

More like Your Sister



Sunday, breakfast time. Interrogation time too... Tim's parents are furious with him. They think he came back home too late last night and that "fifteen's not old enough to start staying out half the night".

"Tim!"

He looked up "What?"

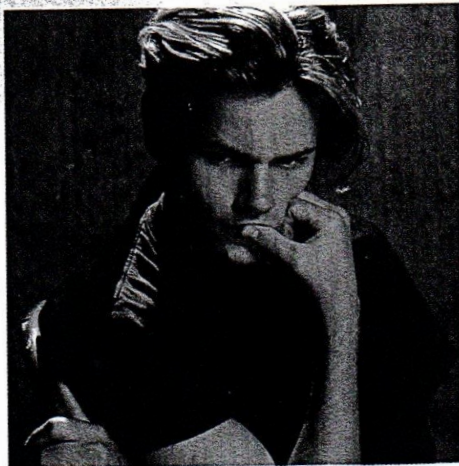
"Are you listening to what I'm saying to you?"

"Oh, sorry. Yes, Dad. But half eleven's not
5 half the night, is it? Phil and his mates were off
clubbing¹ when I left them. They'd be out till after
two."

"I don't care what others do, Tim. Phillip
Barracough is eighteen and unemployed. He's
10 not studying for GCSE.² I don't know why you
want to hang around with lads³ that age, anyway."

"We don't hang around, Dad. We go in
MacDonald's or the Acropolis and talk, that's all.
Drink coffee. And I go because Chris goes, and
15 Phil's his brother."

His mother dumped⁴ a spoonful of marmalade
on her plate and looked at him. "Yes,
and that's another thing, Tim. Christopher
Barracough. We wish you wouldn't spend so
20 much of your time with him."



"What's wrong with him, Mum? Chris is my
best friend."

"He's a bad influence, Tim. He drinks and he's
not all that keen on school. I've seen him in town
in the middle of the afternoon, looking half
25 doped.⁵ I hope he's not taking you with him, that's
all."

"Have you seen me?"

"No, but I'm not there all the time, am I? Your
dad and I just wish you were more like your sister,
30 Tim. She concentrated on her school work and
look at her now – in Edinburgh, studying
medicine."

Tim clenched his fists⁶ under the table. Here
we go. I knew we'd get round to this.⁷ Rebecca
35 this, your sister that, Becky the other. I get it at
school, I get it at home, it makes me want to
puke.⁸

"Can I leave the table, please?" He got up
without waiting for permission and strode out
40 of the kitchen.

Robert SWINDELLS (GB, b. 1939)

Follow a Shadow, 1989

1. ... were off clubbing: *partaient faire le tour des boîtes de nuit*
2. GCSE (= General Certificate of Secondary Education): *examen de fin de premier cycle* **English Schools → CSS**
3. hang around: *traîner*
4. dumped: *fit tomber (lourdement)*
5. doped (fam.): *drugged*
6. clenched his fists: *serra les poings*
7. Here we go. I knew we'd get round to this: *C'est reparti pour un tour. Je savais bien que ça finirait comme ça.*
8. to puke (fam.): *to vomit*

Pour chaque question, justifier en citant le texte. REPONDRE EN FRANCAIS

1. Quand se passe l'histoire ?

Citer le texte : « »

2. Qu'est-ce que les parents de Tim lui reprochent ?

« »

3. Qu'en pense Tim ?

« »

4. Quel âge à Time ?

« »

5. Comment s'appelle le meilleur ami de Tim ?

« »

6. Qui est Phillip Barraclough ?

« »

7. Pourquoi les parents de Tim n'apprécient-ils pas Christopher Barraclough ?

.....

« »

8. A qui ses parents le comparent-ils ? et pourquoi ?

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« »