

Carrie's War

Carrie's War by Nina Bawden is a novel set during World War Two. During the war, children living in English cities were sent to the countryside because cities were at risk of being bombed. In this extract, Carrie and her brother Nick are moving to Wales from their home in London.

He threw up all over Miss Fazackerly's skirt. He had been feeling sick ever since they left the main junction and climbed into the joggling, jolting little train for the last lap of their journey, but the sudden whistle had finished him.



Such a noise — it seemed to split the sky open. 'Enough to frighten the dead,' Miss Fazackerly said, mopping her skirt and Nick's face with her handkerchief. He lay back limp as a rag and let her do it, the way he always let people do things for him, not lifting a finger. 'Poor lamb', Miss Fazackerly said, but Carrie looked stern.

'It's all his own fault. He's been stuffing his face ever since we left London. Greedy pig. *Dustbin.*'

He had not only eaten his own packed lunch — sandwiches and cold sausages and bananas — but most of Carrie's as well. She had let him have it to comfort him because he minded leaving home and their mother more than she did. Or had looked as if he minded more. She thought now that it was just one of his acts, put on to get sympathy. Sympathy and chocolate! He had had all her chocolate, too! 'I knew he'd be sick,' she said smugly.

'Might have warned me then, mightn't you?' Miss Fazackerly said. Not unkindly, she was one of the kindest teachers in the school, but Carrie wanted to cry suddenly. If she had been Nick she would have cried, or at least put on a hurt face. Being Carrie she stared crossly out of the carriage window at the big mountain on the far side of the valley. It was brown and purple on the top and green lower down; streaked with silver trickles of water and dotted with sheep.

Sheep and mountains. 'Oh, it'll be such fun,' their mother had said when she kissed them good-bye at the station. 'Living in the country instead of the stuffy old city. You'll love it, you see if you don't!'

An extract from *Carrie's War* by Nina Bawden.

- 1 Find and copy a phrase from lines 7-12 which shows that the whistle was very loud.

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1 mark

- 2 Was Miss Fazackerly angry with Nick for being sick on her skirt? How can you tell?

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1 mark

- 3 Why did Carrie give her lunch to Nick?

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1 mark

- 4 a. Carrie says "smugly" in line 20 that she knew Nick would be sick.
What does 'smug' mean? Use a dictionary to help you.

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1 mark

- b. Why do you think Carrie was feeling smug?

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1 mark

- 5 How does Carrie know Miss Fazackerly?

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1 mark

- 6 Why do you think Nick and Carrie's mother told them that living in the country would be "such fun" (line 27)?

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2 marks

- 7 How do you think Carrie and Nick would have felt being evacuated from home?

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2 marks

Total
out of 10