

Reading extract and questions:

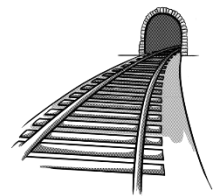
Year 5-6

Evacuation – for and against Set A/B



In the late 1930s, there was a growing realisation that war was coming. Nazi Germany, led by Adolf Hitler, had been acting aggressively and there was fear across the UK that this country would get caught up in the conflict. Along with a threat of invasion came a new danger. Aircraft had been developing rapidly over the first four decades of the twentieth century and there were now bombers capable of reaching cities deep inside enemy territory.

Anxious for the fate of its citizens, the British Government launched Operation Pied Piper on the 1st September 1939 – two days before war broke out. Hundreds of thousands of children were assembled with only a handful of possessions and loaded onto trains and buses and evacuated into the countryside. Within the first few days of this extraordinary undertaking, over one and a half million children had been evacuated. The question is, was it the right thing to do?



The authorities certainly believed it was necessary. Any Government has a duty to safeguard its people and the first thing you can do for those at risk is to remove them from danger. No one would have claimed that removing children from their parents would be painless, but they had to consider the bigger picture.

Nor could anyone say that the Government was crying wolf. Most of the country's major cities were, indeed, attacked by waves of bombers, night after night. Some areas, such as Coventry and the East End of London, were absolutely devastated with thousands of people losing their lives. No matter what hardships the evacuees might have faced, at least they were spared the main horrors of war. Some even enjoyed it and gained probably their first experience of living in the countryside.

On the other hand, you might wonder whether this ambitious plan was properly thought through. Physical injuries are often obvious but some scars cannot be seen and we are only just beginning to appreciate the damage that can be caused by separation. What's more, it wasn't just the children who suffered: the parents also hated seeing their little ones being taken away.

Furthermore, there wasn't time to assess whether they were being sent to suitable homes with caring, sympathetic people. It is clear that some of those who were told to accept the evacuees really did not want their lives disrupted by the arrival of strange children so we can imagine how awkward it might have been.



We can all be wise in hindsight. In the end, most of the children were safely reunited with their families as the threat of German invasion faded. Some, however, returned to find that their parents had perished and their communities had been destroyed. Was it worth the pain? More importantly, if we ever find ourselves in a similar situation, should we attempt another programme of widespread evacuation?

Questions for *Evacuation – for and against*

Set A

Vocabulary:

1. Look at the first paragraph. **Find** and **copy** a word that means *quickly*.

2. Look at the second paragraph. *Within the first few days of this extraordinary undertaking...* What does *undertaking* mean in this sentence? **Tick one**.

task

☐

journey

☐

theft

☐

question

☐

3. ... *just beginning to appreciate* ... In this sentence, *appreciate* means ...

Retrieval

4. Who was leader of Nazi Germany?

5. When was Operation Pied Piper launched?

6. Which **two** places does the text say were devastated by waves of bombers?

Inference

7. Apart from bombing, what did the British worry that the Germans would do to their country?

8. *Nor could anyone say the Government was crying wolf.* Explain what this means.

9. ... *some scars cannot be seen* ... What do you think the author means by this?

Summarise

10. Below are some summaries of different paragraphs from the text. Number them from **1** to **5** to show the order in which they appear in the text.

Parts of the UK were heavily bombed.	
People were upset by the evacuation.	
The British were worried that a war was coming.	
Children returned to their homes.	
The Government started evacuating children.	

Predict

11. Based on what you have read, name **one** thing you think the Government would improve for any future evacuation.

Compare

12. Look at the fifth and sixth paragraphs. They both give arguments against evacuation but from a different perspective. Explain how.

Questions for *Evacuation* – *for and against*

Set B

Vocabulary:

1. Look at the first paragraph. **Find** and **copy** a word that means *understanding*.

2. *Some areas ... were absolutely devastated ...* What does *devastated* mean in this sentence? **Tick one.**

upset

☐

attacked

☐

destroyed

☐

evacuated

☐

3. Look at the sixth paragraph. ... *with sympathetic people* ... In this sentence, *sympathetic* means ...

Retrieval

4. According to the text, when had aircraft been developing rapidly?

5. How many children had been removed within the first few days of the evacuation?

6. In what way does the text suggest some children enjoyed being evacuated?

Inference

7. According to the text, why did people in the UK think war was coming?

8. On which date did the war break out?

9. *We can all be wise in hindsight.* What do you think the author means by this?

Meaning as a whole

10. Find and copy a group of words that tell you the other side of the argument is about to be given.

Authorial intent

11. ... *this country would get caught up in the conflict* ... What do these words suggest about the UK's willingness to have a war with Germany?

Compare

12. The opinions given in the article change throughout the text. How do they change?

Answers for Evacuation – for and against

Set A:

Vocabulary:

1. rapidly
2. task
3. understand

Retrieval:

4. Adolf Hitler
5. 1st September 1939
6. Coventry and the East End of London

Inference:

7. invade
8. They weren't making it up/lying/pretending something was happening when it wasn't
9. Accept answers that suggest mental or psychological scars, such as hurt feelings, fear or homesickness.

Summarise:

10.

Parts of the UK were heavily bombed.	3
People were upset by the evacuation.	4
The British were worried that a war was coming.	1
Children returned to their homes.	5
The Government started evacuating children.	2

Predict:

11. Evacuate parents with their children./Assess the suitability of people who were taking in the children./Check the people taking the children were caring/sympathetic.

Compare:

12. The fifth paragraph focuses on the people being evacuated. The sixth paragraph focuses on the people who took in the evacuees.

Commissioned by The PiXL Club Ltd. July 2019

This resource is strictly for the use of member schools for as long as they remain members of The PiXL Club. It may not be copied, sold nor transferred to a third party or used by the school after membership ceases. Until such time it may be freely used within the member school.

All opinions and contributions are those of the authors. The contents of this resource are not connected with nor endorsed by any other company, organisation or institution.

PiXL Club Ltd endeavour to trace and contact copyright owners. If there are any inadvertent omissions or errors in the acknowledgements or usage, this is unintended and PiXL will remedy these on written notification.

Answers for *Evacuation* – for and against

Set B:

Vocabulary:

1. realisation
2. destroyed
3. kind/understanding/welcoming

Retrieval:

4. over the first four decades of the twentieth century
5. one and a half million
6. They gained probably their first experience of living in the countryside.

Inference:

7. Nazi Germany, led by Adolf Hitler, had been acting aggressively.
8. 3rd September 1939
9. It's easy to say what you should have done after something has happened.

Meaning as a whole:

10. On the other hand ...

Authorial intent:

11. That it didn't want a war and might get drawn into it against its wishes (or similar)

Compare:

12. At the beginning, it just explains some facts about the evacuation. Then it gives opinions in favour of evacuation followed by opinions against it. Finally, it explains what happened in the end and questions whether evacuation was worth it (accept reference to any of the above but answer must state at least one change in opinion)

Commissioned by The PiXL Club Ltd. July 2019

This resource is strictly for the use of member schools for as long as they remain members of The PiXL Club. It may not be copied, sold nor transferred to a third party or used by the school after membership ceases. Until such time it may be freely used within the member school.

All opinions and contributions are those of the authors. The contents of this resource are not connected with nor endorsed by any other company, organisation or institution.

PiXL Club Ltd endeavour to trace and contact copyright owners. If there are any inadvertent omissions or errors in the acknowledgements or usage, this is unintended and PiXL will remedy these on written notification.