

Battle of Britain

Reading Comprehension and Writing Challenge

Drawn from **The Spitfire Fund**
a story by Tom Palmer

Chapter 1

Written for children aged 7+



Reading Comprehension: Questions

1. How many people are in a trio?
2. From the text, 'Lily squinted at the pin badges'. What is the opposite of squinting?
3. Were the children wearing their uniforms on the school trip?
4. Draw the trails of corkscrews and spirals left by the planes.
5. How long ago was the Battle of Britain?
6. What words do you think you might find on the plaque presented to the people of Wolverhampton?
7. RAF is an abbreviation of what three words? Ask someone to help or use a dictionary.
8. How do you think the children felt as they pinned the badges back onto their clothes a second time? Explain your answer.

Writing Challenge: How to start a story

Spitfire Fund pin badges

This is an original Spitfire Fund pin badge that you can see at the RAF Museum, London. They were sold to raise money to buy Spitfires during the Second World War.



In Tom Palmer's story the children find themselves going back in time from today to 1940 and the Battle of Britain thanks to a pin badge like this.

What do you think you would experience if you went back to the Battle of Britain? Try and think of one thing for each of your five senses.

1. What can you see?
2. Can you smell anything?
3. Is there anything you can taste?
4. What can you feel with your hands?
5. What sounds are there?

Now have a look at what you've written down. Do you think two or three of those experiences might be a good way of starting a story set during the Battle of Britain? Authors often begin stories through the senses of their characters. Why not have a try yourself?