

The following day, Dr McKenna dropped us off at the village school before driving into Wilmslow where he had his surgery. "Mr Crookshaw is expecting you," he said as he waved us goodbye. We wandered onto the playground. The local children stopped playing and stared at us. Nobody spoke. After a while, they ignored us and returned to their games.

"Nice welcome!" said Kenneth. I was relieved to discover that we appeared to be the only evacuees there. If there were children from Kenneth's old school, they would know I wasn't the boy I was claiming to be and they would, more than likely, give me away. My heart sank when the boy, who had turned round at the station when I answered to Duncan Spooner, entered the playground. He looked lost and miserable when he saw the sullen faces of the village children, but perked up when he saw two faces he recognised.

"What are you two doing here?" he said in a broad Mancunian accent.

"Same as you, I guess!" said Kenneth.

"Don't like it here! Do you? What's it like at yer digs?" he asked. But before waiting for an answer he continued, "Young lass at mi place won't stop mithering me. It gets on mi flippin' nerves. I'd done nowt wrong and she starts scrikin' about somethin' or t'other! Then her mam had a right go at me!" Before he had a chance to tell us more, a man with a stern face, who I took to be Mr Crookshaw, came out onto the playground and rang the morning bell. There were just two classes: one for the infants and one for the juniors. An elderly lady seemed to be in charge of the infants and she took her class in first. The three of us had joined the end of the boys' line and we waited in silence for the younger children to file past.

Mr Crookshaw peered over the top of his glasses in our direction. "Ah! You must be our three young evacuees. Welcome to our village school, gentlemen. Coming from the great metropolis of Manchester, I expect you will find everything rather different at first. But no doubt you will, in time, get used to our strange village ways. I have just the one edict I would like you to remember: *ad unum semper est optimus*. Follow this advice and I'm sure we shall all get along splendidly." We must have looked completely bewildered for he then explained, "It is Latin, boys. It means you must always do your best."

Mr Crookshaw then led us into the classroom where he found us some seats. He insisted that we sat next to village children away from each other. Kenneth ended up on the other side of the classroom, and the other boy, who I later learnt was called Malcolm, was seated behind me. Malcolm pulled a face.

"What's the matter, boy?" Mr Crookshaw asked.

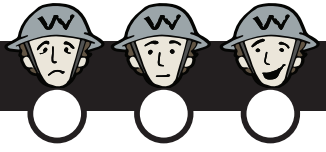
"I don't like where I'm sat," answered Malcolm.

"I don't like where I am *sitting*," Mr Crookshaw corrected him. "If there is one thing I cannot abide, it is sloppy grammar!"





Name: _____



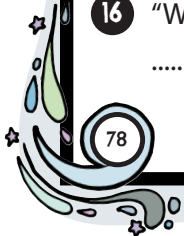
I can use Standard English.

All during that morning, Mr Crookshaw corrected the three evacuees on their grammar. He was particularly harsh with Malcolm, and tore out several pages of his exercise book in which he had written an account of his last few days as an evacuee. They were pleased when it was playtime and they could talk without being constantly corrected.

Correct the evacuees' use of non-Standard English (that they used in the playground). Choose the correct option so that each sentence is in Standard English.

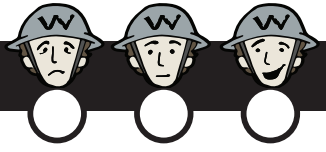
- 1 "I can't go on like this **no/any** more."
.....
- 2 "I never was **any/no** good at English."
.....
- 3 "He shouldn't **of/have** kept correcting me."
.....
- 4 "I had done **nowt/nothing** wrong."
.....
- 5 "You wrote that story **good/well**."
.....
- 6 "I **was/were** trying my best like he asked."
.....
- 7 "You can't do **nothing/anything** right here."
.....
- 8 "I should never **have/of** come here."
.....
- 9 "You were **sat/sitting** there like a right lemon!"
.....
- 10 "You shouldn't have said **those/them** things!"
.....
- 11 "In registration, you said you **were/was** Duncan?"
.....
- 12 "It **ain't/isn't** right you calling yourself Duncan!"
.....
- 13 "Don't say **anything/nothing** about it!"
.....
- 14 "I **done/did** nothing wrong!"
.....
- 15 "You'd better not say **nothing/anything**."
.....
- 16 "What are you going to do if I **say/says** something?"
.....

Extension Write what Malcolm says in the passage in Standard English.





Name: _____



I can use Standard English.

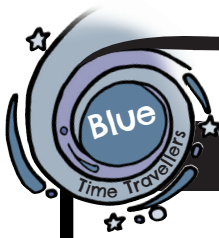
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Correct the evacuees' use of non-Standard English (that they used in the playground). Write the sentences in Standard English. (The words you need to change have been written in italics.)

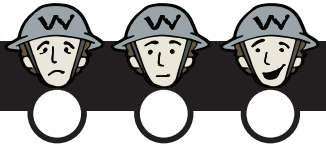
- 1 "I can't go on like this *no* more."
- 2 "I never *were no* good at English."
- 3 "He shouldn't *of* kept correcting me."
- 4 "I had done *nowt* wrong."
- 5 "You *writ* that story *good*."
- 6 "I *were* trying *me* best."
- 7 "You can't do *nothing* right here."
- 8 "I should never *of* come here."
- 9 "You were *sat* there like a *right* lemon!"
- 10 "You shouldn't *of* said *them* things!"
- 11 "In registration, you said you *was* Duncan?"
- 12 "It *ain't* right you calling yourself Duncan!"
- 13 "Don't you say *nothing* about it!"
- 14 "I *done* nothing wrong!"
- 15 "You better not say *nothing*."
- 16 "What are you going to do if I *says* something?"

Extension Write what Malcolm says in the passage in Standard English.





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Correct the evacuees' use of non-Standard English (that they used in the playground). Write the sentences in Standard English.

- 1 "I can't go on like this no more."
- 2 "I never were no good at English."
- 3 "He shouldn't of kept correcting me."
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- 5 "You writ that story good."
- 6 "I were trying me best."
- 7 "You can't do nothing right here."
- 8 "I should never of come here."
- 9 "You were sat there like a right lemon!"
- 10 "You shouldn't of said them things!"
- 11 "In registration, you said you was Duncan?"
- 12 "It ain't right you calling yourself Duncan!"
- 13 "Don't you say nothing about it!"
- 14 "I done nothing wrong!"
- 15 "You better not say nothing."
- 16 "What are you going to do if I says something?"

.....

Extension Write what Malcolm says in the passage in Standard English.

