

BIG INTERVIEW



“I WONDER WHAT THE CARBON FOOTPRINT OF A DRAGON IS?”

TOM Holland is the voice of Ian Lightfoot, a shy elf who gets an unusual present for his 16th birthday, in Disney Pixar's *Onward*. We caught up with Tom at the première to find out more.



● We meet Ian when he's just turning 16. What's his story?

Yes, he's coming up to 16 and is having a hard time fitting in at school – and his older brother Barley isn't really helping the situation. He's not very confident, he's a bit of an introvert and, on his 16th birthday, his dad, who was a wizard before he died, leaves him a magic staff with the ability to bring him back for the day, so Ian will finally get to meet his dad. But it goes a bit awry, so it is up to Barley and Ian to go on this crazy quest to try to meet their dad.

● What did you think when you first heard about the story?

It is definitely an unusual concept! It's a fantasy film set in a modern society and it explores the idea that technology is kind of taking over the magic of the world. I think sometimes we forget that the world we live in today is pretty magical. We've all been a bit obsessed with what is happening in the fake world that exists on our phones, on Instagram and Twitter and all that stuff. I think the most important message of this film is to help young boys understand that expressing your emotions is not something to be ashamed of. Expressing how you feel is something to be proud of and something that you should be rewarded for. I was always very open as a kid and was very lucky because my parents were always very eager to listen. I really hope this film will make people feel more comfortable in expressing or explaining how they feel.



Barley (Chris Pratt) and Ian (Tom Holland) Lightfoot are brothers on a quest

● If you could bring back somebody for a day, who would it be?

My grandad Bob is one of the nicest people I know and his dad passed away when he was a baby, so he never got to meet him. So I would bring back my great-grandad so that my grandad could spend the day with him. He doesn't know what the film is about; he's going to watch it for the first time at the premiere with my entire family, so I'm very excited to see how he responds. He's a real crier though, he cries a lot.

● What about if you could do magic?

I'm obsessed with nature and wildlife, and scuba diving is one of my favourite things to do because it's the only time you can truly be in

a private place. When you are scuba diving with a manta ray, no-one is taking pictures of you, they're taking pictures of the manta ray. I've seen first-hand what plastic and pollution is doing to our oceans and I would really, really like to be able to do something to fix that. So that's something I'd be very keen to sort out with a bit of magic.

● How would you feel about being a wizard?

I was a super *Harry Potter* fan. I was obsessed: I had all the audiobooks, I read all the books, watched the films, and I've been to the Wizarding World of *Harry Potter* a bunch of times too, so I would love to be a wizard.

● The Lightfoot family have a pet dragon – which magical creature would you like for a pet?

She's a pretty useless dragon though! If you had a pet dragon that could fly, that would be pretty useful. I do a lot of flying in my life, so if I could have a more eco-friendly way of flying around, that would be great. I wonder what the carbon footprint of a dragon would be? I don't think it would be that much, so if I could fly around on a dragon, that would be great!

● What are your memories of being 16?

I would have been doing my GCSEs, which I did find really tough. I was at secondary school and I'd just finished *Billy Elliot*, where I'd been doing a lot of ballet, so I had a bit of a hard time with bullies. It wasn't the best time for me but I found my friends, who are still my friends to this day, and I was lucky to have them. A lot of people have it a lot harder than I did and I was very lucky to have my family, who are a strong influence in my life. But I don't really look back on my 16th and 17th years as fondly as I would like.

● What advice would you give to our readers who may be going through a similar thing?

I think there's no point tackling something by yourself; everything is easier with a bit of help. If you have help readily available, then go to those people. If you don't, then I'm sure your school will have programmes where you can go and speak to someone if you want to talk to people. I really think that if you feel inclined to get something off your chest, then don't feel ashamed or embarrassed. Go and speak to someone about it; that's what I did and that's what I still do with my parents and my brothers, and I've got to say it really helps!

Disney Pixar's *Onward* is in cinemas now!

GLOSSARY

introvert – Someone who enjoys time to themselves and can be shy
awry – Wrong

manta ray – A large, flat sea fish
carbon footprint – The amount of greenhouse gases produced



Questions on: “I wonder what the carbon footprint of a dragon is?”

Part A: Find and explain the facts

A1. Answer the following quick-fire questions:

What is the title of the film that Tom Holland is being interviewed about?	
What is the name of the character he voices?	
Who voices the character of Barley?	

A2. Summarise the plot of the film.

A3. What would Tom Holland like to sort out with a bit of magic?

A4. Which famous wizard was he a “super fan” of?

A5. What advice does he give to people being bullied?

Part B: Deduce and infer information

B1. What does Tom Holland mean when he says: “I think we sometimes forget that the world we live in today is pretty magical”?

B2. Why would Tom Holland bring his great-grandad back for a day, even though he never met him?

B3. Why is it important to him that when scuba diving, “no-one is taking pictures of you”?

B4. Which of his memories of being 16 are positive and which are negative?

Positive	Negative

B5. Why did Tom Holland have “a bit of a hard time” with bullies?

Part C: Analyse the writing and presentation

C1. Look at the structure of the interview. Why do you think it ends with Tom’s advice?

C2. Tom Holland is quoted as asking: “I wonder what the carbon footprint of a dragon would be?” Suggest why that quotation is also used as the headline.

Part D: Writing task

During the interview, Tom Holland is asked: “Which magical creature would you like for a pet?” If you were asked the same question, what would you answer and why? Write a detailed response with clearly explained reasons for your choice.