self-respect he might have had was gone, he did not care if Kingshaw saw that he was afraid – he <i>wanted</i> him to know, in fact, he wanted to be protected.'</p>	<p>Edmund's power and self-confidence is easily displaced by his own fear of thunder at this point, which Charles chooses not to exploit. His fear is so severe that he now <u>needs</u> Charles, emphasised by the italics, to help him get through the ordeal. It is an extraordinary admission of frailty, given his previous behaviour, but is soon forgotten afterwards.</p>
<p>'Kingshaw pushed me in the water.'</p> <p>'Kingshaw whipped round, astounded by the coolness of Hooper's treachery.'</p> <p>'He punched me in the back.'</p>	<p>After their rescue from the forest, Edmund tells blatant lies, deliberately manipulating their parents because he has realised that they will always believe him and take his side against Charles. This is all the more appalling because of all that Charles did to help and support him. The word 'coolness' shows Edmund's lack of empathy, and 'treachery' the depths he is prepared to sink to in his campaign against Charles.</p>
<p>Then Hooper said quietly, 'Something will happen to you. Because it was your fault and I told them, it's what they believe. You needn't think you'll get away. Something will happen.'</p>	<p>Edmund has falsely blamed Charles for his fall and he confidently states that he is believed. His threat is that this time Charles will not be able to escape Edmund's revenge. The repetition here of 'something will happen' is later repeated in the note Edmund pushes under his door, the final straw for Charles. The unspecified event is somehow far more fearful than knowing what to expect.</p>

## Mrs Helena Kingshaw

Mrs Kingshaw is a widow in a difficult financial position, trying her best to make a reasonable life for her young son by taking housekeeper jobs. She is hoping that staying at Warings might become a permanent solution, particularly as Mr Hooper has a son a similar age. She makes the initial assumption that the boys will naturally get on together, but then chooses not to alter this belief as it would ruin the perfect outcome for her. Mrs Kingshaw has clearly had reason to worry about their future and it is perhaps understandable that she grasps eagerly at this 'answer to a prayer' without keeping an open mind.

Her pursuit of Mr Hooper means that she needs to portray herself as a possible stepmother for Edmund, so she is determined to show no favouritism towards her own son and also to push them together as friends. She chooses not to see the evidence in front of her, that they dislike each other and do not want to play together.

At the same time, Mr Hooper, enjoys her company and joins in with her delighted but ridiculous comments: 'How well the boys have settled down together! How nice to see them enjoying themselves!' They had no understanding of the truth but, worse, no wish to find out anything which would upset their burgeoning relationship. Mrs Kingshaw is excited about the cocktail party they are planning and thinks that her 'life is changing...everything is turning out for the best.'

After the boys are rescued from the wood, Mrs Kingshaw refuses to believe Charles's version of events, or to wonder why he might have run away. She calls Edmund his 'special friend', despite her son's impassioned cries that he hates Edmund, that he wishes him dead and that he is nothing but a bully. Her response is to sit down and moan, not to try to find out the truth or comfort Charles, who, sees that she will believe anything Edmund says without question. She tells herself that 'all the blame lies with Charles', who is 'sick with shame at her'. Later, she makes some attempt to talk to him, but when he reiterates that he hates Edmund, she will not accept this, calling it 'a wicked, wicked way to talk.... whatever can poor Edmund have done to you?'

Mrs Kingshaw continues to think of herself and how she has 'missed the reassurance and feeling of strength' of a man. She states that she is 'not a woman who can cope easily alone' and this seems to give her the permission to pursue her own needs rather than what is best for Charles also. After Edmund's fall, she is repeatedly told by Charles that he hates him, but her response is to tell herself not to be upset or to worry and, instead, to act like a mother to Edmund, betraying Charles by giving Edmund his precious model. On the day that she is to marry Mr Hooper, she feels security at last. In the ironic last spoken words of the novel, she is comforting Edmund after her son's suicide, saying that 'everything is all right'.

Quotation	This suggests...
<p>'She wore the same bright, hopeful expression with which she had arrived at Warings. Things must not go wrong, this is my chance, and I shall not waste it. I mean us all to be very happy.'</p>	<p>Mrs Kingshaw is determined that her initial feelings of hope at this opportunity will not be spoiled, shown by her use of the imperative 'must', and this includes how she expects Charles to behave with Edmund. Her good intention that they shall be happy blinds her to the misery Edmund is causing her son.</p>
<p>'She worried a good deal about her own capacity for motherhood, about whether she said the right things and looked sufficiently at ease in his presence. Now, she said, I must think of myself a little more...'</p>	<p>As she sets out for a day in London with Mr Hooper, Mrs Kingshaw rightly questions whether she is in fact a good mother at all, which is confirmed by her lack of any understanding of Charles. It is clear that she has now moved further away from her role as a mother by her decision to be more selfish, prioritising her own happiness, again using the imperative 'must'.</p>
<p>'It had worked out so very well, the relief of coming here and finding it so satisfactory, so <i>safe</i>...'</p>	<p>Her contentment has increased now that she will marry Mr Hooper, and she will have the protection of being his wife. The irony of the word '<i>safe</i>' is italicised to emphasise how she has no idea that, for Charles, Warings has proved to be the complete opposite.</p>

## Mr Joseph Hooper

Mr Hooper is living with his son at Warings, since recently inheriting it from his father. He knows that it is an ugly house but takes pleasure from the fact that he now owns it. He hopes it will give him more of a respected position in the world. It is six years since his wife died, but he admits that their marriage 'had not been happy' and that he now struggled to even remember what she looked like. He does not find it easy being Edmund's only parent and knows that they are not close. Near the start of the novel, he admits he is a lonely man and cannot help hoping that Mrs Kingshaw will be exactly what he needs to change this.

Soon after her arrival, Mr Hooper feels 'a new man', that she has 'given (him) new strength' and they plan a cocktail party. Mrs Kingshaw has successfully played to his need to feel some sense of authority and that he is still attractive to women. Together, they wilfully ignore the hostility between their sons, though Mr Hooper does try to show some kindness to Charles – carrying him gently back to bed when he is upset, for example. He also pays for Charles to attend a better school, a generous act but one which leads to Charles's suicide. When they go up to London to get his new uniform, Mr Hooper again misinterprets everything, thinking that he and Charles are 'getting to know one another...becoming very good friends', which he genuinely wants to be true, though mainly because it makes it easy to marry Mrs Kingshaw. He does understand and welcomes that Charles is not 'strange', like Edmund, but, ultimately, he is blind to anything except his attraction to Mrs Kingshaw.



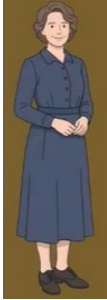

Quotation	This suggests...
'He knew himself to be an ineffectual man, without any strength or imposing qualities...a man who had failed – but not dramatically, as one falling from a great height, who attracts attention. He was a dull man, a man who got by...I am depressed by what I know.'	Mr Hooper's sad opinion of himself is that he is mediocre, having no particular energy or skills which make any impact on the world. He cannot even fail, or metaphorically fall, in a way which would make others take notice.
'He was discomforted by his own lack of insight...He could recall nothing of himself at the same age except that he loathed his own father.'  'But I came through, I daresay I am normal enough...Edmund will be like any other healthy boy. I am not to blame.'	When trying to talk to his son, with little success, Mr Hooper remembers his awful relationship with his own father, who allowed him little freedom. This suggests that he will find it all the more difficult as he has no good model of parenthood to guide him. He decides that just 'coming through', or surviving, childhood is 'normal' and good enough. He reassures himself, with definite statements, that Edmund will be 'healthy' and that Edmund's cold behaviour is not his fault.
'I have been losing confidence in myself, and <i>she</i> has made me see it, I have her to thank for many things.'	Without knowing much about his past, Mrs Kingshaw has given him the one thing he needed most – self-confidence. It is as if she has woken him from a



### 3. Character animations



Can you identify the names of the different characters in the videos?

Character name	Character image
	
	
	
	
	

Here are the answers.

Character name	Character image
Joseph Hooper	
Edmund (Hooper) Hooper	
Helena Kingshaw	
Charles (Kingshaw) Kingshaw	
Fielding	







## 5. Quiz

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**1. When Charles Kingshaw goes for a walk in the fields, shortly after his arrival, he is attacked by:**

- A) a moth
- B) a deer
- C) a crow
- D) a boy

**2. Which of the following statements is false?**

- A) Mrs Kingshaw is forced to become a housekeeper as she does not have a husband.
- B) Charles is happy that they are going to live at Warings.
- C) Edmund does not want another boy living in the house.
- D) Charles tries to get on with Edmund when they first meet.

**3. Which one of the following statements is true?**

- A) Mr Hooper wishes that he and Edmund could be closer.
- B) Edmund and his father have always lived at Warings.
- C) Edmund would like to spend more time with his father.
- D) Mr Hooper and his son feel lucky to live in such a grand and comfortable house.

**4. Why does Edmund fall from the castle wall?**

- A) He forgets that he is too high up to jump.
- B) He fainted with fright.
- C) He trips over a stone.
- D) He is frightened of Charles and panics.

**5. After Edmund's fall, which of these is false?**

- A) Charles feels that he was to blame for the fall because he hoped it would happen.
- B) Charles believes that Edmund is probably still alive.
- C) Charles tries to convince his mother that he actually wanted to help Edmund get down.
- D) The adults try to comfort Charles when they return from the hospital.

**6. When Charles runs away early in the novel, which of the following is false?**

- A) Charles is determined to escape on his own.
- B) Charles and Edmund realise they are lost in the forest after following a deer.
- C) Edmund is terrified that they won't be found.
- D) Charles hopes that Edmund might drown when he leaves him by the pond.

**7. Where does Charles not feel afraid?**

- A) The circus
- B) The Red Room
- C) Leydell Castle
- D) The deserted shed

**8. Mrs Kingshaw tells Charles that:**

- A) ...he can choose which school he goes to.
- B) ...he is going to the same school as Edmund.
- C) ...both he and Edmund are going to a new school.
- D) ...he must stay at his current school.

**9. Which of the following statements about Fielding is true?**

- A) Fielding behaves thoughtfully towards Charles.
- B) Charles is happy that Fielding is invited to Warings.
- C) Fielding prefers playing with Edmund to Charles.
- D) Fielding agrees to be Charles's best friend.

**10. At the end of the novel, which of the following is false?**

- A) The boys are packed and ready to leave for boarding school the next day.
- B) Edmund frightens Charles with a threatening note during the night.
- C) Charles decides to go for a swim in the pond.
- D) Mrs Kingshaw comforts Edmund, who pretends to be upset.

## Quiz answers

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**1. When Charles Kingshaw goes for a walk in the fields, shortly after his arrival, he is attacked by:**

C) A crow

**2. Which of the following statements is false?**

B) Charles is happy that they are going to live at Warings

**3. Which one of the following statements is true?**

A) Mr Hooper wishes that he and Edmund could be closer

**4. Why does Edmund fall from the castle wall?**

D) He is frightened of Charles, and panics

**5. After Edmund's fall, which of these is false?**

B) Charles believes that Edmund is probably still alive

**6. When Charles runs away early in the novel, which of the following is false?**

D) Charles hopes that Edmund might drown when he leaves him by the pond

**7. Where does Charles not feel afraid?**

C) Leydell Castle

**8. Mrs Kingshaw tells Charles that:**

B) He will be joining Edmund's school

**9. Which of the following statements about Fielding is true?**

A) Fielding behaves thoughtfully towards Charles

**10. At the end of the novel, which of the following is not true?**

C) Charles decides to go for a swim in the pond

Cambridge International Education  
The Triangle Building, Shaftsbury Road, Cambridge, CB2 8EA, United Kingdom  
t: +44 1223 553554  
e: [info@cambridgeinternational.org](mailto:info@cambridgeinternational.org) [www.cambridgeinternational.org](http://www.cambridgeinternational.org)

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