Chapter 1 Character descriptions

Calum:

* black, curly hair
* torn clothes
* sunburnt face “alert and beautiful with trust” p1
* “as indigenous as squirrel or bird” p1
* “dwarf” p9
* “he shared the suffering of the rabbit” p6
* “feebleminded hunchback” p9
* good climber – more at home in the trees
* an affinity with nature – animals feel safe with him and he feels their suffering
* childlike
* content with his place in society
* loves and trusts his brother
* mother died shortly after having him
* See p10

Neil:

* tall, thin, grey-haired
* bitter about class issues
* came close to marriage but chose to look after Calum instead
* loves and protects Calum

The brothers are collecting cones on Lady Runcie-Campbell’s estate for the war effort. Neil would rather be in Ardmore where they have been planning trees for 5 years. Parallels can be drawn between Calum and Neil and Steinbeck’s Lennie and George

Duror:

* Read p9 to end of chapter 1
* “quiet but intimidating”
* carries gun
* accompanied by dogs
* hates the cone-gatherers and wants them out of the forest
* imagines them dead
* watches Calum crying over the dying rabbit “in an icy sweat of hatred”
* hates imperfection
* “tree of revulsion” p9
* can empathise with Hitler’s views
* married to Peggy who is obese and paralysed (has been for 20 years)
* bitter not to be involved in the war