

NO KIDDING!

For boys and girls aged 7 to 11

Number 9 • March/April 1998



SPRING
INSIDE

EGGS, EGGS AND MORE EGGS CHOCOLATE COUNTDOWN TO THE 21ST CENTURY PART 2
WHO WAS ST GEORGE? MARCH FOR CHILDREN LIGHTNING AND THUNDER

No Kidding!
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and put forward
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**The names of the children
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Islington, north London)

Rosemary Umolu
(Tyssen Primary,
Stamford Hill, north London)



Beth Price, who goes to
Christ Church School in
Camden, north London,
has won a trip for her
family to Futuroscope,
the European Park of
the Moving Images near
Poitiers in Western
France. 8-year-old Beth's
name was the first drawn
out of the hat in our
January competition.

Tell us if anything new or
different is happening at
your school! If you would
like us to come to your
classroom, get your teacher
to ring us on 0171 354 5040

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If you would like to be in No Kidding!, write to us at PO Box 10427, London N8 8UP



WHO WAS ST GEORGE?

St George is the patron saint of England and April 23 is St George's Day. But who was he – and what's a patron saint?

Saints were special people who believed in the Christian God. They were named saints after they died because when they were alive, they did very good things – they helped other people, made sick people better and were sometimes even tortured or killed because they believed in God and stood up for Christianity.

Churches are named after saints and so are schools. Every day of the year is a different saint's day and there

are many more saints who don't have a special day. All saints are remembered on 1 November, which is All Saints Day.

St George lived thousands of years ago and there are many different stories about him. The most famous one of all tells how he killed a dragon to save a beautiful princess.

People who have written about him say he was born around 280AD in the part of the world we now call Turkey, then ruled by the Romans. Some people say he joined the Roman army. At the time, the





Roman Emperor Diocletian didn't like Christians and started pulling down churches, burning their books, making Christian people slaves or even killing them.

George is said to have stood up for Christians and complained to the Emperor. He was thrown into prison and tortured. Some people say he was given a cup of poison to drink.

Others say he was dragged along the road by wild horses and had his head chopped off. He became a martyr – someone who is prepared to die for the God they believe in. People who study history think he was killed in Palestine when he was in his early 20s.

Patron saints are saints who are said to look after countries, towns, jobs, people with different illnesses, or people doing different things. Many Christians, for example, pray to St Christopher to look after them before they go on a journey because he is the patron saint of travellers.

Edward III, king from 1327 to 1377, is said to have named

St George patron saint of England. But St George first became the patron saint of the English king when Richard I, known as

Ireland, Wales and Scotland have their own patron saints:

St Patrick is Ireland's patron,

St David is the patron of Wales,

St Andrew is Scotland's patron.

Richard the Lionheart, prayed to him to look after the English army who were fighting to spread Christianity in non-Christian countries. Richard was king from 1189 to 1199 and spent most of those 10 years away from England fighting the "Crusades". Richard is said to have seen St George, who promised the king would win the battles.

The English soldiers fighting in the Crusades wore a red cross on a white background – the cross of St George. This is now the flag of England.

St George and the dragon

Many years ago, a dragon was sitting outside a city's gates in Libya, stopping people from going in or out. Everyone was very frightened of the dragon and took him sheep to eat each day. Then the dragon got sick of the sheep, and ordered the people to bring him 2 children each day.

One day, the king's daughter was chosen to be fed to the dragon. She put on beautiful clothes and went outside the city gates to wait for the dragon. St George came along, riding on his white horse and saw the princess crying. He fought the dragon, and wounded it so badly with his lance – a sharp stick – that the dragon could fight no more. They tied the princess' belt around the dragon's neck and led it into the city where George cut off its head. Everyone in the city became a Christian.

Some people say St George's fight with the dragon took place in Oxfordshire in England, on Dragon Hill near Uffington. Others say the village of St George near Rhyl in Wales is where the battle took place.

Who makes people saints?

The Pope, the head of the Roman Catholic Church, decides who should be a saint. The present Pope, John Paul II, has made more than 200 saints. If you are made a saint, you are "canonised".

The Pope lives in the Vatican City in Rome and a special group of people at the Vatican called the "Congregation for the Causes of Saints" check the facts about the life of someone who has died and is thought by many people to be a truly good person.

The first stage in becoming a Saint is to become a Servant of God and be called "Venerable". The second stage is to be called Blessed, and finally, the third stage is to become a saint. To go on to the second and third stages, the Pope has to be shown that prayers to the person have led to miracles – to curing someone who was terribly ill, for example – or shown proof of someone's great goodness.

Britain's flag, the Union Jack, is made up of 3 saints' flags – St George's for England, St Andrew's for Scotland (an x shaped white cross on a blue background) and St Patrick's for Ireland (an x shaped red cross on a white background).

YOU CAN'T TAKE A BOOK O

But you can see all sorts of treasures there which tell amazing stories and help you learn about what happened in the past.

Many of those treasures are very, very old pieces of writing that help us find out what life was like centuries ago. The British Library has millions of manuscripts, hand-written and hand-decorated before the invention of printing machines that make modern books. It also has millions of stamps, thousands of tape recordings – from the

sounds of animals in Africa to pop songs – and thousands of pop videos. Millions of newspapers, magazines and comics printed during this century are also part of The British



When you visit The British Library, you will walk on top of 12 million books which are stored underneath a huge courtyard in front of the building. But only people who are “readers” can use these books. To become a reader and look at books in one of the special reading rooms, you have to be a grown-up and prove that you need to find out information about something which you can't find anywhere else. But anyone can see inside some of the most beautiful books on a computer screen! A special computer system in the new building called *Turning the Pages* helps visitors look inside books they can't touch because they're so precious and old.

Library's collection, though they are stored at a branch in Colindale, north London. Every week, up to date issues of magazines and newspapers are added to this collection and kept. In the future, these will tell people stories about the past!

The British Library was set up in 1973 to become a home for things that can help you find out about Britain, past and present. But until this year, it didn't have a proper home of its own and bits of the collection were kept in

different buildings all over the place. If you visited the British Museum, you may have seen some of The British Library's treasures there – like the first copy of *Alice in Wonderland* which was called *Alice's Adventures Underground* and written down in a book for a little girl called Alice Liddell. Or you may have seen the *Magna Carta*, a sort of set of rules about how King John should rule the country which was written in 1215.

Now most of The British

UT OF THE BRITISH LIBRARY!



There are around 150 million different things which are owned by The British Library. These include printed books, manuscripts and maps, tapes and recordings from all over the world in every different language.

Sometimes The British Library buys things to add to the collection, and sometimes people give the Library things. When Britain's King George III died in 1820, for example, his son George IV gave all of his father's books to "the country". The British Library has all 60,000 of them! They are kept in a special place called the King's Library. Do you think the king read all of them?

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Visit The British Library after 21 April 1998...

There are 3 new exhibition galleries where you can find hundreds of treasures.

If you visit *The Workshop of Words, Sound and Images* gallery at the weekend, you will see all sorts of demonstrations.

Or visit with your school during the week and join a free workshop.

See if you can find the ISBN number on the book you are reading at the moment. Every book that you buy has an ISBN number which stands for International Standard Book Number. This is a unique number that makes it easy for book sellers and librarians to sort books. A copy of every new book that has an ISBN is sent to The British Library and added to its collection. If you can't find a book anywhere else, it should be in The British Library!

Library's collection is moving to a brand new building in Euston Road, just between King's Cross and Euston train stations in London. From 21 April, 3 new rooms will be ready for visitors to see some of the most famous treasures and to learn about how books were, and are made. If you visit with your family, you can explore the building together and follow a special trail. While you're there, you may be able to have a go at making a book yourself!

**Ask
your
teacher
to phone
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British Library
Education Service
on 0171 412 7797
to find
out more**



It's sweet. Almost everyone eats it. Every year, we spend millions of pounds on it. Within the next few weeks, thousands of you will be given it as a present.

CHOCOLATE!

Chocolate is made from cocoa beans, the seeds of the evergreen cacao tree which grows naturally in tropical rain forests in central America, near the Amazon river. Over the years, the tree has been planted in many other countries which are hot enough and have enough rainfall, so farmers can grow and sell cocoa beans – the cocoa beans which are in the chocolate you eat might come from Brazil, or from Ghana in west Africa, or from Malaysia.

Cocoa beans are about the size of a broad bean and are found inside the fruit of

the tree – pods which grow straight out of the trunk and older branches. These pods are between 15cm and 20cm long and turn yellow when they are ripe.

The farmers cut the ripe pods down, open them up and empty them. They leave the beans, together with a white pulp from the inside of the pod, in big piles covered with leaves for about a week. During this time, the pulp drains away and the beans are then left to dry before they are packed up and sent all over the world to the chocolate-makers who buy them.

When they arrive at the chocolate-making factories, the beans are roasted in huge machines and then broken up into small pieces. The shells are thrown away and just the centres of the beans are left – these are called “nibs”. Other machines then grind the nibs and make something called “mass” or “cocoa liquor”. It looks a bit like thick mud and almost half of it is cocoa butter. The mass is what is used to make chocolate!

The main ingredients of milk chocolate are mass, sugar and milk. The main ingredients of dark

chocolate are just mass and sugar, while the main ingredients of white chocolate are cocoa butter and milk!

Other things can be added to the mix too – like vanilla, and “emulsifiers” to help everything stick together. Most chocolate made in Britain contains other sorts of vegetable fat as well as cocoa butter.

The ingredients are mixed together for hours by machines to make the chocolate smooth before other machines shape it and wrap it ready for the shops.

One chocolate-maker reckons there are 200 chocolate bars eaten every second in the UK!

Companies who make chocolate make more money at Easter than at any other time of the year, apart from at Christmas. Think of the number of the Easter eggs you see on sale in the shops!

Easter is a festival of the Christian Church when people celebrate Jesus coming back to life after being crucified. People have thought eggs were a sign of "new life" for many years. Children used to decorate real hard-boiled eggs and give them as presents on Easter Sunday. Alexander III, Czar of Russia, gave his wife beautiful eggs made of gold and precious jewels at Easter in 1884. They were made by a Russian goldsmith and jeweller called Peter Carl Faberge. And Victorians used to give each other egg-shaped boxes full of presents.

People who lived thousands of years ago, before Christianity started, celebrated the Spring and called on their gods to help their crops start to grow. One historian called Bede, who lived in the 1st century (from 673 to 735), wrote about a goddess in charge of the dawn called Eostre. She was a goddess of the Teutons, the name for groups of people who lived in Europe thousands of years ago, including the Anglo-Saxons. We still remember some Teutonic gods in the names of our days – Woden (Wednesday), Thor (Thursday) and Tiw (Tuesday). A festival for Eostre was held in the Spring.

Chocolate has been on sale in this country since the middle of the 17th century, but when cocoa beans first came to England, they were used to make a drink that only rich people could afford to buy – it was expensive because the cocoa beans came from such a long way away! There were special Chocolate Houses where the drink was sold. The Aztecs who lived in Mexico had been making a drink from cocoa beans for years. They bought the beans from people living near the Amazon. In 1521, Spain took control of Mexico. Hernán Cortés, who led the Spanish, took cocoa beans back to Spain 7 years later. Spanish mixed the ground cocoa beans with sugar to make the drink sweeter. The first solid chocolate was made in the 1840s, and the first milk chocolate was made in Switzerland.

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HAVE YOU EVER READ A PLAY BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE?



PHILIP WOLMUTH

Joshua Morris hadn't when he saw an advert in his local newspaper looking for young actors to be in a Shakespeare play. He answered the advert anyway – and is now playing 2 boy parts in *Macbeth*, one of Shakespeare's most famous plays, at the Orange Tree Theatre in Richmond.

Joshua, who goes to Stanley County Junior School in Richmond, is taking turns with 4 other boys to play 2 small parts. When the play ends on April 4, 3 days after Joshua's 11th birthday, he will have been in 17 performances.

"I had never read Shakespeare before," said Joshua. "Before I met the director of the play, I read through *Macbeth*, but it was a bit complicated and hard to understand. I've now got a copy of the play with useful notes which help you understand what's happening in the story."

Macbeth tells of a man so keen to be king of Scotland that he is ready to kill people who stand in his

way. At the beginning of the story, *Macbeth* and his friend Banquo meet 3 old witches who tell them that one day *Macbeth* will be king, and that Banquo's sons will be kings too. *Macbeth* then murders the king, Duncan, becomes king himself, and arranges for Banquo and his son to be murdered too. But Banquo's son, Fleance, gets away. Duncan's son Malcolm teams up with Macduff and gets ready to fight *Macbeth*, so *Macbeth* kills Lady Macduff and her children. Malcolm and Macduff attack, Macduff kills *Macbeth* and Malcolm becomes king.

Joshua was chosen to play both Fleance and Macduff's son after meeting the director of the play and reading through the lines. He rehearsed for 2 days a week after school for about 5 weeks before the play started. "I'm not at all nervous and really enjoy it. It's a round theatre so the audience sit around you on all 4 sides. The trick is not to look at them."

Joshua found out he enjoyed acting when he

joined a drama club at a previous school, where plays were put on for mums and dads.

The teacher who ran that club also leads a Saturday morning club which Joshua goes to each week. "We make up our own plays, we get together and write down our ideas and then our teacher helps us turn our ideas into a play to

show our parents at the end of term," said Joshua. He's enjoying being in *Macbeth* so much, that he has just joined another drama group on Saturday afternoons where he does dancing and singing as well as acting.

"At the moment I'm really enjoying acting and I would definitely like to do some more. I don't know what will happen in the future but I would love it if a Hollywood director came to see *Macbeth* one night and said 'wow I'm going to take that guy to Hollywood!'"

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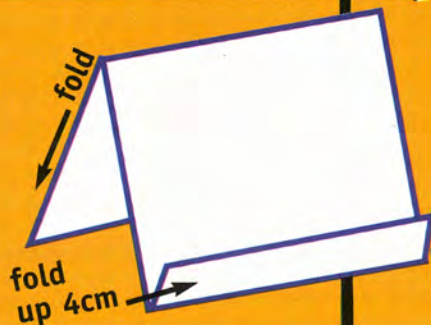


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R	O	M	E	H	A	M	A	Y	O	U	K	I	L	E	N
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L	I	O	O	E	S	R	O	R	R	E	F	O	Y	D	E
U	S	V	T	T	W	A	B	X	O	T	H	E	B	A	L
A	P	E	I	T	O	S	E	L	C	B	C	A	M	A	T
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V	A	S	A	R	E	A	D	I	S	S	E	R	C	D	N

Find the plays, written by William Shakespeare. The names of the plays run vertically, diagonally or horizontally from right to left.

O	D	A	H	C	U	M	E
I	L	E	B	M	Y	C	S
N	A	S	U	T	I	T	T
J	L	E	T	N	M	A	H
M	O	C	E	H	T	R	T
S	E	V	O	L	T	R	S
H	F	L	A	E	M	O	R
O	R	M	E	A	A	S	R
I	L	I	L	R	E	H	T
D	M	K	T	I	N	G	T
R	L	A	A	E	L	H	H
U	P	R	L	S	E	T	E
O	S	T	O	T	M	C	M
L	H	A	W	A	I	O	E
E	R	O	E	I	L	R	R
A	G	R	S	U	N	A	R
E	D	T	H	H	A	T	Y
S	W	R	E	L	M	E	W
F	A	S	H	T	T	I	I
E	O	A	L	M	I	L	V
A	M	N	O	L	T	U	E
L	T	O	N	H	A	J	S
N	A	Y	G	P	A	D	O
N	D	I	O	R	T	N	F
C	N	E	D	A	H	A	W
H	H	T	Y	O	E	O	I
E	C	O	M	E	W	E	N
E	R	R	E	F	I	M	D
T	H	W	O	L	N	O	S
G	E	T	N	T	S	R	O
R	I	C	L	E	S	O	R
N	E	M	E	S	S	R	S
A	S	U	L	I	O	R	T

HAPPY BIRTHDAY SHAKESPEARE

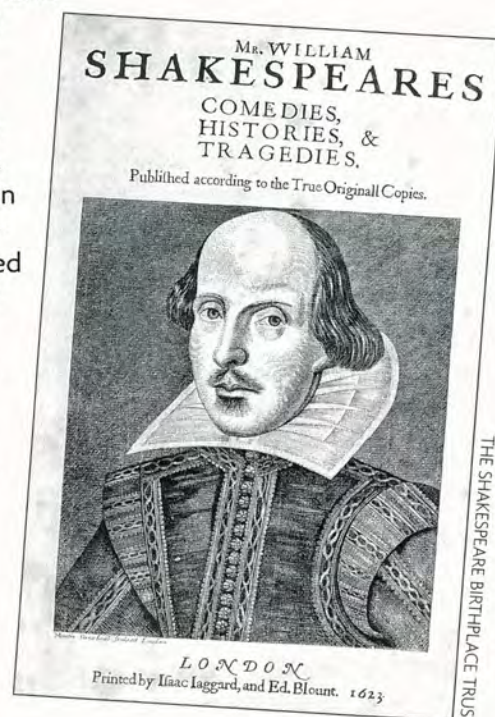
April 23 is the birthday of William Shakespeare, England's most famous writer of plays and poems. It is also the date of his death – he was born in 1564 and died in 1616.

Shakespeare's plays, written in old-fashioned English and first performed during the time of Queen Elizabeth I and King James I, are still performed all over the world. They have been translated into different languages and made into films and into operas.

He was born in Stratford-upon-Avon and married Anne Hathaway in 1582. They had a daughter, Susanna, who was born in 1583, and twins Hamnet and Judith were born 2 years later. Hamnet died in 1596. Shakespeare was also a

grandad – his granddaughter Elizabeth Hall was the daughter of Susanna daughter and was born in 1608 (she was 8 when he died).

About 200 years after Shakespeare died, some people began to say he did not write the plays. Others say he wrote them with someone else. No-one really knows because not much is known about when he started writing and many of his plays were printed for the first time after his death.



THE SHAKESPEARE BIRTHPLACE TRUST

ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL
A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S
DREAM
ANTONY AND CLEOPATRA
AS YOU LIKE IT
CORIOLANUS
CYMBELINE
HAMLET
JULIUS CAESAR
KING LEAR
LOVE'S LABOUR'S LOST
MACBETH
MEASURE FOR MEASURE
MUCH ADO ABOUT
NOTHING
OTHELLO

PERICLES
ROMEO AND JULIET
THE COMEDY OF ERRORS
THE LIFE OF KING HENRY V
THE MERCHANT OF VENICE
THE MERRY WIVES OF
WINDSOR
THE TAMING OF THE SHREW
THE TEMPEST
THE TWO GENTLEMEN OF
VERONA
THE WINTER'S TALE
TIMON OF ATHENS
TITUS ANDRONICUS
TROILUS AND CRESSIDA
TWELFTH NIGHT

WHAT MAKES A SCAB?

When you fall over and cut your knee, blood oozes through the hole in your skin. But almost at once, the blood begins to stick together, or clot, to seal the hole.

Your blood contains tiny things called **platelets** which become sticky and clump together at the cut within a few minutes. At the same time, little threads called fibrin are made in your blood and criss-cross over the hole. Your blood gets tangled up in the sticky clump of platelets and fibrin and blocks up the hole with a sort of plug. The plug then turns hard and makes a scab.

A scab also protects the skin underneath it as it heals. When the skin is better, the scab will fall off!

Blood is a red sticky liquid which carries food and oxygen around your body to make it work. It also carries away things your body doesn't need – it takes carbon dioxide to your lungs so you can breathe it out and travels through your kidneys which remove other rubbish. Blood travels through tunnels called arteries, veins and capillaries. Just underneath your skin, the tunnels are very tiny.

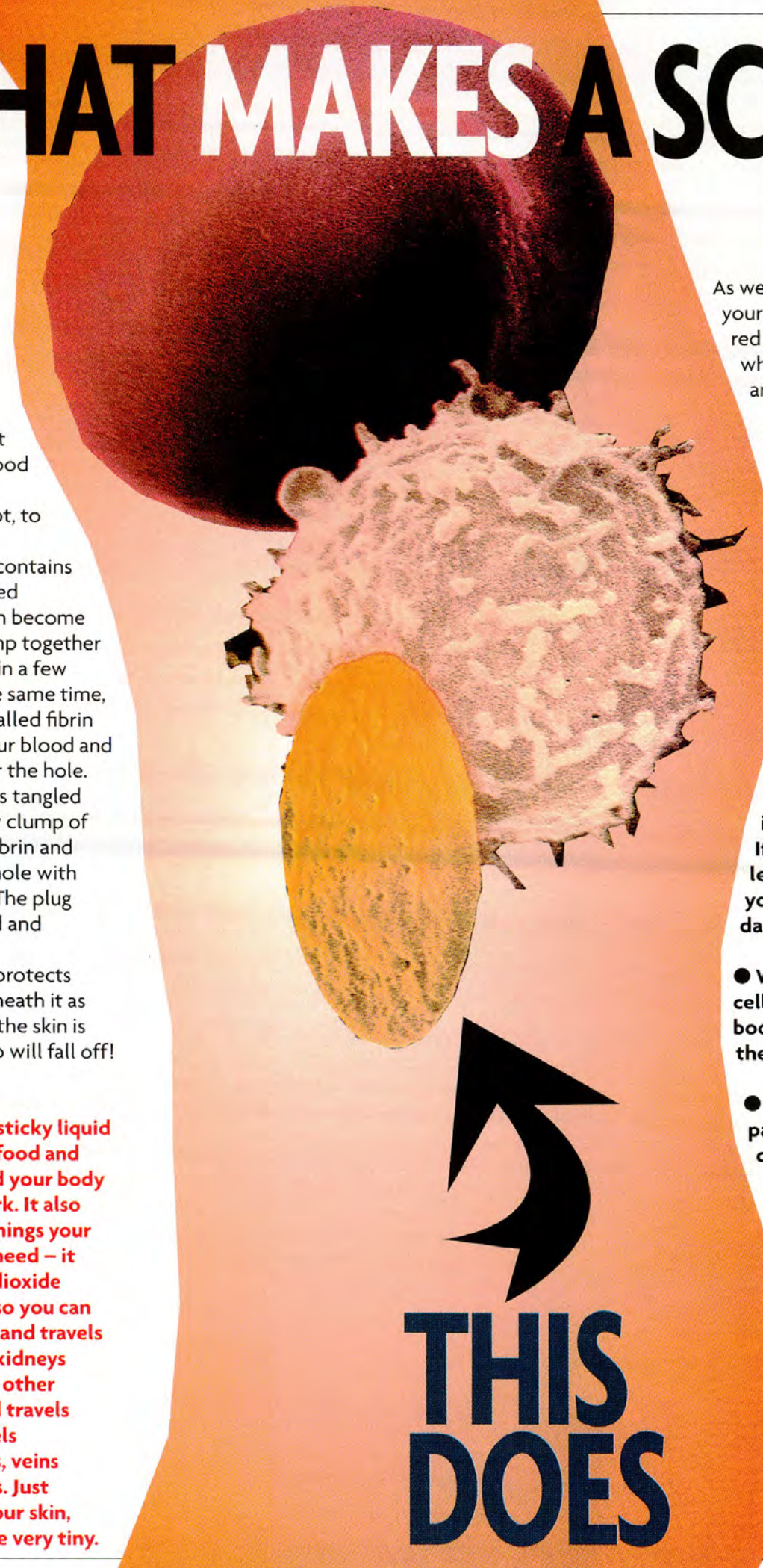
As well as **platelets**, your blood contains red blood cells, white blood cells and plasma.

● **Red blood cells** carry oxygen around your body. These cells contain haemoglobin which gives your blood its colour.

If there is lots of oxygen mixing with the haemoglobin, your blood is bright red. If there is less oxygen, your blood is darker red.

● **White blood cells** search your body for germs and then fight them.

● **Plasma** is a pale liquid which carries "food" – sugars, salts and chemicals. About half your blood is made up of plasma, which also contains fibrinogen which makes the fibrins to clot your blood.

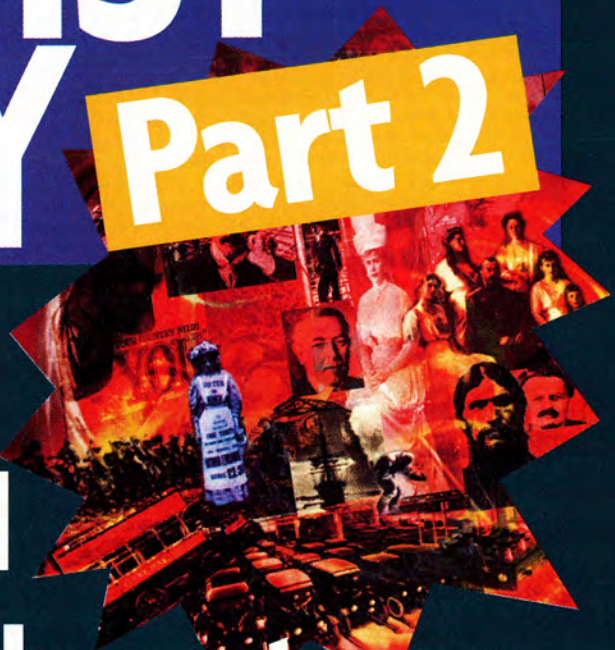


THIS DOES

COUNTDOWN TO THE 21ST CENTURY

Part 2

What happened during the second decade of the 20th century – 1910-1919...



NEW KING

Edward VII died in May 1910 and his son became King George V. Kings and their families from all over the world came to this country to see him crowned in June 1911.

MILLIONS DIE IN WAR

Fighting all over the world happened during this decade. Millions of people died.

In 1912, Greece, Bulgaria and Serbia went to war with Turkey. In June 1913, Greece and Serbia declared war on Bulgaria. All the fighting was about who ruled what bit of

land in the area, known as the Balkans.

At the same time, many of the big countries in Europe which were in charge of many parts of the world were teaming up, joining gangs. Some were worried that Germany was trying to take control of too many countries.

Then, in June 1914, Archduke Franz Ferdinand was shot dead by a 19 year old student called Gavrilo Princip. The Archduke was going to be the next king of the Austria-Hungarian empire and was driving through Sarajevo, the

capital of Bosnia, when he was killed. Austria blamed the Serbians and declared war on Serbia in July – it was the beginning of the First World War.

Very quickly, powerful countries in Europe took sides. Russia started getting ready to support Serbia and Kaiser Wilhelm II, king of Germany, declared war on his cousin, Czar Nicholas II, king of Russia, in August.

Then Germany invaded Belgium and Britain declared war against Germany because Belgium was one of the few countries that was not

taking sides and said it was “neutral.” Over the next 4 years, lots of countries joined the fighting: Serbia, Japan, Turkey, France, Italy, the USA... Soldiers from many other countries around the world fought in the War because they were ruled by Britain and part of the British Empire – Canadians, Australians, New Zealanders, Indians, and soldiers from some African countries.

On one side were Austria-Hungary, Germany, Turkey and Bulgaria. On the other side were Serbia, Russia, France, Britain, Japan and



Italy. America joined this side in 1917, after the Germans had destroyed many of its ships.

Young men in Britain were asked to volunteer to go and fight. At first, many thought the war would be an exciting adventure. Later, the government said all men aged between 18 and 41 had to join the army because not enough men were volunteering.

There was fighting all over the world – on the Western Front in France and Belgium, on the Eastern front in Poland and Russia, in Turkey, in Macedonia and in Mesopotamia, in Egypt, Palestine and East Africa, in Serbia, Bulgaria, Romania and Greece. The Western Front was a narrow strip of land through France and Belgium, stretching from the English Channel down to Switzerland. The British and the French were on one side, the Germans on the other. The soldiers lived in cold and wet trenches in the ground. Many became ill: there were not enough doctors and there was not enough food.

The war ended on November 11, 1918. It had changed the map of the world: Germany, Austria-Hungary, Russia and Turkey no longer ruled as many parts as they had done. New countries were made as the losers gave up bits of land.

But millions of young men died in the First World

War. Many had stopped believing it was an adventure and questioned why the war was being fought. Some of them wrote poems about how awful the fighting was – have you heard of the famous war poets Siegfried Sassoon, Wilfred Owen and Rupert Brooke?

PRISON AT OLYMPIA

From the beginning of the First World War, Olympia in Kensington became a concentration camp for Germans who were living in this country. Alexandra Palace in north London also became a prison to Germans and Austrians who were called “aliens”. The feeling against Germans was so strong that many people who lived here but had been born in Germany were attacked on the streets.

HELP PAY FOR WAR

In 1917, people in Britain were asked to lend the government money to help pay for the war, which was costing £5.7 million a day! If you lent money under the War Loan scheme, you could get it back later.

PRIME MINISTERS

People first voted for a new government in this decade in January 1910. There was a tie between the Tories and the Liberals, each having 273 MPs elected. Labour had 42 MPs and the Irish Nationalists – who wanted

to rule Ireland themselves – had 82 MPs. Liberal’s Herbert Asquith stayed prime minister with the support of Labour MPs.

In November 1910, Asquith asked people to vote for MPs for the second time that year. This time, people voted for 272 Liberal MPs and 272 Tory MPs! Asquith continued as prime minister.

In 1915, all political parties worked together to form a “coalition” government during the war.

Then in 1916, the king made Liberal David Lloyd George the new prime minister. Asquith had been criticised by newspapers for not being a good enough leader during wartime.

AMERICAN PRESIDENTS

In 1912, Woodrow Wilson became president of the United States of America, replacing President William Taft. Wilson won another election in 1916.

TROUBLE IN RUSSIA

In December 1916, while Russian soldiers were fighting in the First World War, 2 relatives of the king, Czar Nicholas II, murdered Gregory Rasputin because they were worried about how much notice the Czar’s wife took of him. Rasputin was a priest and had helped her son who was ill. Do you remember how unpopular the Czar was during the first decade of the century,

1900-1909? His relatives were worried his wife’s friendship with Rasputin would make him even more unpopular. There were others who were jealous of Rasputin.

Because of the war, there wasn’t enough food or enough fuel and people were very unhappy. Thousands of soldiers had been killed in the war and the Russian people wanted to stop fighting. The Czar took no notice and went to lead the fighting himself. People were cold and hungry – they had had enough. They stopped work and marched in the streets against the war and against the king. In March 1917, Czar Nicholas II gave up his throne. When he stopped being king, Alexander Kerensky became the leader of Russia as prime minister. He moved the Czar and the royal family to Siberia.

In April, Vladimir Lenin returned to Russia after being away for 10 years. He was leader of the Bolsheviks, a group of people who said it was wrong for the Czar and his family to be so rich while others starved. Lenin had said it was wrong for a country to be ruled by a rich king – it should be ruled by the people. Lenin wanted Russia to stop fighting and so the Germans helped him get back to Russia because they thought it might help them



win the war. Two other leaders of the Bolsheviks, Leon Trotsky and Joseph Stalin, also came back to Russia.

But Kerensky decided to stay in the war against Germany, even though many Russian soldiers were now refusing to fight. So in November, the Bolsheviks got rid of Kerensky's government. It was the second time in 8 months that Russian people had fought against their country's leader. This time, they gave power to Lenin and Trotsky.

In 1918, Lenin made Moscow the new capital of Russia and the Bolsheviks became known as the Russian Communist Party. In March, Lenin took Russia out of the war – he signed a peace deal with Germany. Russia had to give up large bits of land, including Poland, to Germany and Turkey, as well as a large sum of money.

In June 1918, Czar Nicholas II and his family were killed. They had been moved from Serbia by the Bolsheviks and were being kept prisoners. They were taken down into the cellar of the house where they were staying and were shot.

GOING ON STRIKE

There were lots of strikes in Britain during the second decade of the 20th century. Many workers were paid very little for working very long days so many decided

to stop work to fight for better money and shorter working hours. Miners, cab drivers, railway workers, painters and decorators and even policemen stopped work at different times across the country (though in 1919, the government made a law which said police could not go on strike). Soldiers and police with guns were often called to stop the strikes.

WHO SHOULD RUN IRELAND?

Ireland was run by the British government but many Irish people wanted to run Ireland themselves. The people who wanted "Home Rule" were called Nationalists, and some of them belonged to a group called Sinn Fein. But a group of people living in Ireland, particularly in the north of the island, wanted Britain to stay in charge. They were called Ulster Loyalists. There were many talks in government about what best to do until 1914, when the government said they couldn't talk about Home Rule until the war was over.

But the Irish Nationalists and Sinn Fein continued to fight against the British in Ireland. Many people were killed and the trouble continued throughout the war.

It wasn't until 1921 that people in the southern part of Ireland were given the right to rule themselves.

MORE SAY FOR WOMEN

During the 10 years between 1910 and 1919, women continued to fight for the right to have a say in who ran the country. Suffragettes wanted to be able to vote at a general election. They organised marches through the streets, they smashed windows of shops – they even smashed the window of 10 Downing Street, where the prime minister lived. They went to prison, refusing to eat any food, going on "hunger strike". They threw themselves in front of cars and planted bombs to make people listen to what they were saying! In 1913, suffragette Emily Davison was hurt – and later died – after running out in the path of the horses at the Derby, a famous race.

Then the war started and because so many men were away fighting, the government asked women to work. Suddenly, women started making weapons, carrying coal and farming – work that had always been done by men.

In 1918, the government agreed to give married women who were aged over 30 the right to vote during elections, and to let women be MPs.

Women over 30 voted for the first time in the December 1918 election at the end of the war, and there were 17 women who tried to become MPs.

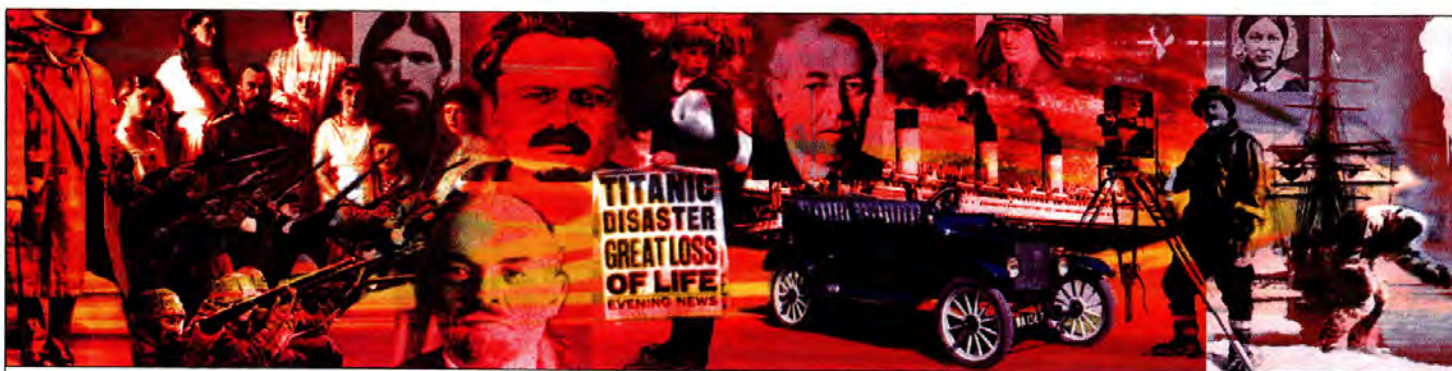
People in Dublin voted for Countess Markievicz, a member of Sinn Fein, but she did not become an MP because she refused to promise to work for the king – she believed Ireland should be allowed to rule itself. A year later, in 1919, Nancy Astor became the first woman MP.

RACE FOR THE SOUTH POLE

In June 1910, Captain Robert Scott set off to try to reach the South Pole from London on a ship called the Terra Nova, sailing to New Zealand on the first part of his journey. Later in the year, Norwegian Roald Amundsen joined the race to be the first person to reach the South Pole across frozen Antarctica.

In December 1911, Amundsen and his team of 4 men reached the South Pole and saw no sign of Captain Scott. They had travelled across the ice on sledges pulled by dogs.

A month later, Scott and his team arrived at the South Pole. Their sledges were pulled by ponies. But they never made it back to England. In February 1912, the bodies of Captain Scott and 2 other men were found in a tent in the Antarctic, along with Scott's diary which told of the death of the other 2 members of his team. One of them, Captain Oates, had been terribly ill



because of the cold. He had walked out of the tent into a snow storm, saying: "I am just going outside and may be some time." He was never seen again.

MONA LISA IS STOLEN

In August 1911, someone stole the *Mona Lisa*, the famous picture by Leonordo da Vinci, from the Louvre, the big art gallery in Paris, in the middle of the night. The painting was found in Florence in Italy at the end of 1913.

PEOPLE DIE FROM HEAT

Thousands of people died in Britain in July and August 1911 because it was so hot. Temperatures soared to 97 degrees fahrenheit.

STRONG SWIMMER

Thomas Burgess swam for 22 hours and 30 minutes across the English Channel to France in 1911. Matthew Webb had been the first man to swim between the 2 countries, 36 years before.

END OF CHILD KING'S RULE IN CHINA

Pu Yi, the 5 year old emperor of China, agreed to stop being king in 1911. The country was run instead by ordinary people who had fought to have control of their country, without the help of a royal family. In 1911, Dr Sun Yat-sen became the first president of the Chinese Republic.

FIGHTING FOR AFRICA

In 1911, Ethiopia and Liberia were the only 2 countries in Africa who were in charge of themselves. The rest were run by European countries – France, Britain, Germany, Portugal, Belgium, Spain and Italy. These countries had taken control of different parts of Africa over the past 40 years. Many people who lived in Africa had fought against being ruled by a foreign country.

THE TITANIC SINKS

More than 1,500 of the 2,340 passengers and crew of The Titanic drowned in the icy waters of the North Atlantic in April 1912 when the huge ship hit an iceberg on her first ever trip to New York.

OLYMPIC GAMES

The Olympic games of 1912 were held in Stockholm in Sweden. The Olympic games planned for 1916 in Berlin in Germany were cancelled because of the First World War.

MAKING CARS QUICKLY

In October 1913, Henry Ford told the world about his moving assembly line which made cars in America. Each worker did something different to the car as it passed in front of them. The new method meant more cars could be made – each car was now built in less than 3 hours.

POP SONGS

Hits of 1912 included *It's a Long Way to Tipperary*.

In 1913, *You Made Me Love You* and *Hello! Hello! Who's Your Lady Friend?* were popular.

In 1915, *Pack up Your Troubles in Your Old Kit Bag* was a hit.

Hits of 1919 included *I'm Forever Blowing Bubbles* and *Don't Dilly Dally on the Way*. See if any of the grown-ups in your family can sing any of these songs to you!

SUITABLE FOR CHILDREN?

In November 1912, a British "Censor of Films" was given power to say if films at the cinema were "Universal" – and could be seen by everyone – or "Not Suitable for Children."

SCHOOL KIDS ARE UNHEALTHY

In December 1913, the chief schools medical officer said one in every 12 children going to state elementary schools in Britain had a disease or was badly fed.

More than half of the 6 million children needed to see a dentist, one third were dirty, one in 10 had problems with their eyes and 3 in 100 couldn't hear properly. 2 children in every 100 had heart problems.

In 1918, the government decided that all children should stay at school until they were 14.

COLOUR PHOTOS

In October 1914, American George Eastman said that his company Eastman Kodak Company could make colour photographs.

CHANGING THE CLOCKS

In 1916, the government of this country agreed to put the clocks "forward" one hour in the summer. "Daylight Savings", or British Summer Time, started on 21 May. Lighter evenings meant fuel was saved. The clocks were put back an hour in October.

NEW TOASTER

In July 1918, American Charles Strite told the world about a new pop up machine which could toast bread.

FLU KILLS MILLIONS

In 1918, an epidemic of flu around the world killed millions of people. It was called Spanish flu, though it was not certain that it began in Spain.

NEW MOVIE COMPANY

In 1919, 4 famous movie stars formed their own company, United Artists, to organise the showing of films at cinemas. They were Mary Pickford, known as the world's sweetheart, Douglas Fairbanks, Charles Chaplin and DW Griffith. They wanted to have a share of the huge amounts of money made by their films.

AT THE END OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR, LILY WAS 9.

She is now 88.

We asked her to tell us what her life was like when she was your age, in the second decade of this century.

"I had a lot of cousins who lived in the street or nearby, and after school we would play with them and our friends, either in the street or in the garden. It was very safe to play in the street then. Our favourite games were dolls and pretending to be nurses and doctors and mothers and fathers.

"I used to get 6d (old pennies) a week pocket money and I mostly spent it on sweets – you could get plenty of sweets for 6d in those days.

"Sometimes, my father would take us to the theatre at the weekends to see ballet, or take us to the cinema.

"We used to like Charlie Chaplin films. There was no sound, you had to read the words on the screen, and there was a piano in front of the stage and a pianist played throughout the film.

"Sometimes we went on the bus to go shopping at Selfridges, which hadn't been open for very long.

"I was very happy when I was a child. We lived in Stoke Newington in a fair size house with a garden in a nice quiet street with lots of trees. My sister was just a year younger than me and we were very close, we always played together. My father was a teacher and my mum didn't work. My mum always had someone to help clean the house, once a week. I was one of the luckier ones in those days – we lived in a comfortable area and I didn't really know how poor people lived until much later when I was grown up and working away from home.

"I went to a local school – I started when I was 5 and left when I was 14 and went on to secretarial college because my parents could afford to pay for me.

"It was all girls at the school and I really enjoyed it. I don't remember anyone ever being naughty. Our teachers were all women and we really respected them. There were loads of girls in our class, many, many more than there are in classes nowadays, and we all sat in rows in desks. We used to wear white starched pinafores over our dresses and taffeta bows in our hair. My mother used to make a lot of clothes for us.

"We had one teacher each year who taught all the lessons. I liked composition (writing stories) best of all – I was

good at English and I could spell anything, I never needed a dictionary.

"We went to school from 9am to 4pm, and everyone went home for lunch every day.

"Britain was the greatest country in the world then, there were so many other countries under our rule. Everywhere on the map of the world was pink, which meant it was ruled by Britain, and we used to learn all about the different countries in geography.

"April 23 was Empire Day and all the children at school would dress up in costumes of the different countries which were part of the Empire.

"We were very proud of the Empire, and we were very proud of the King, George V. He was the greatest thing, and no-one would say anything bad about him, or about the Royal family.

"I used to like the school outings when our mums would give us packed lunches and we would visit the museums in London.

"We had religious education at school, but it was a Christian education and we would sit out because we were Jewish. My dad wasn't very strict about Jewish customs, but all the family used to come together for very Holy days, like Jewish New Year, or Passover. We would have big feasts and dress up in lovely clothes. We used to really like that.

"The First World War didn't really affect us at school. But my father had to join the army and he was away from home for 3 years. I remember when he came back, we felt so strange. He had grown a moustache and he wanted us to sit on his lap.

"While he was away, my mother worked for the first time in a factory as a manglewoman. She had to earn money, because my dad wasn't earning much as a soldier. But she stopped working as soon as he came back.

"During the War, my mother kept chickens in the back garden so we could have eggs and we used to feed them.

"I don't remember teachers or other adults talking about the War, and there was no television or radio.

"We knew there were people who used to smash windows in shops owned by Germans, and there used to be searchlights in the sky at night.

"We used to see soldiers who had come home because they had been wounded. They all wore royal blue suits, and they had legs or eyes missing, or they were using wheelchairs. We didn't realise exactly what was going on, or what was happening – I got to understand it all later. In those days, grown-ups didn't talk to children about those sort of things."

FILMWATCH

WHAT DO CLOTHES SAY?



The clothes people wear in films are called costumes and they tell us about who the people are, what time they live in, where they come from and what sort of life they lead. Tarzan doesn't wear much because he lives by himself in a jungle where it is very hot. At the beginning of the film *A Little Princess*, Sara wears velvet and has ribbons in her tidy hair because her father is rich. Later, when she becomes poor, her clothes become rags. Putting clothes on the wrong way or on the wrong people can often make us laugh. Don't you think it's funny when Robin Williams puts on a dress in *Mrs Doubtfire* and pretends to be a woman?

Costumes can also tell us about the sort of film we are watching. A space suit means it is a science fiction film, while a white coat tells you the film is about hospitals.

In real life, clothes give us clues about each other – where we shop, what music we like, which football team we support. Sometimes the clothes grown-ups wear can give us clues about what jobs they do.

Next time you're on the bus or the tube, look at the people around you and see if you can guess anything about them by the way they are dressed.



Family Travelcard

Other Travelcard

Cinema Ticket



Free kids' Cinema Tickets

(Any trouble with the sums, ask a child.)

You'll have no trouble working out the benefits of the Family Travelcard. It can be used for unlimited travel on tubes, buses and trains, throughout the day.* It saves adults 20% on the price of a One Day Travelcard, whilst children travel for just 60p. And now it can even help get you free kids' cinema tickets which are valid until December 31st. All you have to do is save one Family Travelcard along with one other Family, Weekend or One Day Travelcard, pay for one adult ABC cinema ticket and you will receive two free children's cinema tickets. The offer applies to selected ABC cinemas and is open to those aged 18 or over. For full details, call London Travel Information on 0171 222 1234 or pick up the Family Travelcard leaflet from any tube station, National Railways station or selected newsagents.

*After 9.30am Monday to Friday and all day Saturday and Sunday.



Making London simple



FILM WATCH



WHAT DO CLOTHES SAY?

People used to think women who showed even their ankles in public were very rude – women had to wear long dresses so the skirts would hide their legs. Different groups of people have different rules about what bits of their body they can or cannot show in public. In some parts of the world, people wear very few clothes – they and their neighbours think it's perfectly okay not to cover up their bodies. But in other parts of the world, people cover themselves from head to toe. These rules sometimes change over time. Imagine what people living in Edwardian and Victorian times in this country would have thought about people on the beach today, wearing bikinis and swimming shorts! What would Queen Victoria have thought about the lifeguards in *Baywatch*?

You can't read these rules

anywhere because they are not written down. Some of them are obvious – in this country, you often see men walking in the street in the summer with a bare chest, but women never do. We learn about other rules as we grow up and find out about the world around us and what our family thinks.

When the examiners at the British Board of Film Classification (BBFC) are deciding whether to make a film a U, PG, 12, 15 or 18, they have to think carefully about the rules of this country if a film shows pictures of people with no clothes on.

In *A Room with a View*, for example, there is a scene where a group of men living at the beginning of this century suddenly decide to go swimming in a lake. They play about in the water and splash each other and we see them naked on the screen. This film was given a PG certificate by the BBFC – we all know how nice it is to play around in water,

so when we watch the film we share their fun. We also laugh when the naked men bump into some people who are fully dressed! It is funny because the story is set in a time when everyone kept all of their bodies covered up and the rules in England were much stricter than they are now.

Next time you borrow a video from your local shop, look on the back of the box. You will see there is information from the BBFC there which tells you if the film has pictures of people with no clothes on, or nudity, in it. This is because the BBFC believes it is up to your parents, not film makers and actors, to teach their children about their bodies and about the rules.

For the same reason, the examiners at the BBFC would give some films that show pictures of naked people much higher certificates. That means you wouldn't be able to go and see them at a cinema. Our bodies are more marvellous than any machine – they can think, breathe and move. We need to learn to respect our own and other people's bodies, and we need to learn about the rules from our own families.

FilmWatch is written by Deborah Courtneil who is one of the BBFC's examiners. She decides whether a film should be a U, PG, 12, 15 or 18. If you want to know why a film has been given a certain certificate, you can write to her at No Kidding! You can also ask her about other areas of her work with films. The address is: FilmWatch, No Kidding! PO Box 10427, London N8 8UP



WHEN I EAT AN EGG, AM I EATING A BABY CHICKEN?



The answer is no!



A baby chicken will only grow inside an egg if it has been fertilised by a male chicken, which is called a cock.

The eggs that we buy from the shops have not been fertilised. They have been laid by chickens who are kept away from male hens. If you crack an egg, you may notice a tiny red dot on the yolk. This is called the “germinal disc” and would have become a baby chick if the egg had been fertilised.

Chickens lay eggs all year round. That’s because a chicken will lay more eggs if the eggs she has already laid are taken away from her.

Most of the eggs you buy in the shops are laid by

hens who are kept with 3 or 4 other hens in cages. Farmers who sell these eggs to the shops keep lots of hens in lots of cages. This sort of farm is called a battery farm and the chickens are fed by machines. Their eggs are also collected by machines.

If the box of eggs you buy says “free range”,

it means the eggs were laid by chickens who are allowed to run about on a farm. They eat insects and plants that they find on the ground and are given extra food to keep them strong and healthy. The farmer collects their eggs every day. It costs a farmer more to keep chickens on free range farms than it does in battery farms.

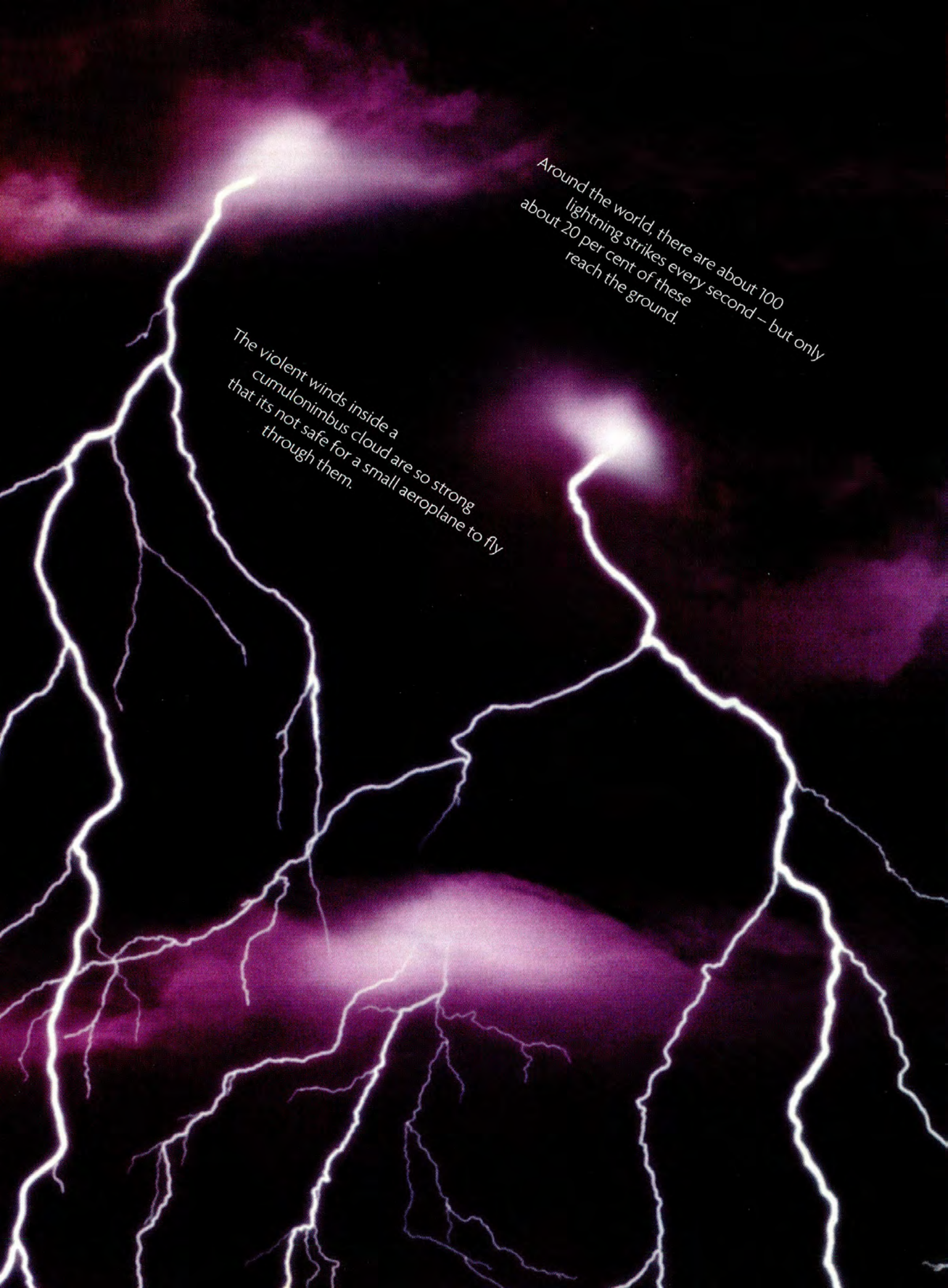
Have you ever noticed when you take the shell off a hard-boiled egg that there’s a “flat” piece at one end of the egg? That’s because inside the shell, at the round end of the egg, there is a pocket of air. If an egg is very fresh, there is a small air pocket. Eggs contain quite a lot of

water – as the egg gets older, it slowly loses water through its shell. Air is sucked in through tiny holes in the shell and the air pocket gets bigger. The flatter your hard-boiled egg is, the older it is! A stale egg will float because it has so much air inside it!

Egg shells are different colours because different types of chickens lay different colour eggs.

Many farmers add something called “canthaxanthin” to the food they give to their chickens to make the yolk in their eggs a stronger yellow colour.

The canthaxanthin is made by humans and has been used to colour food since the mid-1960s. If you see E161(g) on the list of ingredients on a pack of food, this means the food contains canthaxanthin. “E” stands for European – all Es are things which are thought to be safe to add to food by countries which are members of the European Union.



Around the world, there are about 100
lightning strikes every second – but only
about 20 per cent of these
reach the ground.

The violent winds inside a
cumulonimbus cloud are so strong
that it's not safe for a small aeroplane to fly
through them.

PENGUINS LIVING AT THE SOUTH POLE HAVE NEVER SEEN LIGHTNING!

There are thunder and lightning storms all over the world except for the North and South Poles. That's because there needs to be warm air rising to help a cloud make lightning – at the Poles, sunlight bounces off the ice and never heats the ground or frozen sea.

There are all sorts of different clouds in the sky, and the big bulgy ones that make lightning and thunder are called cumulonimbus. A cumulonimbus cloud is a churning mix of water, ice and wind, towering high into the atmosphere – it can be up to 16 km tall!

All clouds are made when the water vapour in the air (water soaked up from rivers and seas and turned into gas) condenses or turns back into water around tiny, tiny bits of dust and dirt. The water vapour rises in warm air and condenses as it reaches colder temperatures higher in the sky.

Cumulonimbus clouds are dark because they are so full of water the sunlight cannot shine through them. They stretch so high up that there is a huge difference in temperatures at the bottom and at the top of the cloud. Warm air is rising into the bottom of the cloud while the top part is frozen because it is

in very cold air. Strong winds inside the cloud blow

bits of ice and water up and down, tearing them apart and smashing them against each other. As they are torn apart and smashed together, they become charged with electricity.

If you look at a battery, you will see 2 terminals – one is marked with a + (positive) and the other with a – (negative). If the 2 terminals are joined by a conductor – something through which electricity can pass – electricity flows from the negative to the positive terminal.

The cloud starts to look a bit like a battery, with a positive charge at the top and a negative charge at the bottom. The ground below the cloud also becomes positively charged.

A huge amount of energy is made within a violent storm cloud, enough to push electricity through the air, even

though air is not a good conductor. Volts measure how hard electricity is being pushed – a lightning flash can measure 100 million volts!

If the electricity leaps inside the cloud, the cloud lights up, like a huge lightbulb in the sky. This is called sheet lightning. Sometimes the electricity leaps from one cloud to another. If the electricity leaps to the ground, you will see a zig zag of light streaking across the sky at about 96 million metres per second. This is called fork lightning. The electricity then goes back up to the cloud, along the same path.

As it streaks along, the powerful electricity heats up the air around it – the air becomes 5 times hotter than the sun! As the air reaches temperatures of up to 50,000 ° Celsius, it stretches or expands really, really quickly. This makes a huge crashing noise – we call it thunder.

You can't have thunder without lightning, because thunder is caused by lightning. But sometimes you may see lightning and hear no thunder. That's because light travels faster than sound – light speeds along at roughly 300 million metres per second,

while sound only travels at 330 metres per second. The flash of lightning may reach your eyes, even if it's 150 km away, but you're unlikely to hear thunder if it's more than 20 km away. You can work out how far away the storm is by counting how many seconds there are between the lightning and the thunder. Roughly, 3 seconds equals 1 km.

The tall Empire State Building in New York is hit by lightning about 500 times a year! Lightning will pass through any conductor of electricity on its way to the ground. Some tall buildings have lightning conductors which are poles of metal. The lightning can travel down these instead of hitting the building and causing damage.

People are conductors of electricity so it's best to be sensible if you're out and about in a thunderstorm. It's not a good idea to take shelter under tall trees which may be hit by lightning, or to shelter under an umbrella – metal in the umbrella is a conductor and may attract the lightning.



Meteorologist James Buxton helped No Kidding! write this article. Meteorologists are people who study the weather and predict what will happen tomorrow.

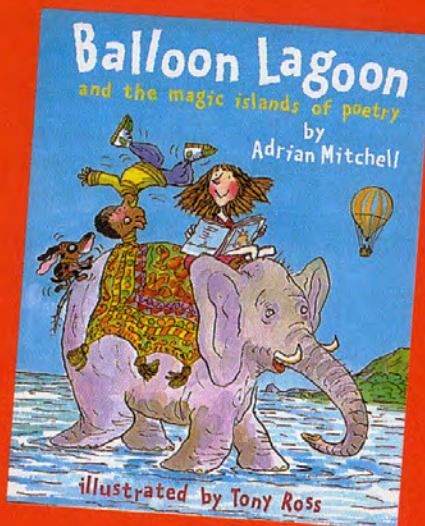
SHELFIE

Balloon Lagoon and the Magic Islands of Poetry

by Adrian Mitchell

Adrian Mitchell writes wonderful poetry and these poems are split up into 4 different sections or "islands" – Mysteriosa, Spookalulu, Balloon and Lagoon.

Published by Orchard Press



Roald Dahl's Revolting Rhymes

by Roald Dahl

This is one of Roald Dahl's funniest and most gruesome books. 6 well know nursery tales are retold in rhyme and have some very unexpected twists to the stories.

Published by Puffin

Tea in the Sugar Bowl, Potato in my Shoe

by Michael Rosen and Quentin Blake

Some of Michael Rosen's best poems are in this hilarious book. There are strange goings-on at the beach, chaos over breakfast and down at the doctor's, there's a fat white cat with a dribbly bibbly nose...

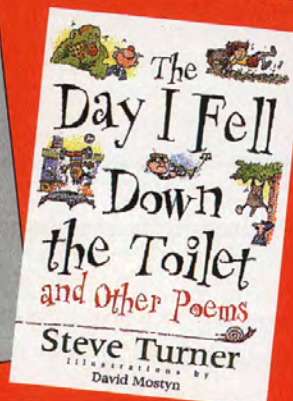
Published by Walker Books

The Day I Fell Down the Toilet

by Steve Turner

There are poems for everyone in this book – poems about everyday life, about animals, friends and school, poems about serious things like pollution and death, and poems about crazy things too, like the day I fell down the toilet...

Published by Lion



Get in line for KidZones.
(Don't forget to take Mum and Dad).

Children's riding by District Line Train, 1954. © London Transport Museum



London Transport Museum



Covent Garden Piazza

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COMPETITION

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THE KIDZONES

AT THE LONDON TRANSPORT MUSEUM

We've got 10 family tickets to the London Transport Museum to give away to No Kidding! readers....

Just send in your name, age, address and school name to No Kidding! Transport PO Box 10427 London N8 8UP by Friday 17 April 1998.

The first 10 names drawn out of the hat will be sent a family ticket admitting 2 children and 2 adults to the London Transport Museum in Covent Garden.

Terms and conditions

1. Closing date Friday 17 April 1998.
2. There are no cash alternatives.
3. Only 1 entry per child.
4. Winners will be sent their prize by post.

Shake before Opening

by Jez Alborough

The poems in this book are sometimes funny, sometimes rude and always brilliant!

Published by Hutchinson

Talking Turkeys

by Benjamin Zephaniah

If you haven't ever read Benjamin Zephaniah's poems, read this book! It's one of his best yet...

Published by Puffin

PADDINGTON IS 40 YEARS OLD!

Have you read any of the stories about Paddington Bear who loves marmalade and lives with the Brown family? The first book, *A Bear Called Paddington*, was published in 1958, 40 years ago! It was written by Michael Bond

who was a BBC cameraman but later gave up his job to write all the time. There are 14 novels and loads of short stories about Paddington and you can find out all sorts of things about him if you visit a special exhibition at the London Toy and Model Museum.



You can find all these books at your local library!

It's free to join and you can borrow hundreds of books. All you have to do to join is to ask your parent or your carer to come with you to sign a form. If you can't find the book you want to read on your local library shelves, ask a librarian for help. If someone else has borrowed the book, ask the librarian to reserve the book for you. They will let you know when it's returned. Most libraries also have music and stories on tape. Some libraries have videos for loan too, but you may have to ask your parent or carer to borrow them. The books on this page were chosen by librarians who work in children's libraries.

WORLD BOOK DAY...

is on 23 April and each of you should be given a £1 book voucher through your school. The vouchers should be sent to your school before the Easter holidays and you can get £1 off any book if you use them before the 2 May. Check if your local bookshop will take the vouchers – look for the World Book Day notice in the window. World Book Day is being organised in this country by the Publishers Association and the Booksellers Association of Great Britain and Ireland.

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Tony Robinson presenter (Channel 4's Time Team)

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Present your concert ticket at the London Aquarium to claim a free entry for one child with every full paying adult (maximum four free children in a group).

(Offer runs until 31 May 1998, excluding Bank Holidays.)

A Rough Guide to Music Volume III (1880 onwards)

Sunday 24 May 1998 at 11.30am

Towards the end of the 19th century, new ideas and sounds emerge, and then ...music's equivalent of the Big Bang ...the 20th century arrives.

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AROUND THE WORLD



IMAGINE MAKING 1,000 MATCH BOXES EVERY DAY...

That's what 10-year-old Jeylakshmi does, before school, after school and when she hurries home during school break times. Jeylakshmi lives in south India and has little time to play with friends – she has to earn money to help her family pay the rent and buy food and clothes because her dad only gets paid about 10 rupees (about 2p) a day selling poppadoms.

Jeylakshmi is one of 250 million children around the world who work for little money – scrubbing floors, washing clothes, selling flowers, breaking stones, searching through rubbish for plastic and cardboard that can be sold, making carpets, making shoes... The money they earn helps their families to live. Some of them, like Jeylakshmi, manage to get to school as well as work. Others work such long hours that they have no

CHRISTIAN AID/R. LEATHARD



time for school. Some don't get paid at all but have to work with their parents, or away from home. Some children get hurt while at work, some even die.

Now children and grown-ups in nearly 100 countries have decided to do something to try to stop children having to work like this. Thousands are taking part in a Global March which started in the Philippines in January. A group of children and adults are travelling to Geneva in Switzerland – by boat, by bus or walking.

Thousands of people came to see them off from Manila in the Philippines. They have already been through Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand and Malaysia, being joined by people who agree with them in each country. In February, another group of children and adults left Brazil in south America to make their way to Geneva, and on 21 March, a third group will leave South Africa. All 3 groups of marchers will arrive in Switzerland in June, having travelled through Asia, Latin America, North America and Europe.

On 1 June, the International Labour

Organisation, the part of the United Nations which talks about work around the world, will meet in Geneva and start talking about how to stop children working long hours in often dangerous jobs. The marchers are telling governments of the world that they

think it is wrong for children to have to work. They want all governments to take action to make sure no child aged under 14 is forced to work full-time.

Christian Aid, one of the 700 organisations helping to organise the Global March, wants to collect enough footprints to make the distance between London and Geneva – that's 750 kilometres! The footprints will be given to Prime Minister Tony Blair to show him how many children in this country think it's wrong for other children to have to work so hard.



If you want to support the marchers, why not make your footprint?

Draw around your foot and cut it out. Decorate it, sign it, even add a photograph of yourself. If you and your friends in class make enough footprints, why not ask your teacher if you can put them up in school before you send them off? Christian Aid wants all the footprints to arrive by 24 April so they can deliver them to Tony Blair on 1 May. **Christian Aid's address is Global March Footprints PO Box 100, London SE1 7RT.**

JENNY MATTHEWS/NETWORK



WHO IS KOFI ANNAN?



The flag of the United Nations shows the world held in the olive branches of peace.



He is Secretary-General of the United Nations (UN), an organisation which was set up after the Second World War to try to stop countries fighting each other.

You may have seen Kofi Annan on the news when he went to Baghdad in Iraq to talk to President Saddam Hussein. Kofi Annan was trying to stop a war between Iraq and the United States of America and Britain. The USA and

Britain feared Iraq had hidden bombs which could hurt a lot of people. Kofi Annan wanted Saddam Hussein to let the UN check Iraq's weapons.

The United Nations started on 24 October 1945 when 51 countries signed a Charter, a set of rules which they all agreed to follow to try to keep peace. The UN has a Security Council which tries to sort out arguments between countries, or sometimes

between people living in the same country, by talking to both sides. Sometimes, "peacekeepers" are sent by the Security Council – soldiers from different countries who wear blue helmets or blue berets, who don't take sides and don't fight unless they are attacked. 5 countries are always members of the Security Council – China, France, the UK, Russia and America. 10 other countries take turns on the Council for 2 years at a time.

Most countries in the world are members of the United Nations, and they meet together once a year to talk about all sorts of things that concern everyone on the planet – not only war, but also things like pollution and disease. The UN brings countries together to try to makes life better for

people living all over the world – to try to get rid of poverty, to try to make sure everyone has a home,

The United Nations believes that every human being has a set of rights, and that children have their own set of rights – things they should all have. These include the right to be with a family, or people who will care for them the best, the right to have enough food to eat and clean water to drink, the right to play, the right to free education, the right to say what they think!

and that every child learns to read and write, for example. When there are floods, famine or other disasters in the world, the UN organises help.

The head office of the UN is in New York.

At the end of the Second World War, millions of children in Europe had no homes and no food. The United Nations Children's Emergency Fund started in 1946 to help them – the first thing UNICEF did was send them milk and blankets!

Nowadays the United Nations Children's Fund

helps millions of children in different countries all over the world – from making sure they get injections to stop them getting diseases to helping make the water they drink clean. You may have seen UNICEF Christmas cards – this is one of the ways UNICEF raises money.

TESTER TRIP

We took our tester team to Bingham's Park Farm

When we visited Bingham's Park Farm just outside Hemel Hempstead, we made bird boxes to take home with us! We took part in a special workshop organised for National Nest Box Week so children could make boxes where birds can lay their eggs in the Spring.

The workshop started with a walk in the woods to see different bird boxes and find out which birds had made their nests in them. Through the woods, we spotted lots of different scarecrows

and found out that if we visited later in the year, we could have a go at making scarecrows ourselves! The scarecrows in the woods lead visitors around a special nature trail, and a treasure trail.

In a barn, we were all given pieces of wood, nails and hammers and shown how to make a bird box to put up ourselves. Birds on the look out for a safe place to lay their eggs will hopefully make nests in them and their babies will hatch at the end of April.

At the Farm, there are goats, sheep, pigs, chickens, peacocks and many more animals to look at. You can feed and stroke some of

them too. There is also a huge field where you can play football, rounders and other games, tractor rides, and a shop stocked with lovely food to buy and take home with you.

Here are some of the things our tester team said:

"It's a brilliant place because there are lots of animals to look at and to stroke. In the woods, I liked it when we saw a tree that had been cut down and we worked out how old it was by counting the rings on the trunk." (age 7)

"I think it's a good place for both little kids and big kids, because there are animals, things to do like making the bird boxes and a great football pitch!" (age 11)

"I thought it was a really good visit and there were lots of things to do. I really liked feeding the animals. I'd like to go again." (age 8)

"I loved the way the goats licked my hand when I fed them. Some of the animals fought for the food which was a bit scary and made me a bit nervous at first because I thought they were going to bite me, but they didn't." (age 9)

"It was good fun in the woods trying to spot the scarecrows and it was fun when we actually made the bird boxes ourselves, though I needed help from a grown-up. I loved feeding the farm animals." (age 7)

"I liked walking through the woods. The best bit was feeding the animals and playing football at the end." (age 11)

"Going on the tractor ride, making something ourselves and feeding the animals were the best bits." (age 6)

"The things we were told about the birds and other animals in the woods were quite interesting. It was really fun feeding the farm animals, once you got used to it. I would love to go again and make scarecrows." (age 10)

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FactFile

Bingham's Park Farm, Potten End Hill, Water End Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP1 3BN is open 7 days a week from 9am to 5.30pm.

Cost

£2 children, £2.50 adults to see the farm animals and follow the nature trail through the woods. School holiday workshops cost extra – the bird box workshop was £5.

Travel

By car along the M1, leave at junction 8 towards Hemel Hempstead then take the A4146 towards Leighton Buzzard until you see signs to the Farm.

A PROBLEM SHARED

Thank you for sending so much advice to the 2 readers whose problems we printed last time. Here are some of the things you said.

"My mum has a computer but I never get to play any games on it because she is always working on it. I don't think that's fair."

"Your mother has to do more important things for your family. Why not ask your mum if you can have Saturday and Sunday with the computer?"

Andrew, age 10

"Don't shout about this. Ask her nicely if you can use it when she's making the dinner or cleaning up."

Samantha, age 8.

"If your mum has to work on the computer, then let her. She probably did not buy it for you to play on. I'm sure she'll let you play when she's not using it."

Isabelle, age 9.

"Talk to your mum and tell her that you would like to use the computer to play a few games. She may say yes."

Amma, age 10.

"First of all, make sure your mum is nice and comfortable. Try making her a card and inside tell her in a kind way how much you would like to play on her computer sometimes. Try to surprise her by giving her the card when she is not expecting it."

Giles, age 10.

"My mum and dad have split up and I hardly ever see my dad now. I want him to come home but my mum hates him."

"Try and talk to your mum and dad to sort out a schedule where you can go to your dad's one week, and to your mum's the next."

Katey, age 10.

"Try talking to your mum about how you feel. Say they may have split up, but he is still your father and you have the right to see him. Good luck."

Isabelle, age 9.

"You have to try to accept your mum and dad are not together anymore and that your mum doesn't get on with him anymore. Try to tell your mum how you feel and hopefully she will understand."

Kelly, age 10.

"Try to tell your mum how much you need your dad. I know how hard it is without one."

Rahna, age 9.

"It's important to talk about how you feel and not keep it inside you. Make sure you talk to friends and teachers."

Katherine, age 9.

"Tell your mum and your dad to grow up. This isn't your problem, it's theirs and they've got to sort it out properly. Tell them they should listen to how you feel and make sure they know what you want."

Jules, age 8.

"Your mum is probably feeling really sad and that's why she says she hates your dad. When she gets used to being split up, I'm sure she will let you see him. You just have to give her time."

Jack, age 11.

"My mum won't let me see my dad either, but when I'm older I'm going to see him lots. Remember that when you're bigger you can do what you want."

Ahmed, age 7.

"Why don't you write to your dad and keep in touch with him that way."

Andrea, age 8.

"I suggest you speak to your mother and tell her how much you miss your father. Ask her to let you speak to him and see him. Hopefully, your mum will understand. I hope it works out."

Andrew, age 10.

Send your advice to No Kidding! Freepost London 6868 PO Box 10427 London N8 8BR.

If you've got a problem to share, write to us at the same address.

Can you help these two readers?

"I come from Poland and I have lived in London for a long time. Now my parents want to back to Poland and I have to go back with them. I don't want to go because I don't know anyone there anymore."

"My teacher is always shouting and it seems to me that she has favourites. I am not cheeky but she shouts at me a lot. I wish I could move school."

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