

# A letter from home

Here is a sample letter written by a mother to an evacuee.

Dear Michael,

I am sorry you are homesick. We also miss you very much here at home. Yesterday we had another raid and your father and I had to spend the night in the bomb shelter. It was damp in the shelter, but there was more room in the shelter without you. We hope you are sleeping in a nice bed. It is probably much more comfortable than at home. I sleep much better at night now, knowing that you are safe. The bombs did not hit our street, but Mrs Everham, the baker, was bombed out. Today we had to que in the street for our bread ration and when I got to the front of the line there were only half rations left. You are lucky to have fresh eggs - I hope you are eating everything on your plate. I will send you a pair of socks and a warm scarf. I hope that your father and I can come to visit you soon. Please be good for your host and do not give them any troubles.

Love Mum

1. How does Michael's mother try to cheer him up?



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2. Imagine that you are the parent or other relative of an evacuee and are writing a letter to them. You might want to include information about how everyone at home is doing; what is happening at home; how much you miss your relative; information that will cheer up the evacuee; questions to the evacuee.

# Teacher's sheet

Based on **pages 26 and 27** of *Children in the Second World War*

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### Age range

- Years 3/4 (SP4/5).
- Years 5/6 (SP6/7).

### Resources

Copies of the worksheet. Additional sheets of paper for writing letters.

### Using the worksheet

Being evacuated was not only a wrench for children, parents had a very difficult time too. Although parents could visit their children, this was not easy for most people because of the expense involved. Instead, families exchanged letters often.

You could use this activity after worksheet **12B** or instead of that activity. You may also want to have the class write letters as children and the other half to write letters as their parents.

### Younger students

You may wish to begin by reading the letter out in class and having the students discuss how Michael's mother might have felt when he was sent away.

### Outcomes

The students can:

- Understand what it was like to be the relative of an evacuee and the things the people left behind might find difficult.
- Write a letter based on imagination.

### Older students

The students may like to write a diary instead of a letter, detailing one week in the life of an evacuee.

### Outcomes

The students can:

- Understand what it was like to be the relative of an evacuee and the things the people left behind might find difficult.
- Write a letter based on imagination.