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| The Scottish author Robin Jenkins |
| What are Lady Runcie Campbell’s children called? |

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| Roderick and Sheila |
| What is Duror’s epiphany? |

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| He suddenly realises that Calum is the personification of his life |
| When Roderick was four what happened to make him dislike Duror? |

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| He saw Duror with a dead roe deer. |
| Where is the novel set? |

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| In a Scottish forest owned by Lady Runcie Campbell’s husband |
| What does Calum look like? |

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| He is small and hunchbacked |
| Why does Calum take the broken doll? |

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| He empathises with it and he wants to fix it and carve it a new leg. |
| What is wrong with Duror’s wife? |

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| She is paralysed, obese and bedridden |
| How does Calum first attract Duror’s attention? |

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| He releases two rabbits from snares because he cannot bear to see animals suffering |
| Why are the brothers working in the forest? |

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| As part of the war effort all the trees will be cut down. The brothers have been brought in to collect the cones for the seeds so the forest can be replanted. |
| Describe Duror’s nightmare |

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| Peggy is attacked by a flock of birds: “pecked to pieces”. P64 |
| What does his reaction reveal about his relationship with his wife? |

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| Their relationship is over. He no longer loves her or sees her as his partner; he sees her as a burden. “Was Peggy dead? Suddenly it was as if the burden of misery was lifted from him.” P65 |
| Why does Roderick climb the tree? |

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| To emulate the conegatherers. He wants to show his support and demonstrate his disgust at his mother’s cruel treatment of them. |
| Why does Neil have to look after Calum? |

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| Their mother died shortly after Calum’s birth. Calum has the mind of a child and needs his brother to take care of him. |
| What is the theme of the novel? |

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| The eternal struggle between good and evil |
| Although Duror presents a composed, stoical front, knowing how Duror has suffered over the last 20 years, the doctor is concerned about his mental state. What quotation demonstrates his fear for Duror’s sanity? |

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| “For all its composure he suspected a sort of fanaticism lurking in it. God knew how many inhibitions, repressions, and complexes were twisting and coiling there, like the snakes of damnation.” P16 |
| What happens at the end of the novel? |

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| Duror shoots and kills Calum before turning the gun on himself to commit suicide. Good had to be sacrificed in order for evil to be destroyed. |
| What does Roderick represent? |

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| Hope for a fairer, more equal future |
| What does Calum buy Neil as a present? |

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| A pipe |
| What type of birds attack Peggy in Duror’s nightmare? |

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| Thrushes |
| “Indigenous as a squirrel or bird” is a description of whom? |

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| Calum |
| What two things is Duror referring to here: “stunted, misshapen, obscene and hideous”? |

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| Calum and his relationship with Peggy |
| Who is the only character to criticise Duror about his treatment of Peggy? |

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| His mother-in-law, Mrs Lochie |
| How does Calum feel about war? |

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| He doesn’t understand it. His focus is on the forest. He doesn’t like or understand anyone or anything causing pain to another. |
| Why is LRC in charge of the estate? |

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| Her husband is fighting in the war, stationed in Africa |
| What metaphor is repeatedly used to describe Duror? Hint: it is a living thing. |

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| A tree |
| Why does Duror push to have the cone-gatherers as beaters in the deer drive? |

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| To torture Calum. He knows Calum will not cope as he cannot stand seeing animals in pain |
| Why are Lady Runcie Campbell and her husband worried about Roderick? |

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| He wants to do the right, Christian thing regardless of his obligations of social rank. He is not strong enough to go to school. Her husband once accused him of being “faulty of mind”. |
| Which two characters has Duror told the lie about Calum exposing himself in the woods to? |

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| Effie Morton and Doctor Matheson |
| What is the significance of the elm tree outside Duror’s house? |

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| He used to touch it before entering his house to soothe his mind and sustain his faith and ability to endure until the end – he felt that the tree shared the same burden of endurance. |
| Who wrote The Conegatherers? |