The DEFINITE ARTICLE

We ask a celebrity a set of devilishly probing questions – and only accept THE definitive answer. This week it’s broadcaster Justin Webb’s turn.

The prized possession you value above all others... The key to a hotel room in Bosnia, where I was staying in 1992 during the civil war. My room was destroyed by a shell seconds after I went into the corridor to make some tea. It reminds me how life can turn on a moment.

The biggest regret you wish you could amend... That my mother Gloria didn’t live to see me work on the Today programme. I joined in 2009, but she died in 2006 when she was 81.

The book that holds an everlasting resonance... Raymond Carver’s short story collection Where I’m Calling From. It’s profoundly moving.

The pet hate that makes your hackles rise... Stollen shop and restaurant workers.

The priority activity if you were the Invisible Man for a day... My son Sam, who’s 15, has type 1 diabetes so I’d watch Pro Insulin. He’s 15, and Clara, 11, to laugh through anything.

The figure from history for whom you’d most like to buy a pie and spit... Ronald Reagan. He did so much to rally everyone against Communism during the Cold War and I’d like to hear his advice now that we’re fighting a world war against Islamic extremists.

The piece of wisdom you would pass on to a child... I always encourage my kids [wins Sam and Martha, 15, and Clara, 11] to laugh about life because a sense of humour is the one character trait that can get you through anything.

The poem that touches your soul... On A Snowy Evening. Then I’d like Robert Frost’s Stopping By Woods on a Hillside to read, and Charles Dickens’ A Christmas Carol.

The unfulfilled ambition that continues to haunt you... To write an important novel that will last long after I’ve gone, but I haven’t got the imagination.

The philosophy that underpins your life... I’m not religious, but I like the Quaker saying, ‘Walk cheerfully over the earth answering to that of God in everyone’. In other words, create some happiness in each day.

The order of service at your funeral... I’d be happy with something simple on a hill overlooking Bath, with readings of Philip Larkin’s The Old Fools and Robert Frost’s Stopping By Woods On A Snowy Evening. Then I’d like Clara to play Bach’s Cello Suite No 1.

The way you want to be remembered... With a smile by my loved ones.

ThePlug... Justin Webb presents the Today programme on BBC Radio 4 at 9-9.5 FM from 6am-9am on weekdays and 7am-9am on Saturdays.

As told to Rob McGibbon

NEXT WEEK

● All the gossip and star interviews from the BBC’s War And Peace – set to be the TV event of 2016 ● Easy curries to keep the cold out ● Monty Don’s New Year’s resolutions ● PLUS Britain’s best TV listings guide

Jennifer Lawrence reunites with Bradley Cooper in comedy-drama Joy – in cinemas from Friday. Family favourite The Nutcracker On Ice is at the Royal Albert Hall from Monday. And Bryan Adams plays a New Year’s Eve gig at London’s Central Hall on Thursday

I’m not a trainspotter but I’ve loved trains since I was a kid. I’m even deeply interested in Crossrail and HS2’