

What Was It Like? By Gill Howell

In this book, the children will be using the reading skill: **Inference**

NB: Possible responses to the questions have been included in **red**



Key words:

Rehearsed - To practise something before doing it properly

Scene - A part of a play/show

Thought - Something that you think about

Wailing - A high-pitched sound

Warning - A notice about something that is going to happen

Encourage your child to read the story independently, using their phonic knowledge to decode any unfamiliar words. Feel free to stop at the appropriate pages to ask the following questions ☺

Questions:

- *Page 7*

How do you think Gran is feeling at this point? Why?

Disappointed/Sad/Surprised

Because she doesn't think the children are taking it seriously/ She was remembering the hard times and didn't like them laughing/She realised the children didn't know very much about the war and what it was like

- *Page 11*

"A man shouted at them". What does this tell you about how the man might be feeling? What other clues are there to support your answer?

He might be worried about them getting hurt because he had heard the air raid warning/He may have shouted because he was frightened and the children weren't moving.

- *Page 14*

"Wilma put her arm round the little boy." Why do you think she did this? What does this tell us about Wilma?

It said on the previous page that the little boy was scared. They came out of the shelter and saw that the street had been bombed. Wilma was comforting the little boy/reminding him that she was there to keep him safe. It tells us that Wilma is gentle and looks after others.

- *Page 21*

How did the children's feelings about the war change from the beginning of the story to the end? Why?

At the start they were excited to act out the war and they thought it was lots of fun. At the end of the story, they realised how scary it had been for others during the war and they wanted to find out more from their Gran.

Mini retrieval game:

You will need a pair of cards with 'fact' or 'fiction' written on each one.

Read the following statements to your child and ask them to hold up whether the statement is 'fact' (true) or 'fiction' (this was imagined by the author of the story).

1. During World War Two the bombing was called the Blitz.
2. The magic took the children back to a street in London.
3. The children went to live in the country because it was too dangerous in London.
4. Biff hated wearing the gas mask.

Challenge:

- What links can you find between this story and other stories you have read?
e.g. Other characters you know who are caring like Wilma?
Other stories about children going back in time?
or learning from their grandparents?