

Battle of Britain

Reading Comprehension and Writing Challenge

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

Chapter 2

Written for children aged 7+



Reading Comprehension: Questions

1. As they start running, the children hear lots of different sounds. Can you name three things that make noises?
2. The author writes that 'the children see dozens of fires'. How many is a dozen?
3. 'Stationary' and 'stationery' are homophones (words which have the same pronunciation but different meanings). Using a dictionary write a short definition of each of them.
4. Where is your spine? Can you name two other things that have spines?
5. What would we call a 'wireless' today?
6. Who is Mr Churchill?
7. The stamps in return for donations on the Card of Honour would provide rivets to help build one of the British Four Fighter Aircraft. Which one of these planes was NOT a British Fighter Aircraft?

Spitfire Hurricane Messerschmitt Mosquito
8. Why might people away from London not be willing to donate to the Spitfire Fund?

Writing Challenge: How to make up characters

Four Fighter Fund stamps

Another way the RAF raised money to pay for fighter aircraft was to encourage people to buy six stamps on a card of honour. You can see this exhibit in the RAF Museum, London. Filling in one of these cards would have made a person very proud.



But, during a war, it would have been very hard to pay for all six stamps. Imagine you had a card and needed to ask three other people in 1940s Britain to help you buy stamps to raise money for fighter aircraft. Who would you ask and what would you say to each of them to persuade them to help you? Try to give each of them a different reason.

Person:

Reason:

Person:

Reason:

Person:

Reason:

Have a look at the three people you have thought of. Do they feel like characters you could use in a story? Maybe you could try and imagine what it would be like if the three of them were together as a German raid started. What would they do? How would they cope?