

"There must be some error with our records back at the station," said the policeman. "This will need looking into." Then he turned to me. "Sorry for the mistake lad. I'll make some enquiries about your mother and brother. See if we can't track them down for you. In the meantime," he said, turning back to the lady, "would you be willing to look after him?"

"Course we will!" said the warden as he ruffled my hair. Even though I knew he was only acting, it pleased me that he said this. I would much rather stay with the family than go to the police station to be questioned.

"Oh! One last thing before I go," said the policeman looking at me intently. "Which school do you attend?" I could tell he still didn't trust me.

"St Mark's," I said, hoping that my school existed back in those days.

"And your teacher?" he asked distrustfully.

I hesitated. Naming the school was one thing, but guessing the name of the teacher and getting it wrong was sure to get me found out.

"Miss Barker's. Class below mine," said Kenneth who had come back in the room without me realising. Why he lied for me I wasn't sure, but I was very grateful he had.

The policeman didn't look convinced. "So you know him?"

"I've seen him around," lied Kenneth, "but I haven't spoken to him before."

The policeman paused before asking, "The children are due to be evacuated tomorrow, aren't they?"

"That's right, officer," said the lady.

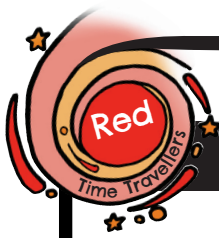
"Got their bags packed?"

"I've just got to iron a few last bits and pieces," the lady replied.

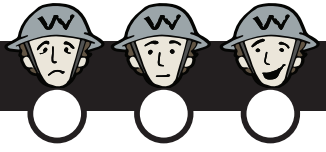
"Right! Well, I'll see you at the train station bright and early tomorrow morning. Goodbye, Mr Brown. Goodbye, ma'am." The policeman gave me one last long stare before he turned and left.

The rest of the day was spent sorting out clothes and preparing for us leaving the following morning. I knew about children being evacuated from watching *Goodnight Mister Tom*, so I knew that it meant being sent away. At first, I didn't like the idea at all, but then it dawned on me what was going to happen. The Browns sort of gave it away to be honest. Mrs Brown said that my mum would do all she could to get to the station for the big send-off. Then Mr Brown whispered in my ear, "You'll be a hero." (I reckoned he whispered so that the microphones wouldn't pick it up.) I began to see it all unfolding. We would get to the train station and there would be television cameras and photographers, and I would be reunited with Mum and Joe. Then they would admit it was a clever hoax for a reality TV programme. The nightmare was soon going to be over!





Name: _____



I can use direct speech.

*Inverted commas (or speech marks) separate the words someone actually says from the rest of the sentence. These words are called **direct speech**.*

Speech can go at the beginning of a sentence.

“One last thing before I go,” said the policeman.

Speech can go at the end of the sentence.

The policeman asked, “Are the children being evacuated tomorrow?”

Speech can go either side of the sentence.

“In the meantime,” he said to the lady, “would you be willing to look after him?”

*This is the only time that you don’t need a capital letter after speech marks. This is because **In the meantime, would you be willing to look after him?** is one sentence interrupted with “he said”.*

Often though, there are two separate sentences, so we do need to finish the first sentence with a full stop and start the second sentence with a capital letter after the speech marks.

“There must be some error,” said the policeman. “This will need looking into.”

Later that day, Drew was able to speak to Kenneth on his own.

Write the sentences using all correct speech punctuation. (The actual words spoken have been written in italics to help you.)

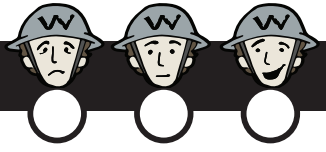
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- 2 *that policeman was suspicious of you* Kenneth said
.....
- 3 *if it hadn't been for you* I said *I don't know what I would have done*
.....
- 4 *now I've done something for you* he said *you can do something for me*
.....
- 5 *sure what* I asked
.....
- 6 *swap pyjamas* he replied *we're about the same size*
.....
- 7 *if I let you have them* I said lowering my voice *you'll have to tell me a secret*
.....
- 8 he looked at me suspiciously *go on* he said
.....
- 9 *you can have my pyjamas* I said *if you tell me where the cameras are hidden*
.....
- 10 he looked around and whispered *we have a box Brownie in the sideboard*
.....
- 11 *you don't need to say anymore* I said giving him a wink.
.....

Extension Write your own dialogue between Drew and Kenneth.





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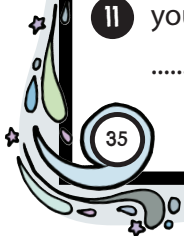
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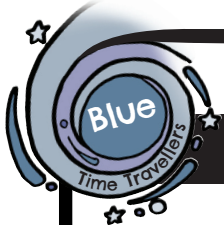
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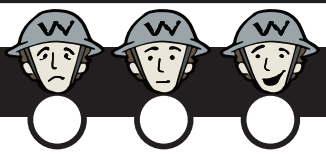
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