



KS2 Reading Comprehension – Higher Ability

Letter 2 – ‘The Evacuees’

Questions

1. Where is Betty living at the time Margaret writes the letter?
(1 mark)

2. How many evacuee children are billeted with Margaret, and what is unusual about this?
(2 marks)

3. Which job has Mrs Butterworth been given in Alton Haypun?
(1 mark)

4. Find and copy one phrase from the text that shows the children looked frightened or confused when they arrived.
(1 mark)

5. Why does Margaret compare the children’s faces to “potatoes in a sack”?
(2 marks)

6. What does Margaret mean when she says Mr Richardson “thinks he’s Winston Churchill’s right hand”?
(2 marks)

7. How do we know the children are not used to village life? Give two examples from the text.
(2 marks)

- 8.** Which of the boys do you think is the most serious or responsible? Give one piece of evidence from the text to support your answer.
(2 marks)
- 9.** Why does Margaret have to “hold her tears back” when reading Stanley’s letter?
(2 marks)
- 10.** What are the children most frightened of at bedtime, and why might this be worse than in London?
(2 marks)
- 11.** What does the description of the kitchen “like a blizzard had hit” tell us about what happened there?
(1 mark)
- 12.** How does Margaret’s attitude towards the boys change from the beginning to the end of the letter?
(3 marks)
- 13.** Why does Stanley stop at the war memorial, and what does his comment show about his thinking?
(2 marks)
- 14.** Explain what Margaret means by the sentence:
“There’s no room for grumbling when three small faces look at you as if you’ve hung the moon.”
(2 marks)
- 15.** Do you think Margaret will cope well with having the evacuees if the war lasts a long time? Use evidence from the text to explain your answer.
(3 marks)

Answer Key (Suggested)

1. Weston.
2. Three children; she was only meant to have two and has limited space.
3. Billeting Officer.
4. Examples: *“bewildered,” “faces peering out,” “looked like pickled onions.”*
5. It suggests they were pale, squashed together, and uncomfortable or scared.
6. He takes his role very seriously and believes he is very important.
7. Examples: they don’t recognise a pump as a tap; they are frightened by the quiet; they’ve only known underground trains.
8. Stanley — he eats quietly, worries about his cake, asks thoughtful questions about war.
9. The letter is emotional and reminds her how much Stanley’s parents love and miss him.
10. The darkness and fear of bombs/Hitler; the countryside is much quieter and darker than London.
11. The children made a big mess while trying to cook.
12. She begins worried and uncertain; by the end she feels comforted, less lonely, and fond of them.
13. He is thinking about war and soldiers; it shows he is thoughtful and trying to understand what might happen.
14. She means their affection and dependence stop her from complaining.
15. Yes — she finds joy in caring for them, feels less lonely, and wants to protect and reassure them.