

War Boy

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- 1 I woke up when the bomb came through my roof. It came through at an angle, overflowed my bed by inches, bounced up over my mother's bed, hit the mirror, dropped into the grate and exploded up the chimney. It was an incendiary. A fire-bomb.

- 5 My brother Ivan appeared in pyjamas and his Home Guard tin hat. Being in the Home Guard, he had ensured that all the rooms in our house were stuffed with sandbags. Ivan threw sand over the bomb but the dry sand kept sliding off. He threw the hearthrug over the bomb and jumped up and down on it, until brother Pud arrived with a bucket of wet sand from the yard. This did the trick.

- 10 Mother grabbed me from the bed. The night sky was filled with lights. Searchlights, anti-aircraft fire, stars and a bombers' moon. The sky bounced as my mother ran. Just as we reached our dug-out across the street, the sky flared red as the church exploded.



1. Where was the narrator just before this story begins?

2. *"I woke up when the bomb came through my roof"* (paragraph 1).

Why do you think the author began the story with that sentence?

3. *"It was an incendiary. A fire-bomb"* (paragraph 1).

Why do you think the author added the information telling you what kind of bomb it was?

4. The Home Guard were not soldiers but they were trained to keep people in towns and cities safe.

How did being in the Home Guard help Ivan and Pud to keep the family safe?

5. How do you think Ivan felt when he was throwing sand on the bomb?

Explain your answer using ideas from the text.

6. Do you think it was dark outside?

Yes No

Explain your answer using ideas from the text.

7. *"the sky flared red as the church exploded."*

Suggest a different word with a similar meaning that the author could have used instead of *"flared"*.

8. The setting for this story is in 1940.

Find two more pieces of evidence that show that the setting is during a war.

9. Do you think the narrator was an adult or a child when this event happened?

Explain your answer using ideas from the text.

Question	Answer
1. Where was the narrator just before this story begins?	In bed/asleep.
2. "I woke up when the bomb came through my roof" (paragraph 1). Why do you think the author began the story with that sentence?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • it's an exciting/surprising beginning. • To make you want to find out what happens next. • It's the beginning of the adventure he's writing about.
3. "It was an incendiary. A fire-bomb" (paragraph 1). Why do you think the author added the information telling you what kind of bomb it was?	In case the reader didn't know what an incendiary was/to emphasise the point.
4. The Home Guard were not soldiers but they were trained to keep people in towns and cities safe. How did being in the Home Guard help Ivan and Pud to keep the family safe?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All the rooms in the house were stuffed with sandbags. • They knew how to deal with the bomb. • Pud used wet sand to put the bomb out.
5. How do you think Ivan felt when he was throwing sand on the bomb? Explain your answer using ideas from the text.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frustrated/angry/cross because the sand kept slipping off. • Worried/anxious because it was in the same room as his mother and brother.

Question	Answer
6. Do you think it was dark outside? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Explain your answer using ideas from the text.	<p>Yes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was night time. • They were in bed. • Ivan was wearing his pyjamas. <p>No</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The night sky was filled with light ("<i>flared red</i>" line 15).
7. " <i>the sky flared red as the church exploded</i> ". Suggest a different word with a similar meaning that the author could have used instead of " <i>flared</i> ".	Accept suggestions such as: glowed, burned, blazed, flashed, sparked, flamed.
8. The setting for this story is in 1940. Find two more pieces of evidence that show that the setting is during a war. • There's an incendiary bomb. • The Home Guard.	<p>Mention of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sandbags in the house • searchlights/sky filled with lights • anti-aircraft fire • a bombers' moon • a dug-out • the church exploded.
9. Do you think the narrator was an adult or a child when this event happened? Explain your answer using ideas from the text.	<p>A child:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He's sleeping in the same room as his mother. • He's not helping his brothers to put the bomb out. • It says "mother grabbed me from the bed". • It says "the sky bounced as my mother ran" which shows that she was carrying him.