

Battle of Britain

Reading Comprehension and Writing Challenge

Drawn from The Spitfire Fund
a story by Tom Palmer

Chapter 4

Written for children aged 7+

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Reading Comprehension: Questions

1. Who do you think Victoria Station is named after?

2. Hitler called his plan to invade Britain 'Operation Sea Lion'.

Why do you think he chose to name it after this mammal?

3. What body of water is mentioned in the children's reading about the Battle of Britain?

4. Using the extract taken from the RAF Museum website,

Can you describe in your own words how Sergeant Ray Holmes protected Buckingham Palace and saved the Royal family?

5. As the enemy plane's attack is prevented, the author tells us that a 'cheer erupted'.

Can you think of anything else that can erupt?

6. The crowd see the pilot of the Hurricane 'bale out of his plane'.

Look in a dictionary to write down what other meanings and contexts 'bale' has.

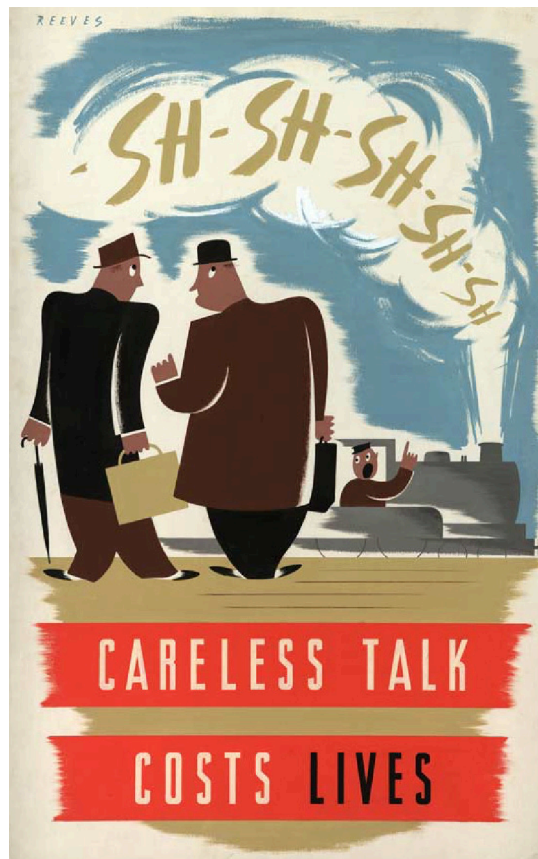
7. From the text, what words tell us how the children are feeling after Lily has said to the crowd that Hitler's operation fails?

8. As the people in the crowd draw around them and talk the author tells us that they relay what Lily had said to them. Think about in which sport you have relays? Can you describe in your own words what is happening?

Can you think of anything else that can erupt?

Writing Challenge: The big idea

Posters warning about spies
Here are three posters that were put up around towns and cities during the Second World War to warn people that there might be German spies around them and that they must keep things that they knew about the war secret.



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National Archives collection

Is there something that you or your friends or family might need to keep a secret in a war? Maybe something to do with your school or one of your family's jobs? Think of something you'd like to keep a secret from the enemy, then make a poster of your own to warn people to keep it a secret too.

Once you've made the poster, think about what would happen if someone you know didn't keep the secret and the enemy found out. What would happen? Is this a good idea for starting a story? Have a go. Maybe use some of the characters you thought up earlier.

This could be your BIG IDEA for a story.