

Private Peaceful

By Michael Morpurgo

p.15 from 'In the church we're sitting side by side'

<https://www.lovereadings4kids.co.uk/extract/12675/Private-Peaceful-by-Michael-Morpurgo.html>

Vocabulary Check

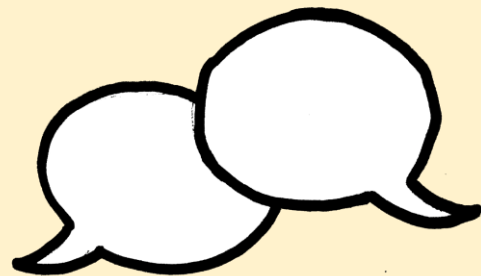
- Its where the colonel and his family sit
- The coffin rests on trestles, my father inside
- A swallow swoops over our heads
- All through the hymns, flitting from window to window
- from the belfry to the altar
- scowls at him
- The colonel gets up into the pulpit to speak



Quick Start

1. Which row in the church is always designated to the Colonel and his family?
2. Whose funeral was it?
3. What was flying in the church during the hymns?
4. Who was ashamed to be with them?
5. What is Father's name?

Partnered Talk



I know then what I never understood before, that she is ashamed to be one of us. I didn't really understand why until later, until I was older.

Why do you think Grandma was ashamed of them?

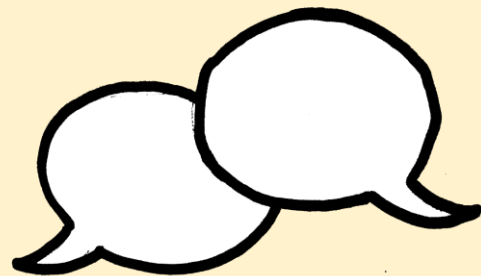
Individual Thinking



Big Joe keeps pointing up at the swallow. Then without any warning he gets up and walks to the back of the church where he opens the door.

How old do you think Big Joe is? Support your answer with evidence from the text.

Partnered Talk



Big Joe laughs out loud and Mother takes his hand in hers. Charlie catches my eye. At that moment all four of us are thinking the very same thing.

What are the four of them thinking of?

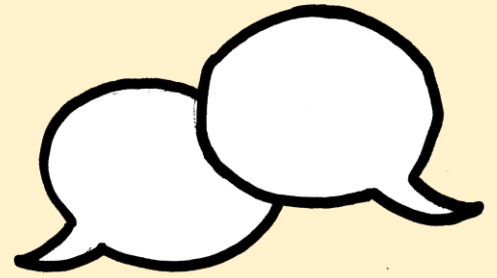
Individual Thinking



It lifts off and swoops up and down the aisle until at last it finds the open door and is gone. And I know that Father is happy now in his next life.

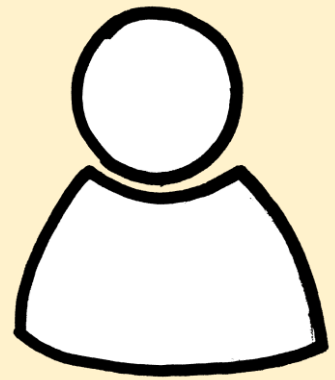
Why is he relieved that the bird managed to escape?

Partnered Talk



Describe what is happening in this extract. What do you think must have happened before it? What do you think will happen next?

Solo Work



I have killed my own father.

What is the effect of this line on the reader?