

# Battle of Britain

## Reading Comprehension and Writing Challenge

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

### Chapter 5

Written for children aged 7+



## Reading Comprehension: Questions

1. What do you think 'Sprechen sie Deutsch?' means? Try saying it out loud and ask if anyone in your family knows what it means.
2. The NHS was founded in 1948, hence the Londoners in wartime London have never heard of it. Which three words is NHS short for?
3. Look up 'febrile' for Lily, Danny and Yusra and write a definition of it for them.
4. Why do you think RAF planes were given names like Spitfire and Hurricane? (Think about what imagery they create for both the British and for the enemy)
5. Can you think of an experiment you could do to show what 'disperse' means? (hint - use some squash and a glass of water). Write down what you need to do here:
6. Can you remember the famous words Churchill said about 'the Few?' Write them down here to help you remember them.
7. From the text, which words help you guess whether the exhaust stubs on a Spitfire are at the front or the back of the plane?
8. If you had joined Lily, Yusra and Danny, what imaginary souvenir of your adventures do you wish you could take home from the Museum shop?

## Writing Challenge: Basing a story on something from the RAF Museum

### Spitfires and Hurricanes

Authors often base their stories on real events that have happened. It's a great way of making sure your story feels realistic.

The wonderful thing about the RAF Museum is that every aircraft and object tells a story. You can look at it and – with the help of the Museum staff, information panels and the website – you can find out the story of that object.



Take some time reading about the Spitfire and studying the timeline of events in the Second World War:

### Supermarine Spitfire Mk1

[rafmuseum.org.uk/research/collections/supermarine-spitfire](http://rafmuseum.org.uk/research/collections/supermarine-spitfire)

### The Spitfire 360 Experience, view from the cockpit

[youtube.com/watch?v=aiSkjs7Oyc8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aiSkjs7Oyc8)

### Second World War timeline

[rafmuseum.org.uk/documents/london/schools/Second%20World%20War%20Timeline.pdf](http://rafmuseum.org.uk/documents/london/schools/Second%20World%20War%20Timeline.pdf)



Now brush up on your Hurricane facts:

### Hawker Hurricane 1

[rafmuseum.org.uk/research/collections/hawker-hurricane-1](http://rafmuseum.org.uk/research/collections/hawker-hurricane-1)

### Press interviews for the Hurricane Movie

[youtube.com/watch?v=D\\_SEdA1u4yM](https://youtube.com/watch?v=D_SEdA1u4yM)

When a story really appeals to you, making you excited or emotional or inspired, think about how you would tell that story to someone you know, to your classmates or someone in your family.

That is how most authors start their stories.

This person decided to make a Battle of Britain tribute video:

[youtube.com/watch?v=Kht-w6dleOQ](https://youtube.com/watch?v=Kht-w6dleOQ)

While this person decided to turn the story of Sergeant Ray Holmes (from Chapter 4) into a graphic novel:

[rafmuseum.org.uk/documents/novel/2\\_alex\\_transition.html](http://rafmuseum.org.uk/documents/novel/2_alex_transition.html)

Why not have a go yourself? What will you do...?