

Battle of Britain

Reading Comprehension and Writing Challenge

Drawn from The Spitfire
Fund a story by Tom
Palmer

Chapter 3

Written for children aged
7+



 **ROYAL
AIR FORCE
museum**

Reading Comprehension: Questions

1. Can you find Wolverhampton on a map of Britain?

2. What details describing their surroundings has the author added to show us that the children have travelled back in time?

3. In this chapter, Lily says, 'Help fortify the cause of freedom!'

What other words are in the same word family as 'fort'?
What shared meaning do they all convey?

4. Danny says, 'What are you saying?'. Why has the author chosen to change the font of the word 'are'?

5. A euphemism is the substitution of a mild or vague expression instead of a word thought to be offensive, harsh, or blunt. Can you spot the euphemism in the newspaper headline?

6. What did the female pilots do during the war?

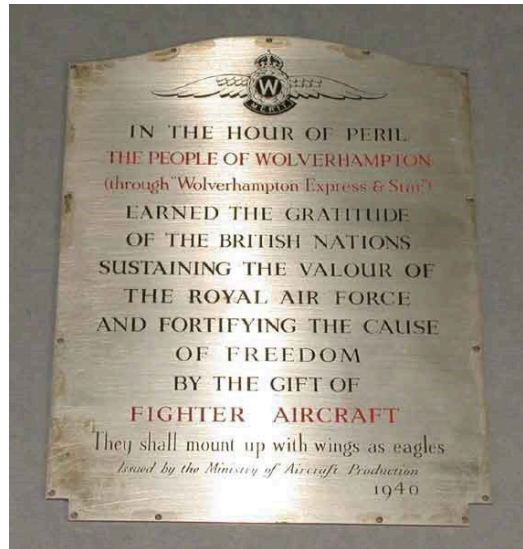
7. From the text, we know that the airfield buildings or hangars are 'covered over in green, black and brown blotches to camouflage them'. What other types of camouflage can you think of?

8. The poster reads, 'Careless talk costs lives'. What is the train smoke saying, and why do you think the artist chose a train to say it?

Writing Challenge: Creating a setting

Plaque to say thank you

This plaque was presented to the city of Wolverhampton by the Ministry of Aircraft Production to say thank you to the people of Wolverhampton that had raised money to pay for a Spitfire. It was put up in the city so that everyone could see it and feel proud.



Can you think of a place near where you live that lots of people could walk by and see a plaque like this? Also, can you think of what that place might have looked like 80 years ago in 1940?

If you type the name of where you live and 1940 into an Internet search box it might give you some pictures to help you think of a setting for a Second World War story. Authors use images that they find online and in books to find ideas for the settings in their stories. Can you make a list of five descriptive things to use as a setting in a story?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.