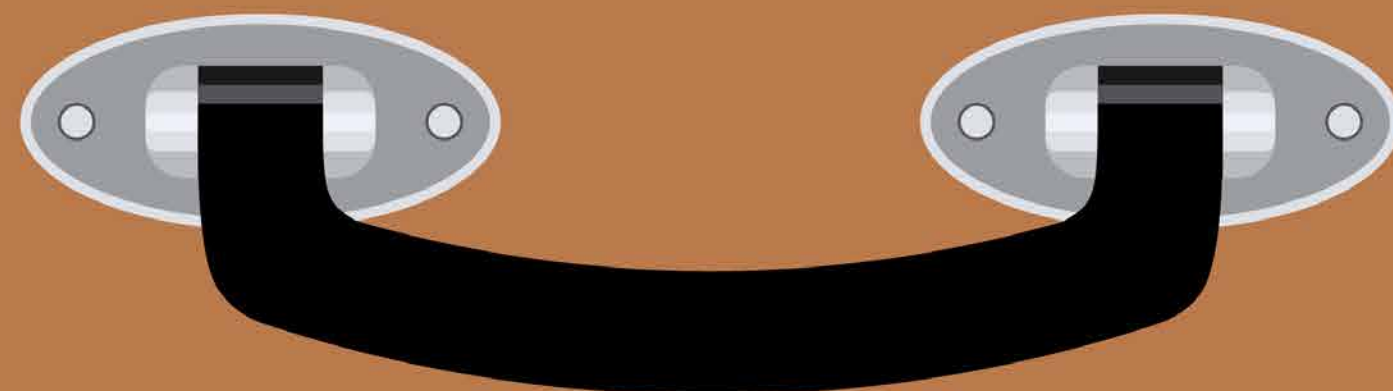


Evacuee Diaries

Learning Objective:
To develop an evacuee character.



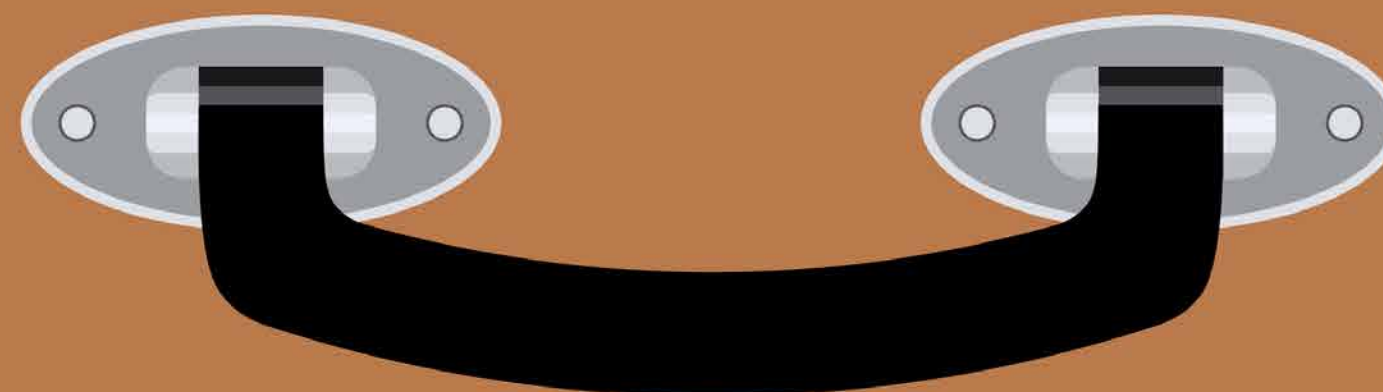
What do you
already know about
evacuation in WW2?

Why were people evacuated?

Who was evacuated?

Where were people evacuated from?

Where were people evacuated to?



Evacuation

In 1939 war was brewing. The government were worried that the German forces would bomb major cities and ports in England such as London, Coventry, Birmingham and Portsmouth. Three days before the war officially began, operation Pied Piper was ordered and 1.5 million people were evacuated in three days!

EVACUATION OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN FROM LONDON, Etc.

FRIDAY, 1st SEPTEMBER.

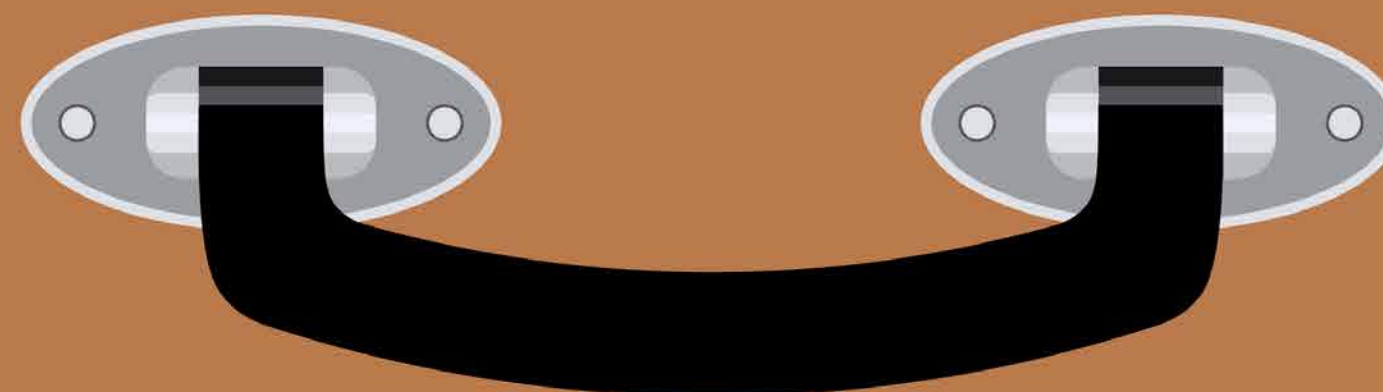
Up and Down business trains as usual, with few exceptions.

Main Line and Suburban services will be curtailed while evacuation is in progress during the day.

SATURDAY & SUNDAY,
SEPTEMBER 2nd & 3rd.

The train service will be exactly the same as on Friday.

Remember that there will be very few Down Mid-day business trains on Saturday.

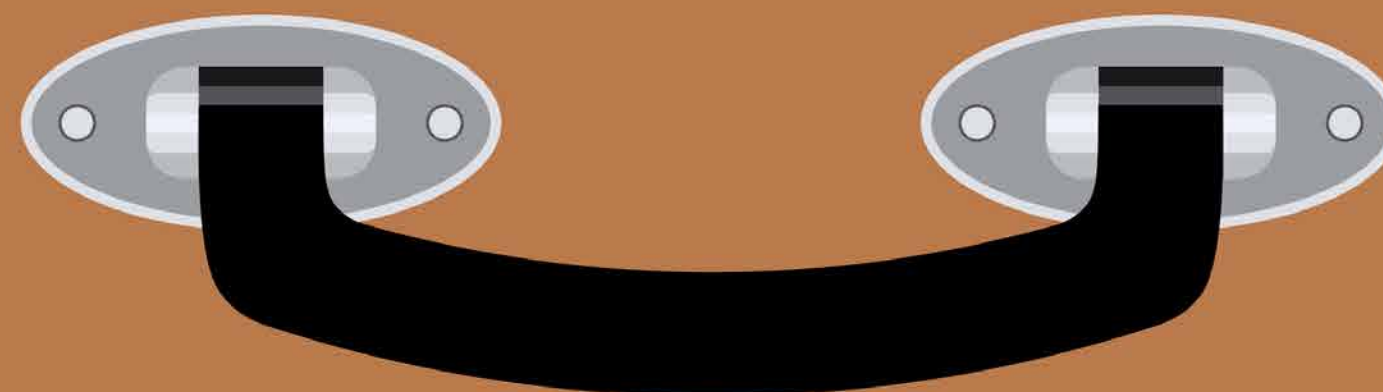


Evacuation

Evacuation was not compulsory. Parents could choose to send their children away or not. However after the first bombs fell on the cities, people realised just how dangerous living in a city could be.

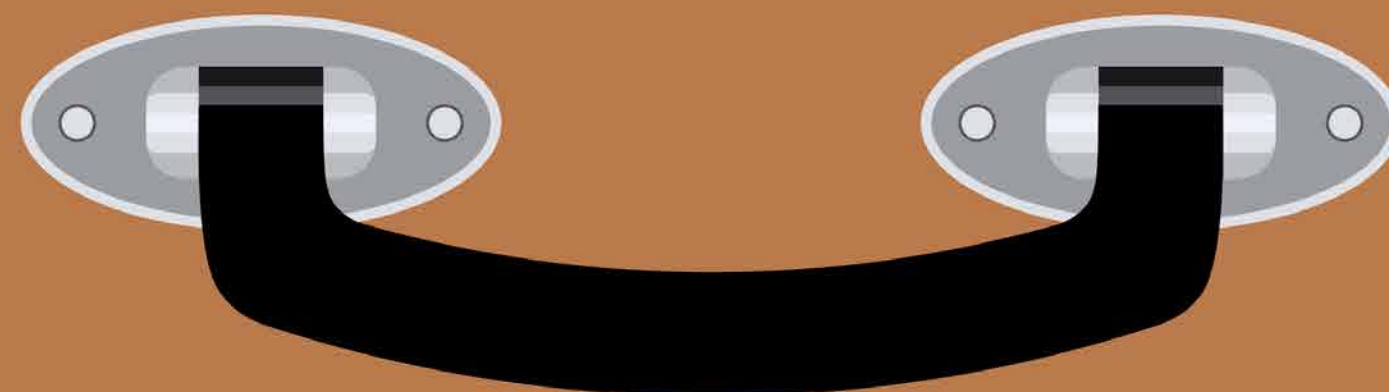


By The original uploader was Sue Wallace of English Wikipedia. - Transferred from en.wikipedia to Commons, CC BY-SA 2.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=9433649>



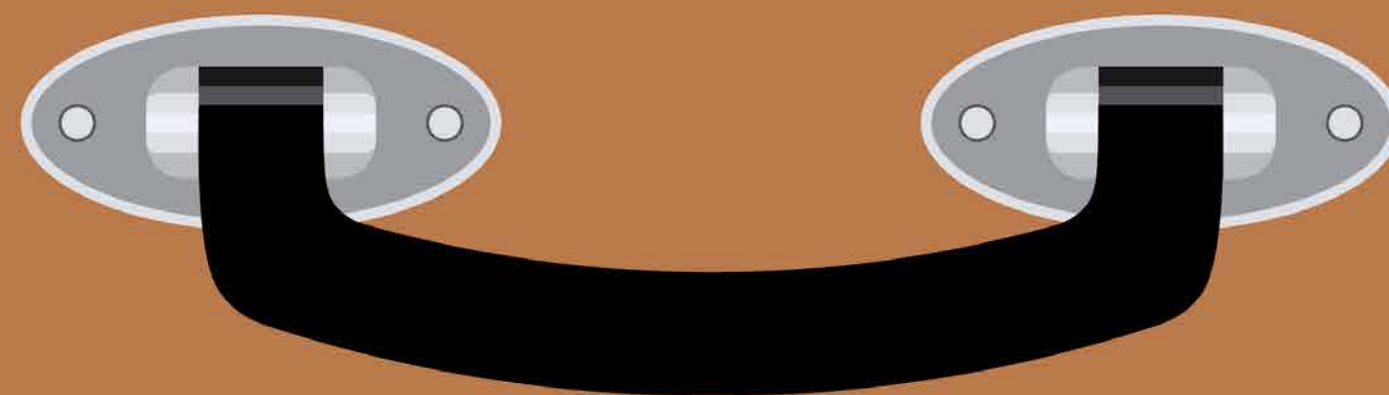
Evacuation

Vulnerable people such as children, disabled people, pregnant women and mothers of young children were evacuated to countryside locations like Devon and Cornwall, which were less likely to be bombed. School teachers were also evacuated to the same places as their classes.



Evacuation

Most evacuations were by train. The children had to say goodbye to their parents and travel alone to their destinations. Most of the time the children did not know where they were going, or who they were going to stay with when they got there.



Evacuation

The government made a recommended packing list for the evacuees. Each evacuee had to have a gas mask, ration book, identity card and clothing coupons with them. Each evacuee had a label with their personal information and destination on.

Boys

- 2 vests
- 2 underpants
- 2 shirts
- 2 pyjamas or night shirts
- 2 pairs socks
- 2 pairs boots or shoes
- 1 Wellingtons (if possible)
- 1 warm coat and/or mackintosh
- 1 pair shorts or trousers
- 1 pullover
- 6 handkerchiefs
- 1 toothbrush
- 1 face flannel
- 1 comb
- 2 towels

Girls

- 2 vests
- 2 liberty bodices (if worn)
- 2 knickers
- 2 nightdresses or pyjamas
- 2 pairs socks or stockings
- 1 Wellingtons (if possible)
- 1 warm coat and/or mackintosh
- 1 warm dress or tunic or jersey
- 1 cardigan
- 2 cotton frocks
- 6 handkerchiefs
- 1 toothbrush
- 1 face flannel
- 1 comb
- 2 towels

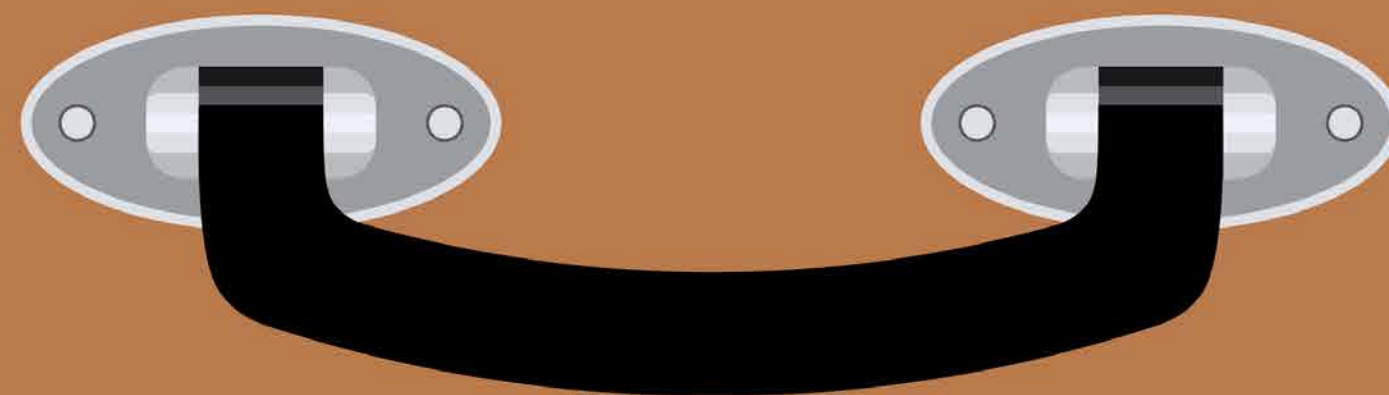


Evacuation

When they arrived the children would be led to the local church or village hall. The 'billets' or host families would then be

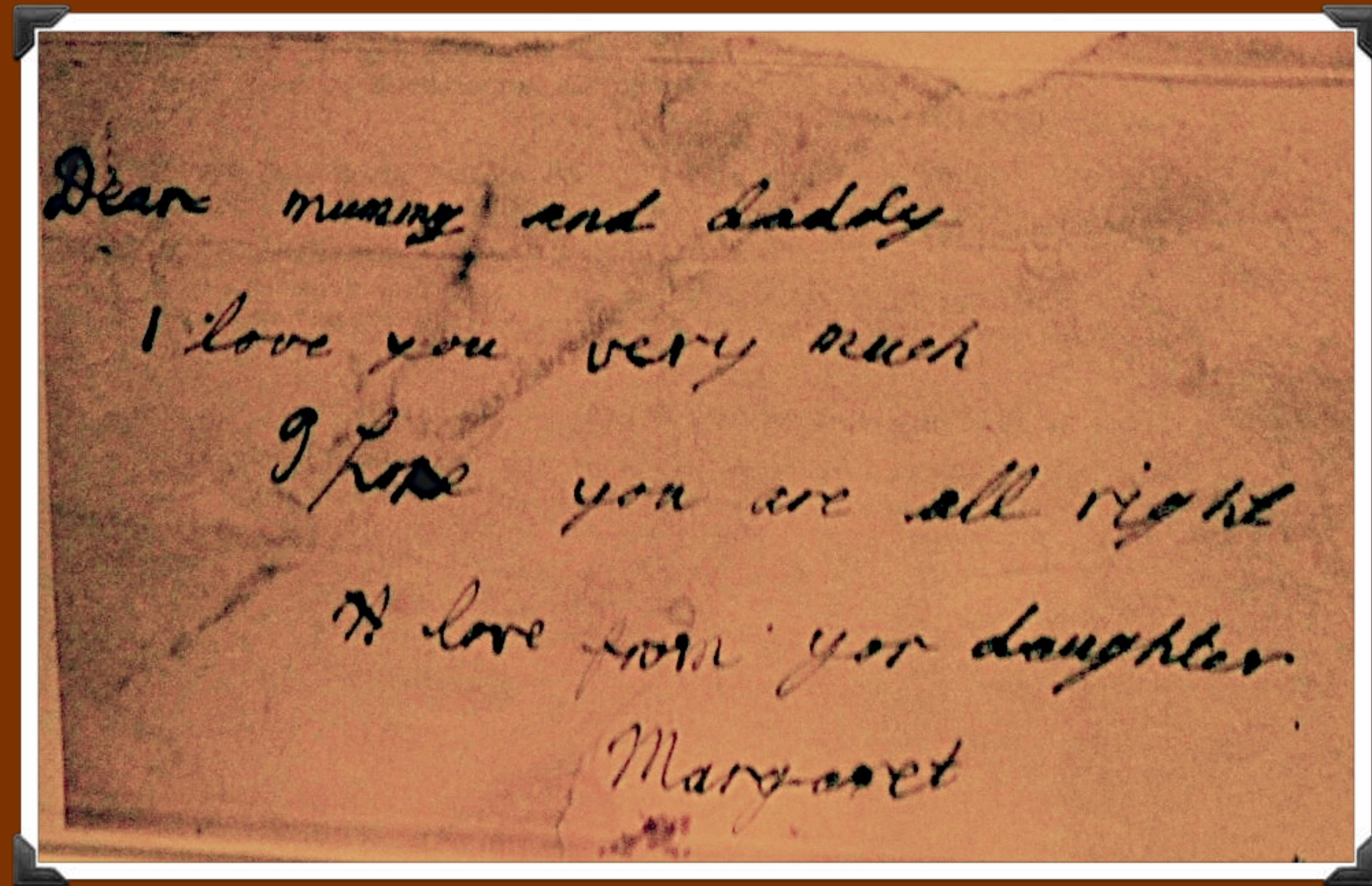
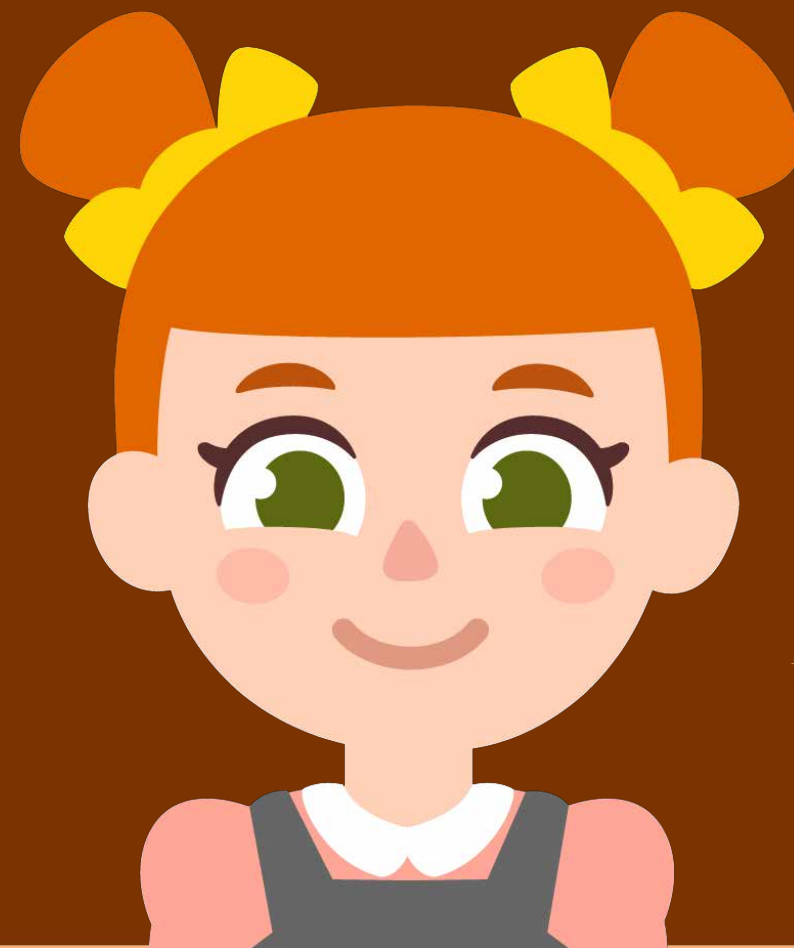
allowed to choose which evacuee they would look after. They often chose the children who looked neat, healthy and well behaved. It was a horrible feeling to be left until last.

Children waiting for a host family

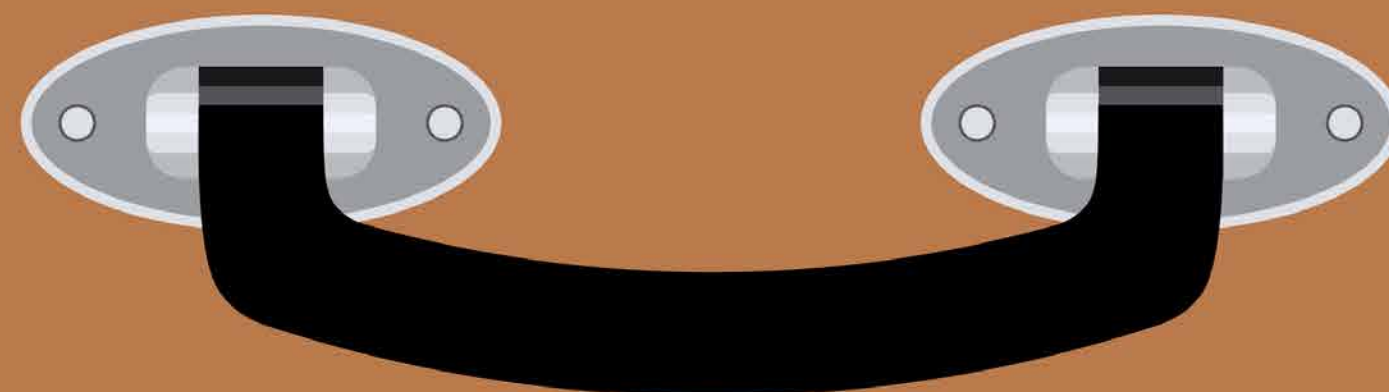


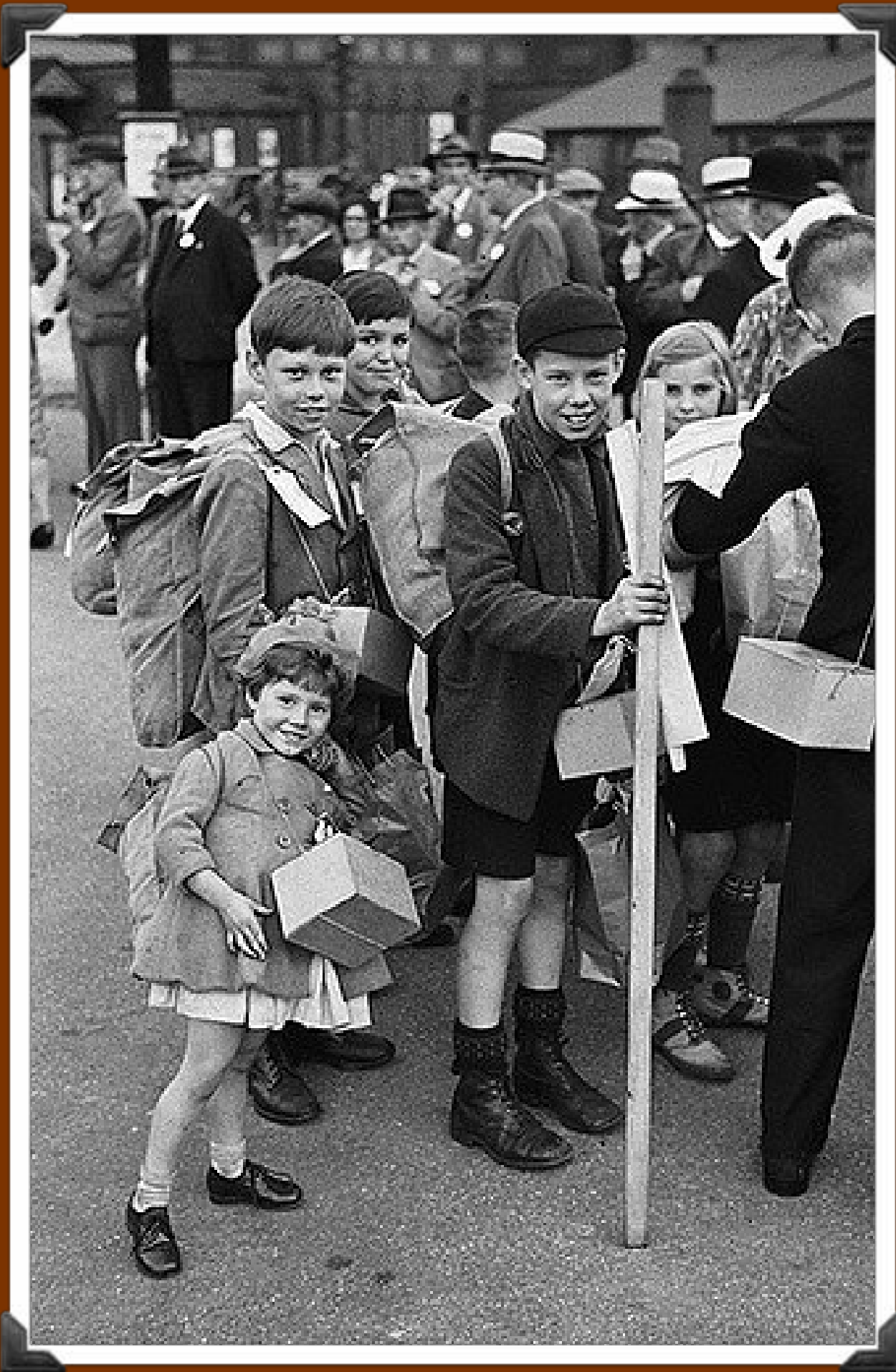
Evacuation

The children didn't know how long they would be there for and when they would see their parents again.



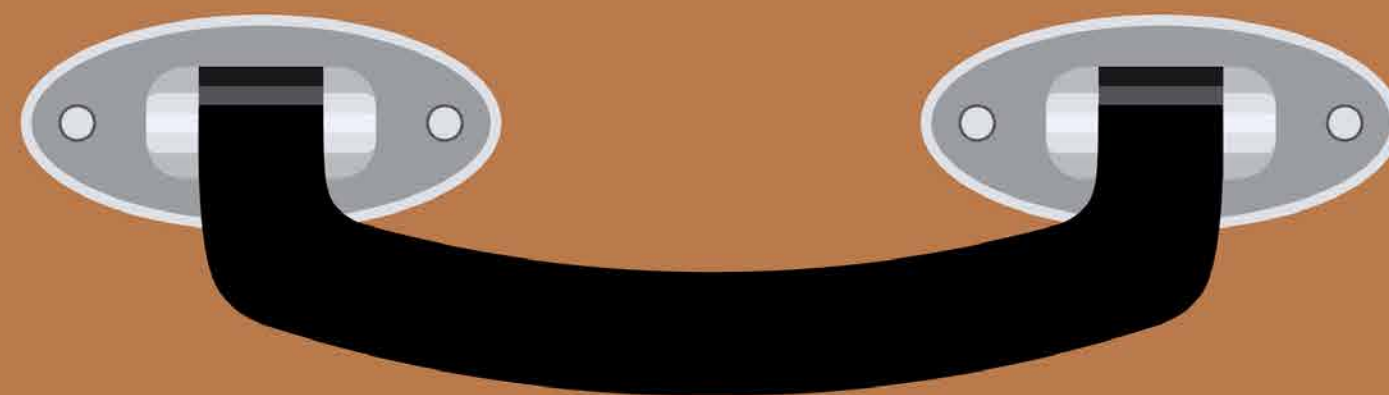
Click here to see a video of an evacuee's experiences.





You will be writing a diary entry of
an evacuee child.

Today, you will need to
create a fictional character
of the child whose diary you
will write. This can be a
version of you, or a whole
new character.



What information can you infer about this evacuee from this diary entry?

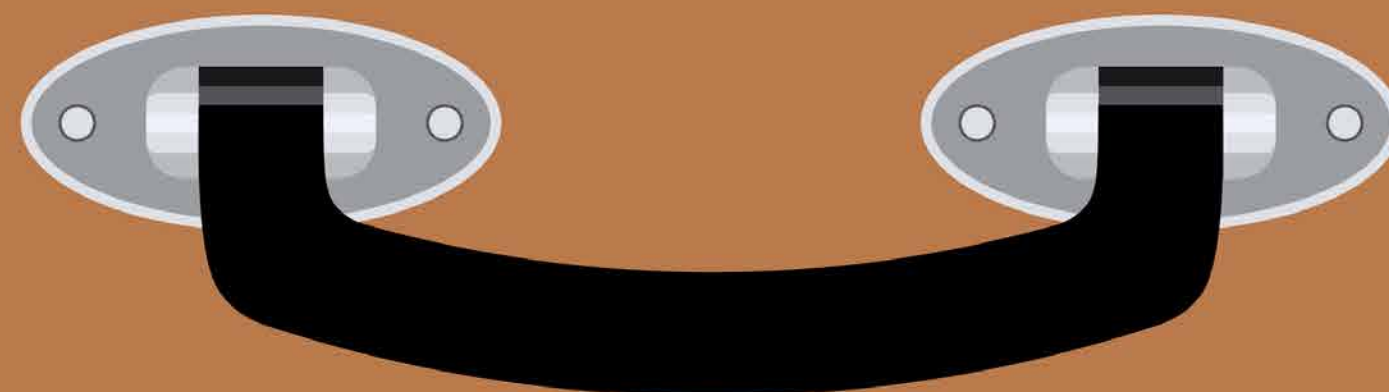
How do they feel about being evacuated?

How would you describe them?

What are their relationships like?

Dear diary,
Today was the day. I still can't quite believe I've left London. Mumma said that I'll have fun in the country but I want to stay with her! I hate that I have to leave everything behind, including all my beautiful dresses and the beautiful dolls house that I got for Christmas!
When we arrived at the

train station and I saw all the other children with gas masks and labels just like me, it was the final straw! With tears streaming down my face, I sat on the ground and refused to go. Ignoring me, Papa and the grumpy train guard loaded my new suitcase onto the train. I realised that this was happening if I liked it or not.



What information can you infer about this evacuee from this diary entry?

How do they feel about being evacuated?

How would you describe them?

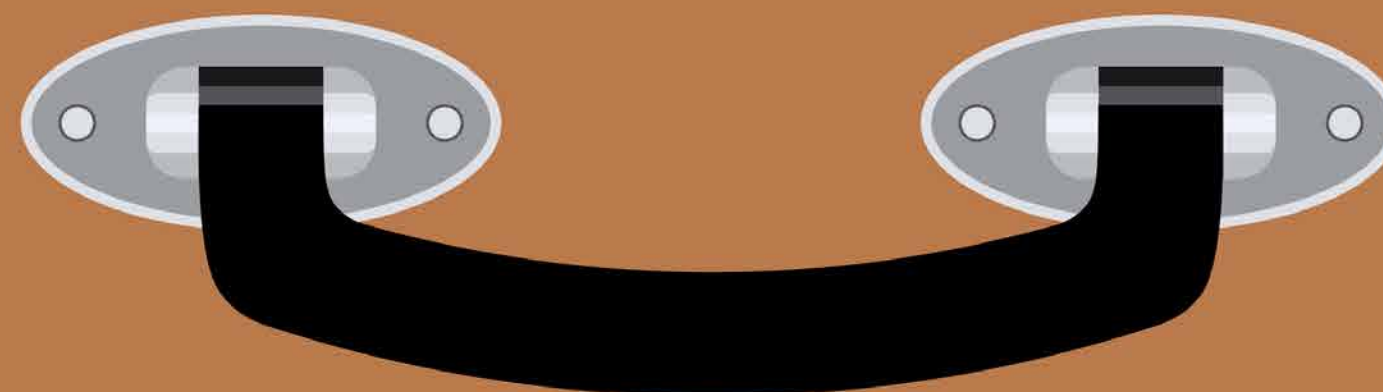
What are their relationships like?



Hey journal,
I'm telling you, when I saw the steam train waiting in the station for us I was giddy with excitement. A whole new adventure in the countryside with my brother was going to be incredible! This was the first time we had ever left the city and I couldn't wait.

Mama had to hold on tight to us as we weaved through the crowded platform.

That's when she decided to plant the wettest kisses on our faces! Urgh! We giggled because Tommy was left with a bright red lipstick stain on his cheek! Mama's giggle didn't last long though. She had tears in her eyes as we climbed onto the train. As I waved to her I realised that I didn't know when I'd see her again. Tommy was crying as the train left and I held tightly onto his hand.



What information can you infer about this evacuee from this diary entry?

How do they feel about being evacuated?

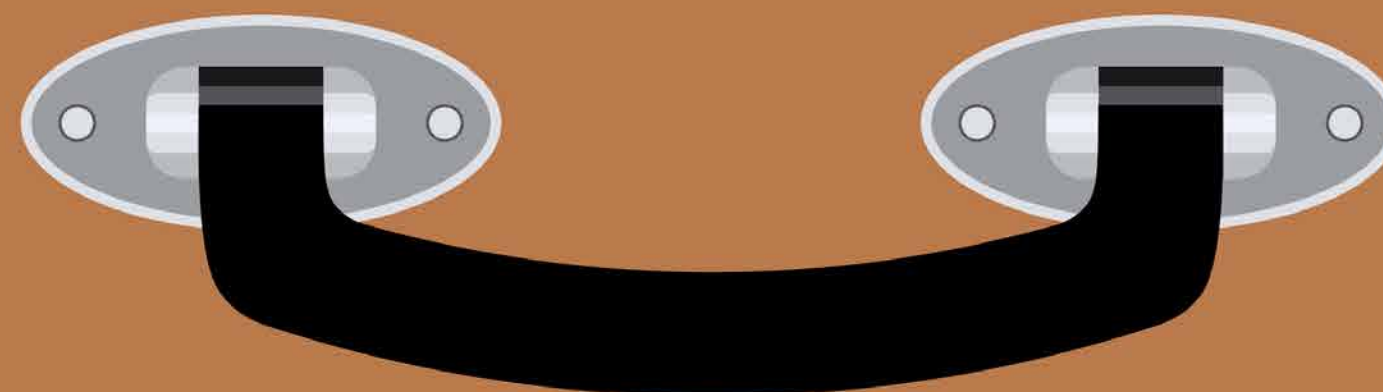
How would you describe them?

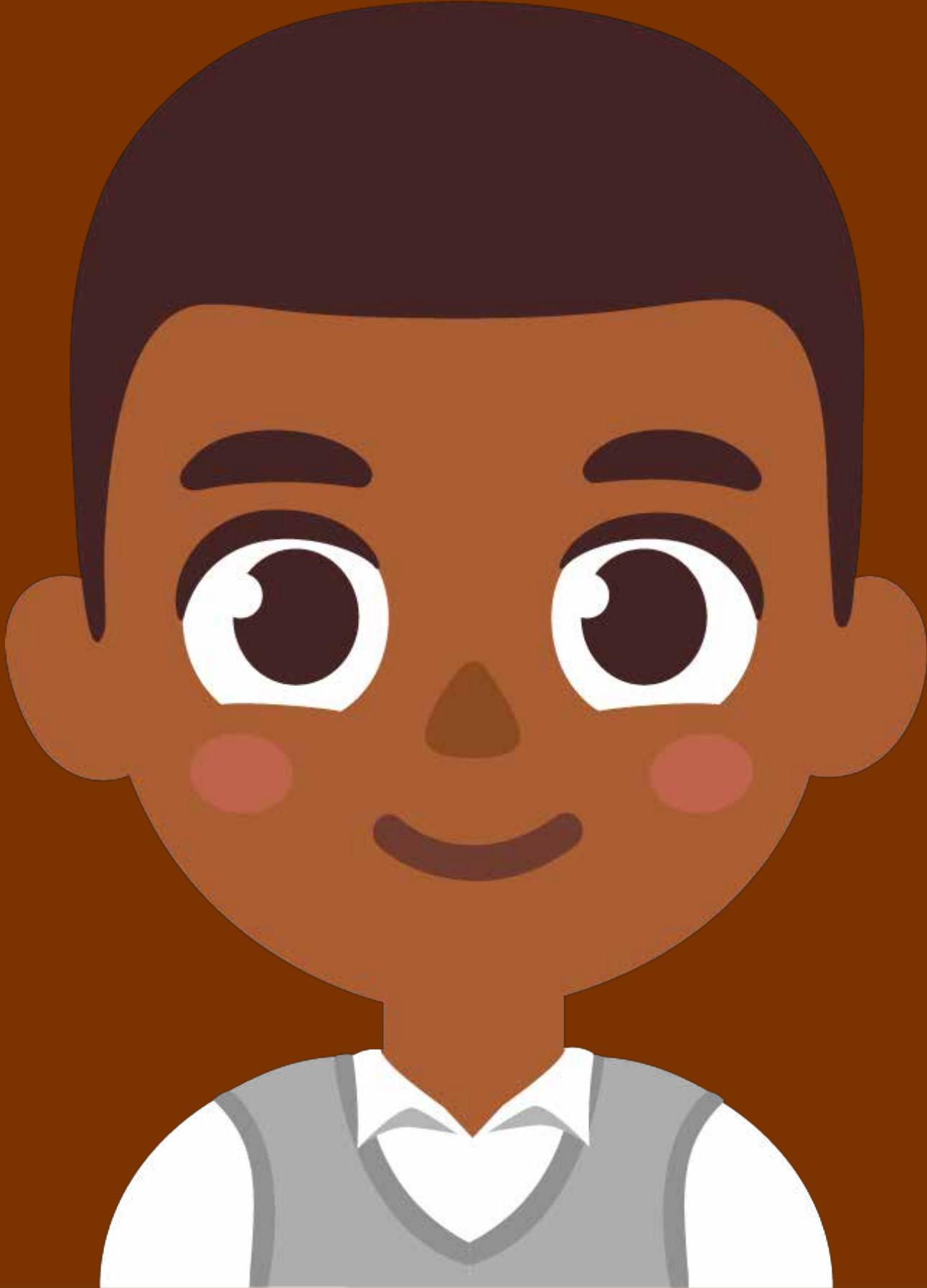
What are their relationships like?



Dear diary,
I couldn't sleep last night. All I could think about was leaving my family and being sent miles and miles away. My brother was already miles and miles away serving in the navy. I didn't think I could bear being away from my parents as well. We arrived at the station and waited

on the platform. My mind was going a mile a minute worrying about what was going to happen when I got to Devon. What if no-one wanted to host me? What if my host family were mean and strict? What if I couldn't make any friends? My daddy gave my hand a squeeze and smiled at me before mama scooped me up into a hug.





How is your
character going to
react to being
evacuated?

GOVERNMENT EVACUATION SCHEME
CITY
NAME
ADDRESS
DOB
BACK

GOVERNMENT EVACUATION SCHEME
CITY
NAME
ADDRESS
DOB
NEXT

Plenary

Let's hot seat!

Ask the evacuee on the hot seat some questions about being evacuated.



Listen to the questions
being asked.
How would your
character respond to
them?

