

## **'A Different Sort of Real' by Kerry Greenwood**

### **Pre Reading**

1. What clues does the cover give us about what this story is about?
2. What does the fact that it is a diary mean in terms of whether the story is likely to be true or not?

### **16 October 1918**

1. Charlotte's diary is written in the first person. How does this add to the story?
2. Describe Charlotte's family – who they are and their ages.
3. What might explain Charlotte's father's angry attitude?
4. How does Charlotte know the war might be over soon?
5. What resolution does Charlotte make on her birthday?

### **17 October 1918**

1. What are Charlotte's responsibilities?
2. Why might Charlotte's father be particularly sensitive to noise?
3. Why might Charlotte describe her house as being "full of unhappiness"?

### **18 October 1918**

1. In what ways is Charlotte's life different from yours?

### **19 October 1918**

1. What is "shell shock"?
2. What does Charlotte now realise about her father?

### **20 October 1918**

1. What does the Vicar talk about? Why does he choose these topics?
2. Is there a time of the week when you do things as a family? Describe what it is that you do.

### **22 October 1918**

1. What is Florence's father's book about?
2. Why does Charlotte wish she didn't know what was wrong with her father?

### **23 October 1918**

1. What assumption does Dr Barnes make about why Charlotte wanted the book? Why is she offended by this?

**24 October 1918**

1. What does Mrs Barnes bring home for the children to wind and what will it turn into?
2. Why does Charlotte need another job before she starts nursing?

**28 October 1918**

1. Charlotte says her father is “worse than ever”. How has his behaviour changed?

**5 November 1918**

1. Describe the children’s ritual on Guy Fawkes Night.
2. Why is Dr Barnes not surprised that Charlotte’s father is having a fit?
3. Why does Charlotte think her Mum will be angry she called Dr Barnes?

**6<sup>th</sup> November 1918**

1. How does Dr Barnes intend to be paid for looking after Charlotte’s father?
2. Apart from his regular work what else does Dr Barnes do?

**10<sup>th</sup> November 1918**

1. Explain the story of Job that Lily reads from the Bible.
2. What is Charlotte’s father’s view of Job’s suffering?

**12<sup>th</sup> November 1918**

1. What was Charlotte reading when she hears the war is over?
2. What was World War I called and why is this ironic?
3. Describe the mood when people realise the war is over.
4. Despite the celebration what concerns does Charlotte have?

**13<sup>th</sup> November 1918**

1. What does Charlotte’s father mean when he says about the war “it’s never over”?
2. Why might Charlotte’s mother have seemed younger and why might she be particularly happy?

**15<sup>th</sup> November 1918**

1. Which subjects does Charlotte always do well in? Which ones does she struggle with?
2. What subject will Charlotte especially need for nursing and why?

### **18<sup>th</sup> November 1918**

1. Why won't Charlotte be completing the final two years of high school?
2. What is Charlotte's preferred career and why isn't she able to pursue this?
3. Why might scholarships not be available to girls?

### **11<sup>th</sup> December 1918**

1. What advice did Charlotte's mother give her before she started her new job?
2. Why might Florence "never have to work"?

### **13<sup>th</sup> December 1918**

1. What does Charlotte notice when she enters Dr Barnes surgery?
2. What advice does Dr Barnes give Charlotte in dealing with patients?

### **14<sup>th</sup> December 1918**

1. What was wrong with Dr Barnes' patient Billy?
2. What do we learn from Dr Barnes' patients about how poor people lived?
3. Why might Dr Barnes tell Charlotte that she is "allowed to be affected by the tragedy of human life and death"?
4. What does Charlotte learn about "the grown up world"?
5. What approach does Dr Barnes take with Charlotte's father and why does it seem to work?

### **16<sup>th</sup> December 1918**

1. Why is being poor particularly difficult for Charlotte's family?

### **17<sup>th</sup> December 1918**

1. Why did Charlotte's father not tell the family that Donald was coming home?
2. Why might Albie have hesitated before greeting Donald?
3. Why might Donald have been so keen to remove his uniform?

### **18<sup>th</sup> December 1918**

1. Why isn't Donald allowed to pay for his entry to the public baths?
2. How did the family celebrate Donald's return?

### **19<sup>th</sup> December 1918**

1. Why does Dr Barnes tell Charlotte she must wash and scrub before she goes home and why does Dr Barnes send all the other patients away?
2. Why might Charlotte be feeling older than Florence?

### **20<sup>th</sup> December 1918**

1. Why might Charlotte's father be looking so "pinched and mean"?
2. Why might Donald say he has had enough of the land?
3. How are Donald and Charlotte's father different?

### **21<sup>st</sup> December 1918**

1. What arrives in the mail from New Zealand?
2. Why does Albie's present get put out of reach?

### **23<sup>rd</sup> December 1918**

1. What does Donald mean when he says "no one comes out of the way alright"?
2. What does Charlotte learn about her father's experiences?
3. What does Charlotte learn about what happened to Donald?
4. What does Donald say the soldiers were expecting when they left for the battlefield?
5. Why does Charlotte's father admit to not talking about the war?
6. How does Donald encourage Charlotte's father to leave the house?

### **24<sup>th</sup> December 1918**

1. How has life in the McKenzie house changed since Donald's return?

### **25<sup>th</sup> December 1918**

1. Describe the Christmas festivities at Charlotte's house.
2. Why was Dr Barnes' present for Charlotte "a wonderful present"?

### **28<sup>th</sup> December 1918**

1. Why might Charlotte be sad now that Christmas is over?

### **1<sup>st</sup> January 1919**

1. What does Charlotte mean when she says “I don’t want to be so safe that I have to be ignorant?”

### **5<sup>th</sup> January 1919**

1. Why does comparing her earnings to her father’s make Charlotte uncomfortable?

### **6<sup>th</sup> January 1919**

1. Why is the flu spreading among poorer people first?
2. What allows Charlotte to cope with what she encounters?
3. Why was the second sick woman claiming that there were spiders all around her?
4. Why is aspirin such a useful medicine?
5. Why does Dr Barnes remind Charlotte of the Hippocratic Oath?
6. What was the purpose of the white rag tied to the front gate?
7. What was particularly unusual about this flu?
8. What does the word indiscriminate mean? Why does this describe the flu outbreak?
9. Explain the title of the book in the context of what Charlotte has seen?

### **7<sup>th</sup> January 1919**

1. Explain the difference between an epidemic and a pandemic.
2. What change has come over Curlew Street?
3. What does Dr Barnes mean when he says “one should never underestimate the kindness of the common man”?
4. Why did people hate the gypsies?

### **8<sup>th</sup> January 1919**

1. Why does Charlotte suggest asking the milkmen who has been sick?

### **9<sup>th</sup> January 1919**

1. What do we learn of Charlotte’s mother’s life?

### **14<sup>th</sup> January 1919**

1. What does Charlotte’s mother tell her father? What has driven her to this point?

### **17<sup>th</sup> January 1919**

1. How does Charlotte’s father’s attitude change? What causes this?

### **19<sup>th</sup> January 1919**

1. How has life in Melbourne changed since the flu?

**24<sup>th</sup> January 1919**

1. Why have the schools been closed?

**25<sup>th</sup> January 1919**

1. Why does Sister Patience tell Charlotte that she must make her mother want to live?

**1<sup>st</sup> February 1919**

1. What does Charlotte think of to rouse her mother? Why does this work?

**2<sup>nd</sup> February 1919**

1. What does Dr Barnes mean when he says a lot of medicine depends on faith?

**3<sup>rd</sup> February 1919**

1. What does Charlotte mean when she tells Donald “you might have saved us all”?