

## Level 2 Comprehension Questions

*What I Talk About When I Talk About Running* by Haruki Murakami

Complete all questions and provide evidence from the text to support your answers.

1. Why does the author refer to Cambridge as *like a form of torture*? (2 marks)  
**Cambridge is too muggy and hot, which would make running long distances more difficult.**
2. Do you think Murakami prefers Kauai or Cambridge? Provide evidence to support your answer (4 marks)? **Murakami prefers Kauai. He refers to it as a “veritable paradise”. He also talks about that there is “not a cloud in the sky” and the “refreshing breeze”, both positive things. He also says “How happy life is here”, showing how much he enjoys it. He also says “we can enjoy lounging around, reading a book in the shade of trees” and go “for a dip in the inlet”. We know he doesn’t like Cambridge as much because he refers to it as “muggy and hot”.**
3. How do you know that Murakami tries his very best to go running regularly? (1 mark)  
**He says that “unless it’s totally unavoidable” he goes running every single day.**
4. Why do you think the author tells us the names of the songs he listened to? (1 mark)  
**It helps the reader build a clearer picture of what the author feels as he’s running. We could listen to the music too.**
5. Why do you think Murakami is trying to increase the distance he is running? (1 marks)  
**He could be preparing for a long distance race and the aim is to finish as opposed to doing it really quickly.**