



Year Group: Year 3-6

Length: 23 mins

Starting Positions: Split class into 'families' of 3 or 4. Assign them a family and send them to the location listed below. This is their 'home'. Ask the children to sit in their home.

- Johnson & McAdams Families – East
- Robins & Cooper Families – West
- O'Leary and Craig Families – South
- Wilson and Hancox Families – North

Learning Intention:

To know about...

- the evacuation of children during WW2
- the Blitz, blackouts and air raid shelters
- How life changed during WW2

Synopsis:

- In the park in September 1939 you hear war announced. Children are to be evacuated.
- At home you pack and go to King's Cross Station.
- You arrive in Hertfordshire where you're billeted with the strict Lady Amelia.
- After a cold night's sleep, you 'Dig for Victory' by digging up potatoes for Allied Forces.
- Children are allowed back home. You're eating a celebratory meal when the siren goes.
- A bomb smashes a hole in your shelter so you illegally enter an Underground station.
- You re-emerge the next day at the all clear. The streets are devastated.
- You help a neighbour clear the rubble.
- Winston Churchill declares that Germany's surrendered. You join a street party.
- You wander back to the park where you started.

Characters:

- **Mother** - lives in inner London
- **King's Cross Station Master** - a Station Master would have been beyond conscription age (i.e. 41)
- **Hertfordshire Station Master**
- **Lady Amelia** - lives in a large country manor
- **Air Raid Warden** - Wardens were part of the ARP (Air Raid Precautions). Most of them were volunteers
- **Father** - from ^{3rd} September 1939, all men aged 18 – 41 (and later, 51) had to sign up
- **Winston Churchill** - Prime Minister 1940 - 45 & 1951 - 55. Named the 'Greatest Briton of all time'

Locations:

- **The Park** - At the end, the railings have been melted for weapons – a lot of metalwork disappeared.
- **Home** - Pre-war, a lot of housing was 'tenement' style – low-rise & cramped, often built by companies.

- **King's Cross Station**
- **Hertfordshire** - the home counties were a major destination for London children.
- **Underground Station** - in 1940, the government u-turned on its 'no sheltering on the underground'.
- **Street Party** - swing music was popular. Glen Miller (of his Big Band) disappeared in a plane over the Channel in 1943, whilst being flown out to France.

Glossary:

- **Wireless** - old-fashioned word for the radio. These days lots of things are wireless (like headphones...)
- **BBC World Service** - radio station that reaches the every country (very important for soldiers abroad)
- **Evacuation** - 'Operation Pied Piper' evacuated 3.5 million children out of cities
- **Dig For Victory** - people were encouraged to grow their own fruit and veg due to rationing
- **Munitions factory** - factories that produced arms/ammunition in which many women were employed
- **Anderson Shelter** - made of steel and buried underground. The Morrison shelter was an indoor 'cage'
- **Black-Out** - street lighting and lights at home were switched off to make cities less visible to bombers
- **All-Clear** - this sounded when it was safe to emerge from shelters (a held, single note)
- **Blitz Spirit** - the goodwill and help people lent each other, necessary in such a tricky time.

Discussion Questions:

Story & Factual

- You see a horse and cart, as well as a car. How might technology have affected WW2?
- Why do you think we don't call the radio a 'wireless' any longer?
- Why do you think your mother was looking thin when you returned home later?
- What was 'black-out' and why was it necessary?
- Why might the government not have wanted people in Underground stations?
- How did the all-clear sound different from the air-raid siren? (*you can find this online*)
- What was your Dad like when he got back?

PSHE & Philosophical

- On hearing the announcement, how did it feel to know your country was at war?
- Your Dad was 'conscripted'. Do you think the government should make people fight?
- What was your last, favourite thing that you packed in your suitcase?
- Do you think the government has the right to decide what should happen to children during a war?
- What's the longest you've ever been away from home? Could you manage a year?
- What was Lady Amelia like? Do you think she wanted to have children to stay?
- What objects did you imagine you were picking out of the rubble?
- Do you think war is ever justified?

Resources:

You'll find these follow up resources on your shared drive:

- **Literacy Resources** – Reading Comprehension/Text Analysis, 3x SPAG exercises, Poem/Short writing exercise, Formal Prose, Creative Writing, Spelling Test
- **Photo Storyboard** – order the images from the story (or use them for other things – e.g. writing)
- **Quick Quiz** – re-cap key facts
- **Or try some recount, report or creative writing ideas of your own!**