*Harmony* by Richard Yaxley Readers Cup questions by Trish Buckley

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|  | Question | Answer | Pages and point allocation |
| 1 | List four things we learn about Tom Stott in the first 2 and a half pages. | Choose from  He was born in May 1896  His parents’ names were Sarah and John  Older siblings were Leila and Elvin  A younger sibling, Ralphie was born 2 years later  He was an adventurer  Right from the start, he ‘lived fully, slept early’ | pp. 9 – 11  ½ mark for each accurate fact |
| 2 | How does Tom sometimes describe his brother’s singing? | Like a soft white bird, gracefully bridging the sky and earth. | p. 12  up to 2 points for accuracy of quote |
| 3 | Who gives Tom grief when he begins to play footy and how does Tom respond? | Jenkins. Tom finally gives in to violence and punches him. | pp. 28 – 29  1 mark for the name  1 mark for Tom’s actions |
| 4 | Why does Tom sign up for the army? | Because the girl he loves, Grace O”Connell tells him she will honour the promise of her dead father to marry another man, Ray Clifford. He feels betrayed. | pp. 39 – 41  1 mark for name of girl  1 mark for the promise to marry someone else |
| 5 | Where does Tom die? How do we know? | Gallipoli | Dardanelles. The author gives us the date they land – April 24, 1915. We commemorate the Gallipoli landing every year on ANZAC Day, April 25 | pp. 51 – 57  1 mark for Gallipoli  1 mark for date given |
| 6 | What is Will’s opinion of Ray Clifford? What is his opinion of Gracie Clifford? | Will thinks Ray Clifford is mean-spirited, judgemental, and lacking in affection for Will. In contrast, Will knows his mother loves him, that she is a deep thinker, quiet, decent, and precise | pp. 61 – 69  1 mark for words indicating Will’s dislike for Ray  1 mark for Will’s appreciation and love for Gracie |
| 7 | Why don’t the people of Vale like Athol McDermid and his family? Give two reasons | Choose from:  They received government funding to relocate to Australia from English  He took over the town barber shop, a job that could have been given to an actual Australian  Mary was married to Athol, which meant she was also unpopular among the women of Vale  Their son had a German name (Ziggy) and a pommy voice | pp. 74 - 74 |
| 8 | Who is Will’s hero? Why does he want to emulate this person? | Smithy aka Charles Kingsford-Smith. Will wants to fly a plane like Smithy so he can escape his father and his life. Will wanted freedom (Not fame). | p. 80  1 mark for full name of Smithy  1 mark for wanting to fly. To be free and escape |
| 9 | How does Will escape Vale? Where does he go? | His mother has secretly saved up money by scrimping and tells him to take it and leave. He goes to London. | pp. 92 – 95  1 mark for his mother’s secret stash  1 mark for London |
| 10 | Name any four pieces of information about the people of Vale that Grace relays to Will through her letters | Choose from:  Ray is unwell but refuses to see a doctor (p. 99)  Ziggy married Alice Watson (p. 100)  Two men from the camp died in a fire – a Polish man and Ed Jenkins (p. 100)  Due to his illness, Ray has let Grace and Leila run the drapery shop (p. 103)  There have been 3 births and 2 deaths in the town (p. 103)  Mr Piper, a widow, has taken a much younger bride from the South Sea Islands (p. 104)  Grace’s mother Isla finally died (p. 105) | 1 mark for each correct piece of information |
| 11 | What is Will’s oldest daughter’s name? And what do we learn about Will through her eyes? | Maoliosa. Will is homesick and wants to return/visit his family in Australia | pp. 123  1 mark for name of child  1 mark for Tom’s homesickness |
| 12 | What has Gramma Grace turned the drapery shop into? Who helps her? | It’s a flower shop  Tom’s sister, Leila | pp. 141 – 143  1 mark for flower shop  1 mark for Leila |
| 13 | Why does Aisling insist the family return to Galway? Give two reasons | She is distressed when Maoliosa goes missing for a day and worries she might have been hurt, drowned or worse (killed!)  She believes Will is spending too much time with Ziggy’s wife, Alice | pp. 159 – 161  1 mark for each correct reason |
| 14 | What does Maroliosa decide to do with her life? What role did Australia play in this path? | She joins a convent and become Sister Katherine. She believes Australia showed her a magical world, in which God’s truth was revealed through a creek, a damselfly and a menagerie | pp. 161 – 165  1 mark for joining a convent  1 mark for Australia’s impact |
| 15 | What happens to her father Will? | Eventually Will’s mental health issues get too much for Aisling and they split up. Will returns to Australia without saying goodbye to Maoliosa. | p. 164  ½ mark for Will’s mental issues  ½ mark for the divorce  ½ mark for going back to Australia  ½ mark for leaving without coming to see her |
| 16 | Why is ‘The IT Girl’ section called that? | This section is about Debbie, who through several impressible years of her life, discovers the various mostly bad but also good interpretations of being an ‘IT girl’. | Up to 2 marks for accuracy and detail |
| 17 | What more information do we learn about Will’s situation during this section? Pick two significant details | Choose from:  The flight with Gordie in the Tiger Moth crashed and while Will received a bad leg injury resulting in his limp, Gordie died (p. 177)  Will never really recovered from that crash (survivor’s guilt?) but refused any therapy or counselling (p. 178)  Will lost his job due to ‘not being efficient’ (p. 176)  The last time he spoke to Debbie, he called her Squeak (p. 177) | 1 mark for each correct detail |
| 18 | Name the two places Debbie goes and who she follows. | London – Mr Finn (p. 193)  San Francisco – Bennett (p. 207) | 1 mark for London and Mr Finn  1 mark for San Fran and Bennett |
| 19 | What job does Debbie find? Give at least two details | Debbie finds a job at a coffee shop called 72 Club. She works nights and hears spoken word poets recite their work. She worked nights until 4 am. | pp. 211 – 213  1 mark for each correct detail |
| 20 | What happens at the music festival? | Debbie feels overwhelmed and unwell by all the noise, the lights, the smoke, the alcohol. She vomits and then someone spins her around and around until she falls and hits her dead. Her friends ignore her except JoJo who gets her to a doctor who stitches her up and tells her she’s pregnant. | pp. 219 – 222  up to 2 marks for detail and accuracy |
| 21 | What is Debbie’s child called and what is this person doing when we first meet them? | Debbie’s son is called Noah. He has broken into a house and is attempting to steal urged on by ‘friends’ called Mack and Cray who abandon him when he fails to show up at the right time. He is caught by the old lady who owns the house who orders him to make her a cup of tea. | pp. 225 – 227  up to 2 marks for detail and accuracy |
| 22 | Describe the early years of life with Debbie. | Noah and Debbie lived itinerant lives always moving following the work. Once Debbie started a relationship with a guy called Hank, but he was abusive, so they left. When he was 12 he meet his father Bennett and his family and when he was 15, Debbie went to Australia because Will was sick and he stayed with Bennett | pp. 228 – 232  up to 2 marks for accuracy and details |
| 23 | When Debbie lets Noah down again this time at Christmas, how does he describe himself? What is he doing at the same time? | Noah is burning matches down to his fingertips and he thinks: ‘This is who I am: the dog, the thief, the rolling stone’. | p. 237  ½ for burning matches  ½ mark for each description |
| 24 | What secret has Gracie been keeping for most of her life? Who does she finally share this secret with? | That Tom is Will’s father, not Ray. She tells Debbie and Noah. | p. 270  2 marks for correct answer |