

- ABI:** **Good Morning everyone.** *(Waits for response then in a bossy voice)*  
**Today YOU will decide what our class assembly will be about.**  
**Sit up straight. Now, put your hand up if you have a suggestion.**  
*Abi asks those who are sitting up with their hand raised. She carries on until she gets the answer she wants*  
**What a brilliant idea! What do you think everyone; can we do it?**  
*Or says*  
**I don't think much of any of those ideas so I think we'll do our assembly about evacuation in World War 2.**  
**What do you think everyone; can we do it?**
- REBECCA** **Yeah. It'll be great.**
- ALEX** **We've really enjoyed learning about W.W.2**
- TOM** **I want to be the Billeting officer.**
- KYE** **Please can I be Hitler?**
- CHRIS** **We won't be able to have Hitler in this. It's all about evacuation.**
- CHILD** *(in audience)* **What is evacuation?**
- CHRIS** **You what?**
- CHILD** **What is evacuation?**
- CHRIS** **Don't you know anything?**
- CHILD** **No I'm only in Mr M's class. We won't know anything even after a year in there.**
- CHRIS** **Well, during the war, all the children who lived in dangerous areas, like major cities, had to move to the country to be looked after by strangers. If you pay close attention to our story you may know a little more about it at the end.**
- Another CHILD in same class**  
**I doubt it!**
- CHRIS** **Me too. Still we'd better get on or we won't be finished by playtime. Come on everyone. Bye.**  
*All disassemble. Make their way off stage in two's and threes.*

**SCENE TWO**

*Scene opens with broadcast about Germany invading Poland*

*Chris is sitting on a stage block at the front reading the script he has a pencil and appears to be making notes. Daniel comes on stage and they start talking quietly obviously discussing the script. Alex then walks on.*

**ALEX:**        **What are you two up to?**

**DANIEL:**       **We're waiting for the first scene people to turn up. I think they are taking so long to get dressed up that we won't have time to start before playtime.**

*A group of children arrive all dressed up in their costumes.*

**CHRIS:**       **At last! Hurry up you lot.**

**LEAH**        *(who is mother):*   **We're coming, keep your hair on. It took ages to tie up this pinny!**

**CHRIS:**       **Right, first scene people take your places and we'll get started.**

*Children seat themselves on stage and pretend to be busy doing things: cooking, reading the paper, knitting, and doing homework.*

**CHRIS:**       **And... Action!**

**MOTHER:**       **Get on with your homework Kieran or you'll be in trouble with your teacher.**

**KIERAN:**       **I don't care and anyway if I'm evacuated she won't know I haven't done it will she?**

**REBEKAH:**       **What's `he vaccinated` Dad?**

**DAD:**            **EVACUATED, our Rebekah the word's evacuated. It means that the children who are old enough will all go and live in the countryside with some kind families who will look after them. They'll be safer there if war is declared.**

**REBEKAH:**       **What does war mean Mum?**

**MOTHER:**       **Oh nothing you need worry your little head about sweetheart. You'll know soon enough if it arrives.**

**DAD:**            **You're wrong there you know our Kieran.**

- KIERAN:** What are you talking about? I wasn't saying nowt!
- DAD:** Less of yer cheek young man. I meant that yer wrong about yer teacher not knowing about yer `omework.
- KIERAN:** How d'yer make that out then Dad?
- DAD:** Well yer teacher goes with yer lad. Hadn't yer heard?
- KIERAN:** Yer kiddin' me Dad. PLEASE say that yer kiddin' me?
- MOTHER:** Sorry lad but yer Dads right. I know its terrible news but Miss Trust will be coming along and she'll be teaching you at the new school that your'e going to in the country.
- KIERAN:** Oh no that's the worst news I've had all year.
- DAD:** There's much worse news to come. Germany invaded Poland on Friday. There may be a war. Mr Chamberlain is on the wireless soon.
- KIERAN:** Can I turn the wireless on Dad?
- DAD:** Go on then lad, but just you be careful because that wireless set is the latest thing. It cost me £ 8, which, as you well know, is nearly three weeks wages.
- KIERAN:** All right, all right, stop fussing this modern stuff is dead easy to understand. Right there you are it's on. I'll just turn up the volume.

*All goes quiet and they all sit around the wireless with serious expressions whilst they listen to Neville Chamberlain's declaration of war.*

- CHRIS:** Well done every body that's great so far. Remember to look as if you're busy Mother. Your'e still acting even if you're not speaking!  
O.K. Lets carry on. ACTION!

**MUM:** There's no time to waste come on everyone let's get the air raid precautions finished. Kieran, you get the windows taped and Dad can get some fire buckets ready whilst I finish putting up these blackout curtains.

- KIERAN:** What are all these things for Dad? Is Mum cracking up with the strain?

**DAD:** No lad its just preparations in case the Germans send over their bombers. If there's a bomb blast the tape will stop flying glass and in case of incendiary bombs the sand in the buckets will put out the fires. The aeroplanes will likely come over at night so we mustn't show even the smallest chink of light or they'll know that we're here and drop something nasty on top of us. And just be careful to remember that if you go out at night, turn all the lights out first.

**KIERAN:** That's an awful lot to remember Dad!

**DAD:** You're telling me. My mum was up all last night with me practising these lines. If I'm in another class assembly I shall ask for a smaller part!

**KIERAN:** Well it looks like I'll be evacuated after all so I'll go and pack my bags. Lets see what on this list I got from school? *(Takes out a grubby piece of paper from his pocket and wipes something revolting off it, down the front of his jumper. He reads the list out aloud. Everyone else looks aghast at the yucky behaviour)* Well there's something seriously wrong here!

**MUM:** What ever is the matter son?

**KIERAN:** They've forgotten to mention my teddy bear. If they think that I'm leaving him behind, they've got another thing coming!! *(In a sobby voice)* Come on Ted I wouldn't leave you behind to face that nasty Mr. Hitler!

**DAD:** I suppose I'd better be packing my bags too. I expect I'll be getting my call up papers any day now.

**MOTHER:** Good idea. I'll come and help you.

*An air raid siren is heard and Mother hurries the children away off stage.*

**SCENE THREE.**

*Set in the railway station, the children are nearly all on stage and their teacher is fussing around and keeping them in order. Ashton and Kelly O. are teasing Kieran about his Teddy. They are throwing it to each other and Kieran is running to and fro' trying to retrieve it.*

**TEACHER:** Now, now children, do quieten down! Goodness, I can't hear myself think. Children! *(louder)*. Children! *(louder)* CHILDREN! *(Huge yell)*

*There is a sudden silence.*

**That is better. Now, please continue to be quiet whilst I call the register.**

**Nicole?**

**NICOLE:** Yes Miss.

**TEACHER:** Sammy?

**SAMMY:** Yes Miss.

**TEACHER:** Sophie?

**SOPHIE:** Yes Miss.

**TEACHER:** Georgia?

**GEORGIA:** Yes Miss.

**TEACHER:** Abi? ----- Kelly?

**ASHTON:** Please Miss, they haven't arrived yet Miss.

**TEACHER:** Thank you Dear, --- George?

**GEORGE:** Yes Miss,

**TEACHER:** Ashton? *Makes a face surreptitiously at Kieran.*

**ASHTON:** Yes Miss, *in a sickly voice*

**TEACHER:** Kelly? *Sucking her thumb to tease Kieran.*

**KELLY:** Yes Miss, *Nearly caught out by the teacher, she gives him a look.*

**TEACHER:** Kieran? Kieran? **KIERAN!** Where is that boy?

**GEORGE:** Please Miss, he's over there, I think he's crying.

**TEACHER:** Oh no, don't say he's homesick already. We haven't even left the station yet! Kieran, Kieran? What ever is the matter? Come along, come along we can't have you snivelling already. What will people think? Surely you aren't missing Mum and Dad already you only said goodbye two minutes ago.

**KIERAN:** Oh no Miss it's those two *points at Ashton and Kelly O. who are laughing at him.* They keep teasing me about my Teddy Miss.

**TEACHER:** Well put him away just now Dear or you'll lose him then you will be sorry. Where can those other children have got to? They'll miss the train if they don't arrive soon.

*Lizzie and Abi arrive with Kelly (MUM). Mum is fussing.*

**KELLY:** Here we are at last, now Lizzie, have you got your ticket? Did you pack your toothbrush? You will write Darling won't you? Abi come back here you've got a smudge on your face. That's better. Give Mummy a big hug. I will miss you both. Do look after each other and don't forget to write will you?

**LIZZIE:** MU\_UM. Please stop fussing; we'll be fine. Honestly!

**KELLY:** Did I remind you to write?

**ABI:** You did!

*In the background Ashton and Kelly O. are hiding Jimmy's teddy.*

**KELLY:** Ah Miss Trust, there you are, I wonder if you would be so kind as to tell the billeting officer that my girls must have an apple everyday without fail, an apple a day keeps the doctor away and I want my girls to stay healthy even when I'm not there to keep a careful eye on them.

**TEACHER:** I will try Mrs Fluster but it won't be easy. Everyone will be very busy and anyway apples don't grow on trees you know! At last everyone is here and just in time too. Come along children lets get you all aboard. Don't forget your gas masks. Sit down; sit still Ashton. Stop picking your nose George. No Kelly don't pull that cord. There goes the whistle.

**KELLY:**           **Don't forget to write girls.**

*The train starts and the children lurch back and then forwards. They then jiggle up and down as if on a train.*

**KIERAN:** *lets out a wail.* **Where's my teddy. I want my teddy!**

*He leaps up and pulls the communication cord, all the people on the train lurch forward as it breaks suddenly. Kieran leaps out of the train and run to look for his teddy.*

**TEACHER:**           **Kieran Hebden get back on this train. You naughty boy!**

*All is fairly quiet for a while and the train carries on its way.*

**KIERAN:**           **Please Miss. He is ignored. Miss?**

**TEACHER:**           **Well?**

**KIERAN:**           **Miss I need the lavvy.**

**TEACHER:**           **You were told to go before we set off Kieran and anyway you'll have to wait because there isn't one in this carriage.**

*Kieran wriggles around and eventually is crossing his legs obviously feeling very uncomfortable. The train lurches to a halt.*

**TEACHER:**           **Thank goodness we're here at last.**

**KIERAN:**           **I'll second that.**

*All the children get out of the train. Some of them look to be desperate for the loo. The billeting officer meets them off the train.*

**BILLETING OFFICER:**   **Welcome to Little Drinkwater. You'll find it a lovely place to stay.**

**KIERAN:**           **Please Miss can I go to the lavvy?**

**TEACHER:**           **Not now Kieran!**

**BILLETING OFFICER:**   **Now would anyone like a drink of water before we set out for the village hall?**

*All shake heads.*

**KIERAN:** I wish he would stop talking about water.

**BILLETING OFFICER:** **WHAT-A** (*sounds like water*) **sweet little boy! Oh No!**

*Everyone turns to look at Kieran as he has obviously had an unfortunate accident.*

**KIERAN:** I did say you should stop talking about water!

**TEACHER:** Never mind Dear. Lets be off before we have any more accidents. Come along. *All leave the stage in twos singing Run Rabbit.*

#### SCENE 4

*Lots of children milling about.*

**CHRIS:** Clear the stage then, clear the stage. I can't start with you all getting under my feet. Remember this is an assembly. You're not here to enjoy yourselves. Now please get into position for scene four. Amanda, I don't believe you're supposed to be on stage now, please wait down there. **AAAND ACTION!**

**BILLETING OFFICER:** Right, line up children. The hosts will now select you. Please try to look appealing.

**MRS BERRY-SMYTHE:** Good afternoon Tom. I have come to collect my wards. Now do make sure that you give me well-behaved, good-looking children without glasses. Oh and I do despise pungent children so do make sure they don't smell.

**GEORGE:** Bad luck Jimmy. Nobody'll pick you smelling like that.

**SOPHIE:** Yeah Jimmy. You stink!

**GEORGIA:** Yeah, Pooooooh. (Sammy and Nicole join in)

**BILLETING OFFICER:** Come along Kids, this could take some time.

*Mrs Berry-Smythe looks at children and finds fault with each one. Say "no" or "definitely" not and point at some of the children.*

**LEE (THE SPIV):** *Sidles over to other soldiers, winks and beckons them to follow. Opens one side of his rain coat and says... 'Ere lads. I managed to lay me 'ands on some fine pieces this morning, straight off the back of a lorry mind. Winks and nudges on of the soldiers. Cop a eye full o' these beauties.*

**HOME GUARD 1:** Mind the air raid warden doesn't see you selling them Lee.

**HOME GUARD 2:** Yeah, selling on the Black Market's illegal you know.

**LEE:** Black Market! Whatcha talkin' about. Like I said, off the back of a lorry.

**HOME GUARD 3:** Oh, right. *Taps his nose.* I get you.

**HOME GUARD 4:** How much do you want for that gold one?

**LEE:** Well normally they retail at nine bob a piece but for you...

**HOME GUARD 5:** Look out Lee, Air raid warden!

**AIR RAID WARDEN (SAM):** Hey there Lee. I do hope you're not trying to sell those Black Market watches again. You're setting a bad example to them there young folk.

**LEE:** Me Guvner? You must be joking!

**AIR RAID WARDEN:** Well then, you won't mind me having a look under that there coat.

**LEE:** Oh no. It's all gone pear shaped. Excuse me boys!

*Lee runs towards the door with the Air Raid Warden in pursuit. Lee trips over the teddy, which Kieran has mistakenly left on the floor near the door. The Air Raid Warden grabs him.*

**AIR RAID WARDEN:** It's off down the station with you me lad. Now come quietly.

*Lee is led off muttering to the station (back stage). All the children cheer. Kieran picks up his teddy.*

**MRS BERRY-SMYTHER:** Why, is that your teddy young man? What's your name?

**KIERAN:** *Very quietly and pathetically.* **Kieran.**

**MRS BERRY-SMYTHER:** Well Kieran, you are a little hero aren't you. *To the Billeting officer.* **I'll have this one Tom.** *To Kieran.* **Come along now Kieran.** *They leave. Kieran turns and sticks his tongue out at Kelly O. who does the same.*