



Oxford
Reading
Tree

A Day in London



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Alex Brychta

What's this story about?

Gran comes to stay. She takes the children to London. They go and see the sights, but in the waxworks Gran gets into trouble.

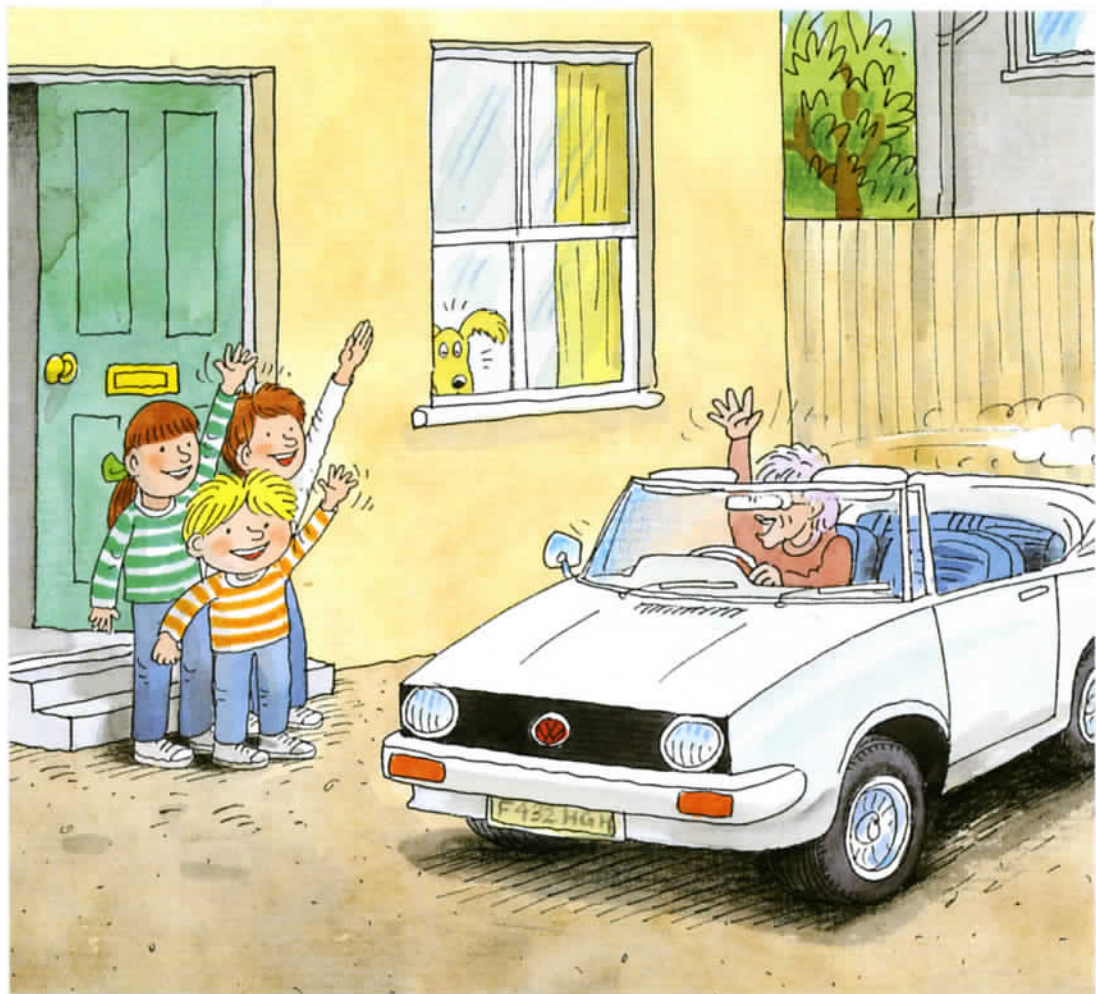
Talk together

Talk about famous places you might go and see in London. If the child has been there, ask what he/she did. Decide what is best about a day in London. Ask, "What do you think will happen in the story?"

Read the story

W = Word recognition **C** = Language comprehension

- C** Listen as the child reads aloud. Praise him/her for reading with expression.
- W** On page 6, notice 'keyboard'. Ask the child to find two words inside this word ('key', 'board').
- C** Page 7, ask, "What do you think about Gran? Do you like her?"
- C** Page 9, ask, "Why did Mum ask Biff to look after Gran?"
- C** Page 11, ask, "Do you think Anneena was right?"
- W** On page 18, ask the child to find two words in 'waxworks' ('wax', 'works').
- C** Page 21, ask, "Why did Gran say that she wouldn't want to be a queen?"
- C** Page 24, ask, "Do you think Chip will be right when he says that Gran can't do much harm?"
- W** On page 25, find two words in 'handbag'.
- C** Page 32, ask, "Why did they come home on a breakdown truck? What might have happened?"



Gran came to stay. The children ran to meet her.
“Hooray!” said Kipper, “I love it when Gran
comes to stay. She’s good fun!”

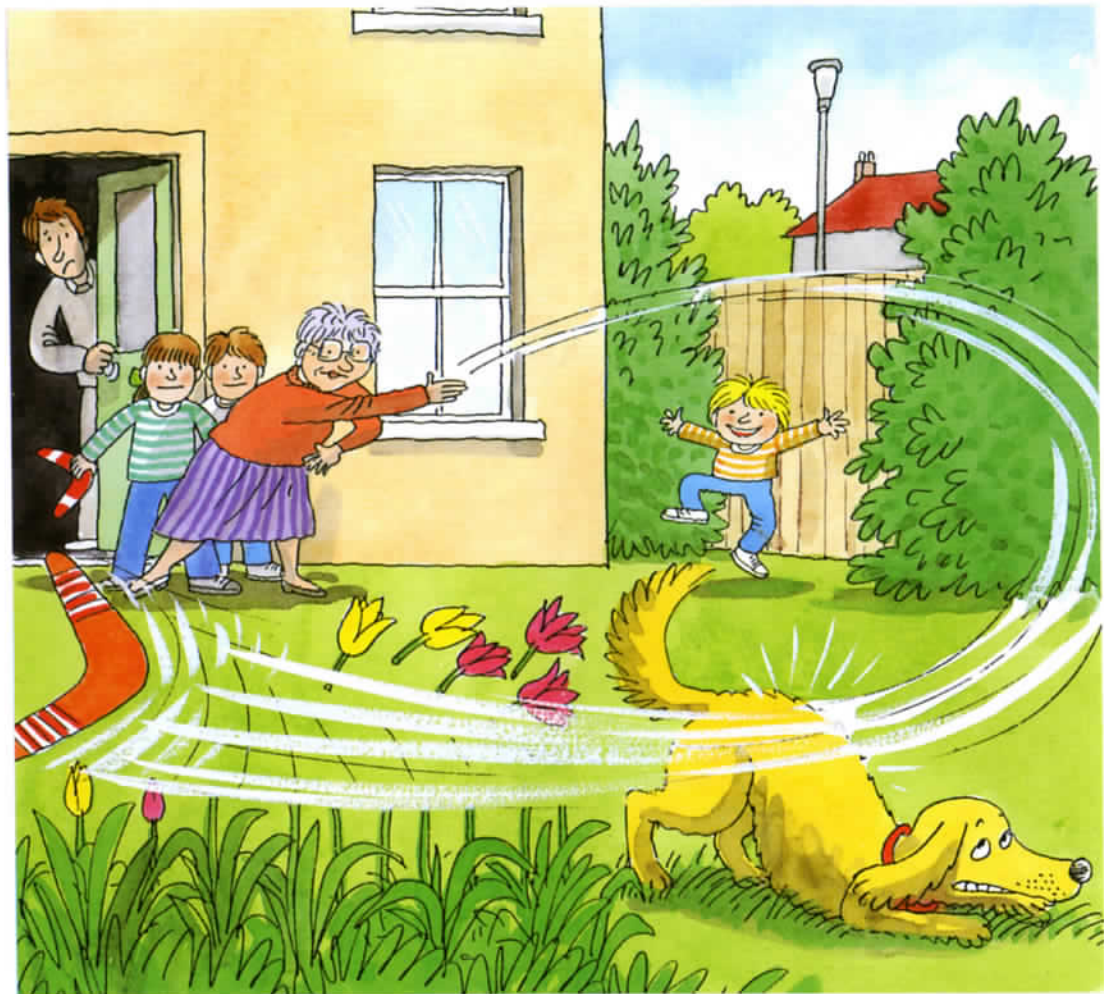


Gran brought presents for everyone. She gave Mum and Dad an ornament. Kipper had some little golf clubs and Biff and Chip had a keyboard.

“Thanks Gran,” said everyone.



“I’ve another surprise for you,” said Gran.
She gave the children some funny-looking parcels.
“What are they?” asked Kipper.
“Boomerangs,” said Gran.



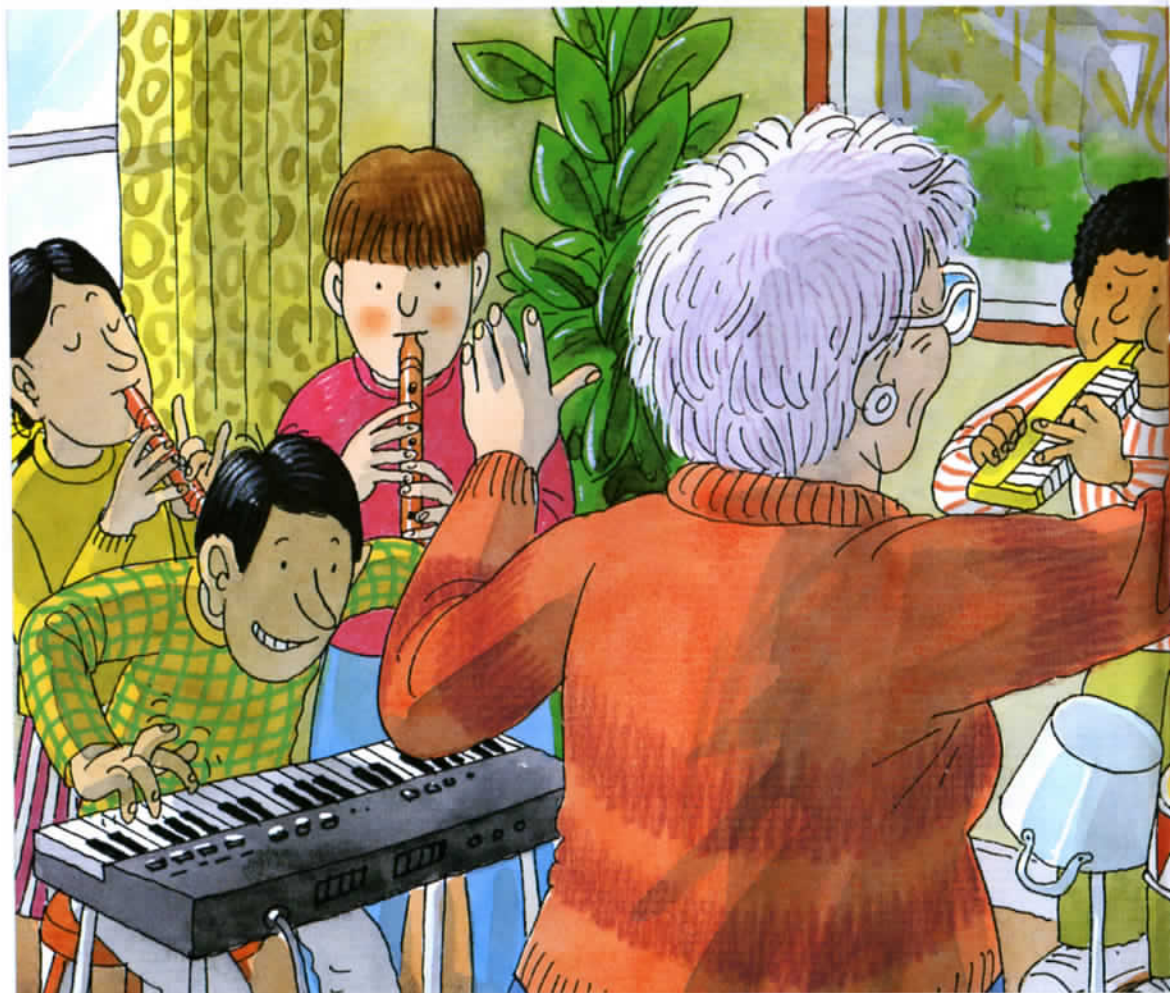
The children wanted to see how the boomerangs worked. Gran took them outside. She threw a boomerang and it whizzed through the air.

“Look out!” shouted Gran.



Kipper wanted to play with the golf clubs.
Gran showed him what to do. She hit the ball,
but she hit it too hard and it smashed a window.

“Oh dear,” said Gran.



Next day, Wilf, Wilma, Nadim and Anneena came to play. Biff and Chip showed them the keyboard. Gran had a good idea.

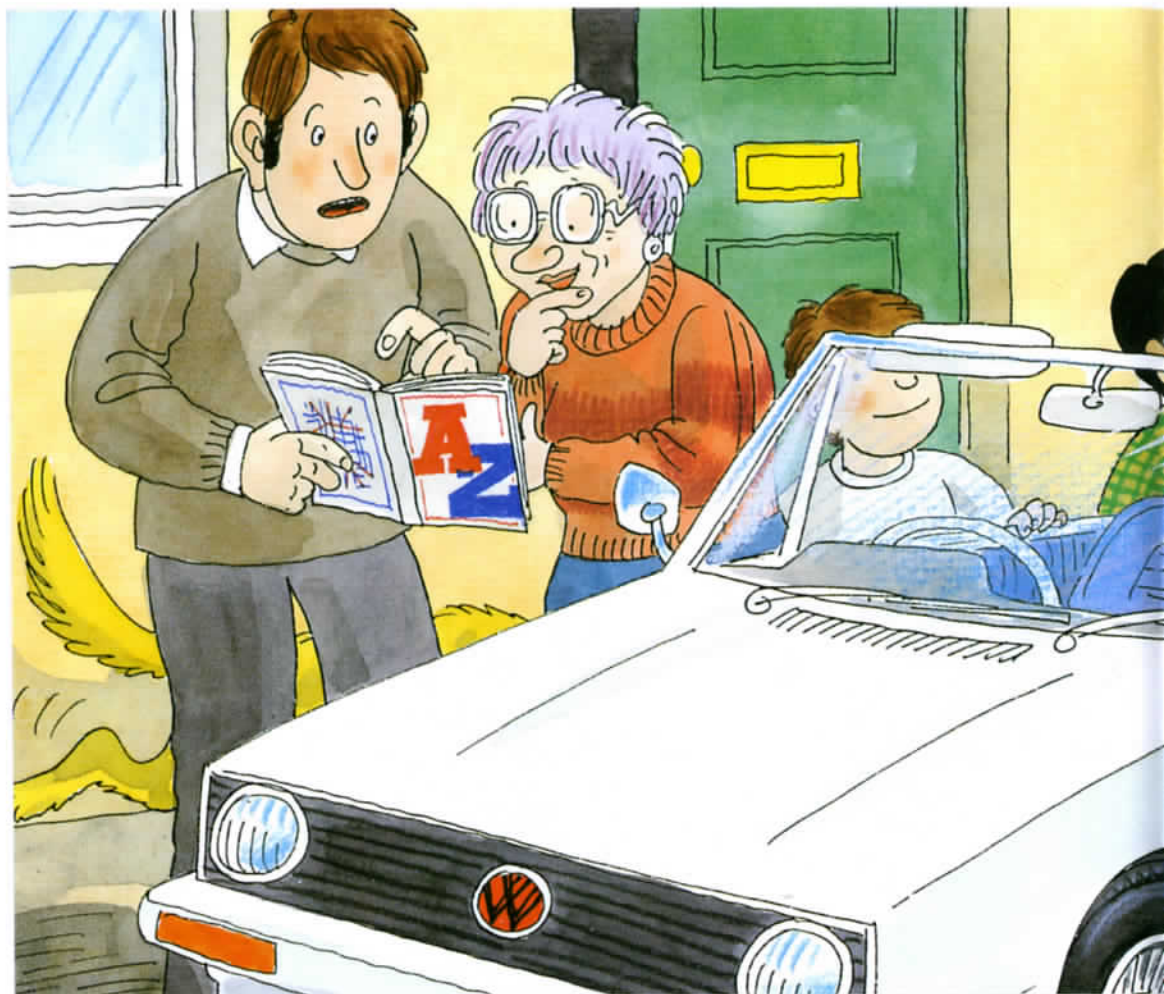
“Let’s have a band,” she said.



The band made a lot of noise and the children had a good time.

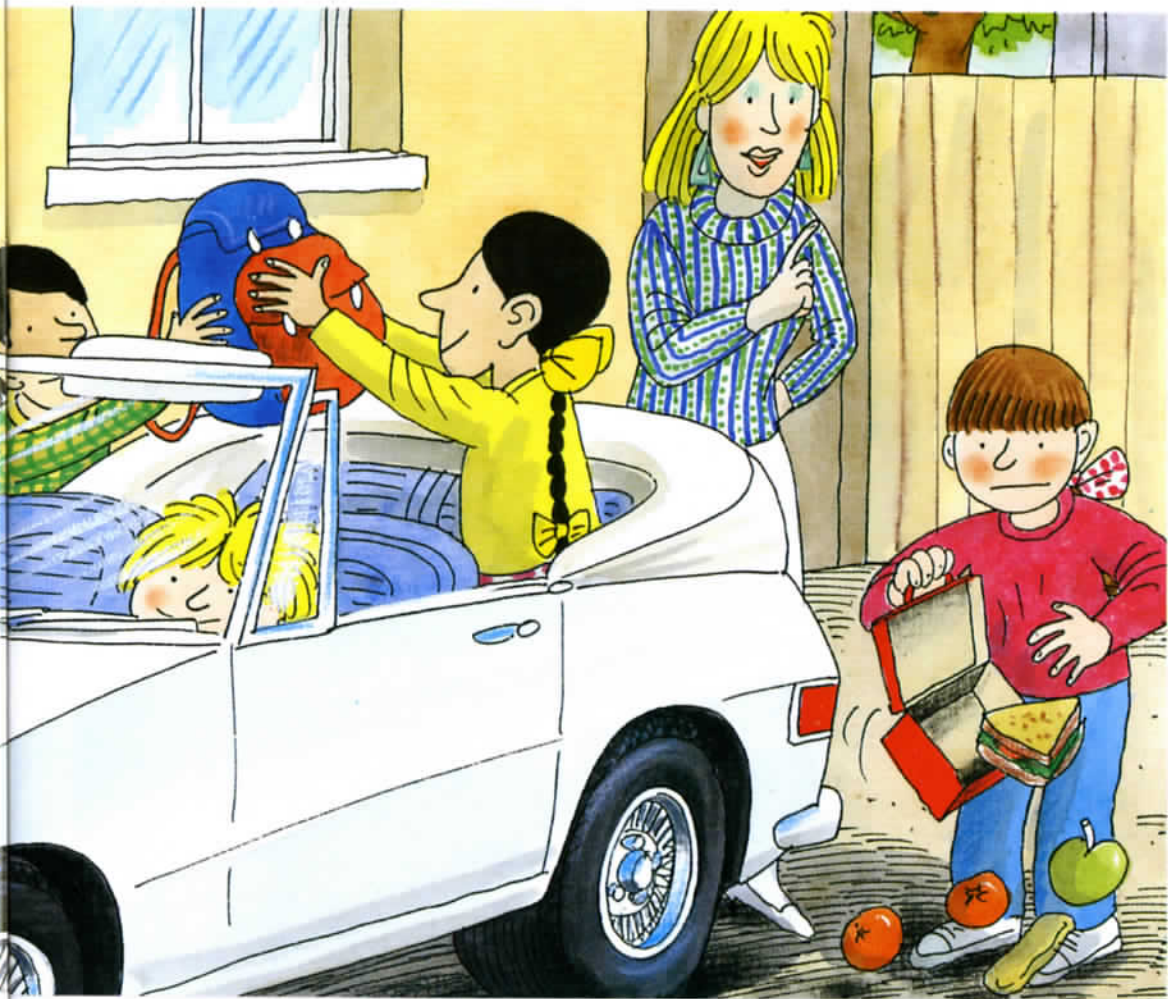
“Whatever will Gran do next?” said Dad.

“She’s worse than the children!” said Mum.



Gran had promised to take the children on an outing. She said that Nadim and Anneena could go too.

"I'll take you all to London," she said.



“Look after Gran,” said Mum as they got into the car. “Try and stop her getting into trouble.”

“We’ll do our best,” said Biff, “but it won’t be easy.”

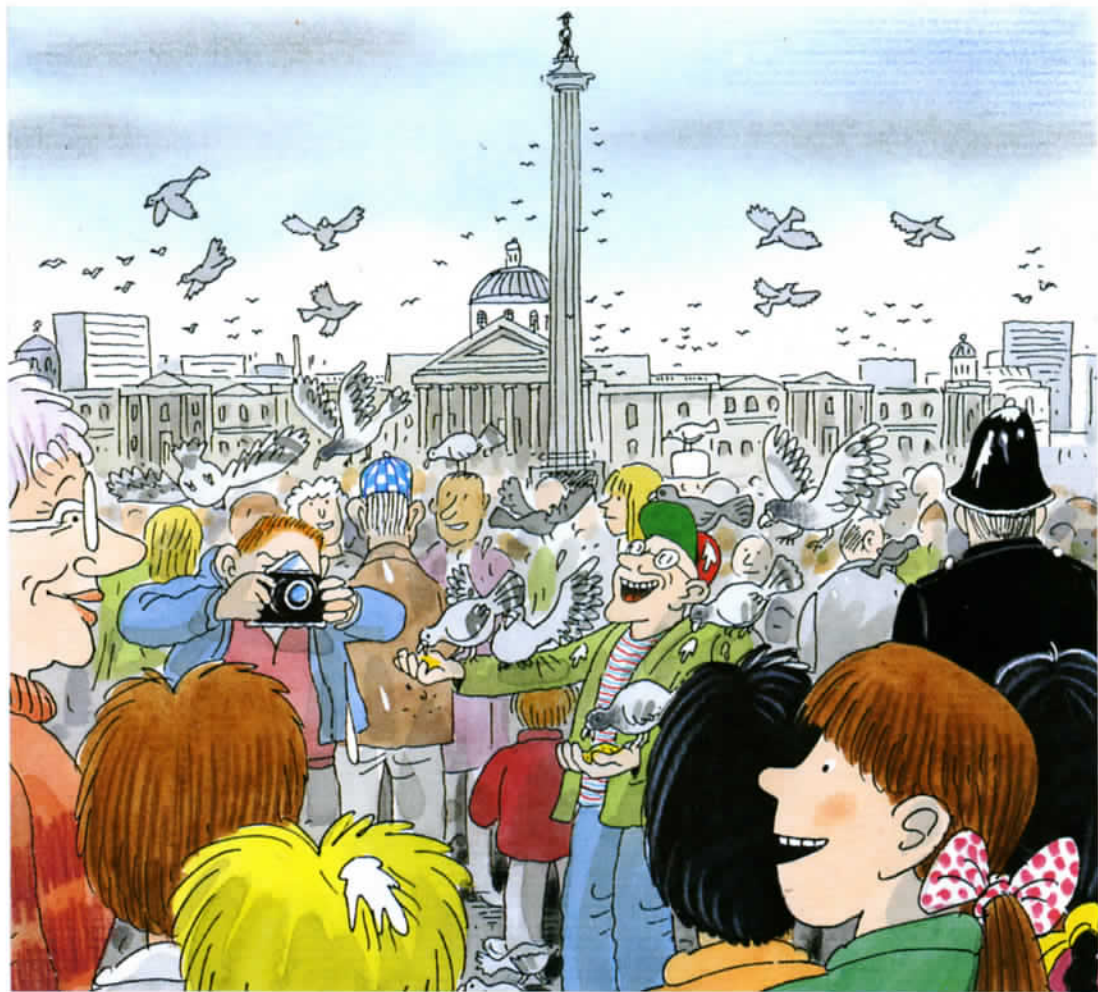


When they got to London, Gran parked the car.
“Now we’ll take the tube,” said Gran. “It’s the
best way to get around.”



There were lots of people waiting on the platform. When the train came in everyone rushed to get on.

“Now I know why it’s called a tube,” said Anneena, “everyone gets squeezed!”



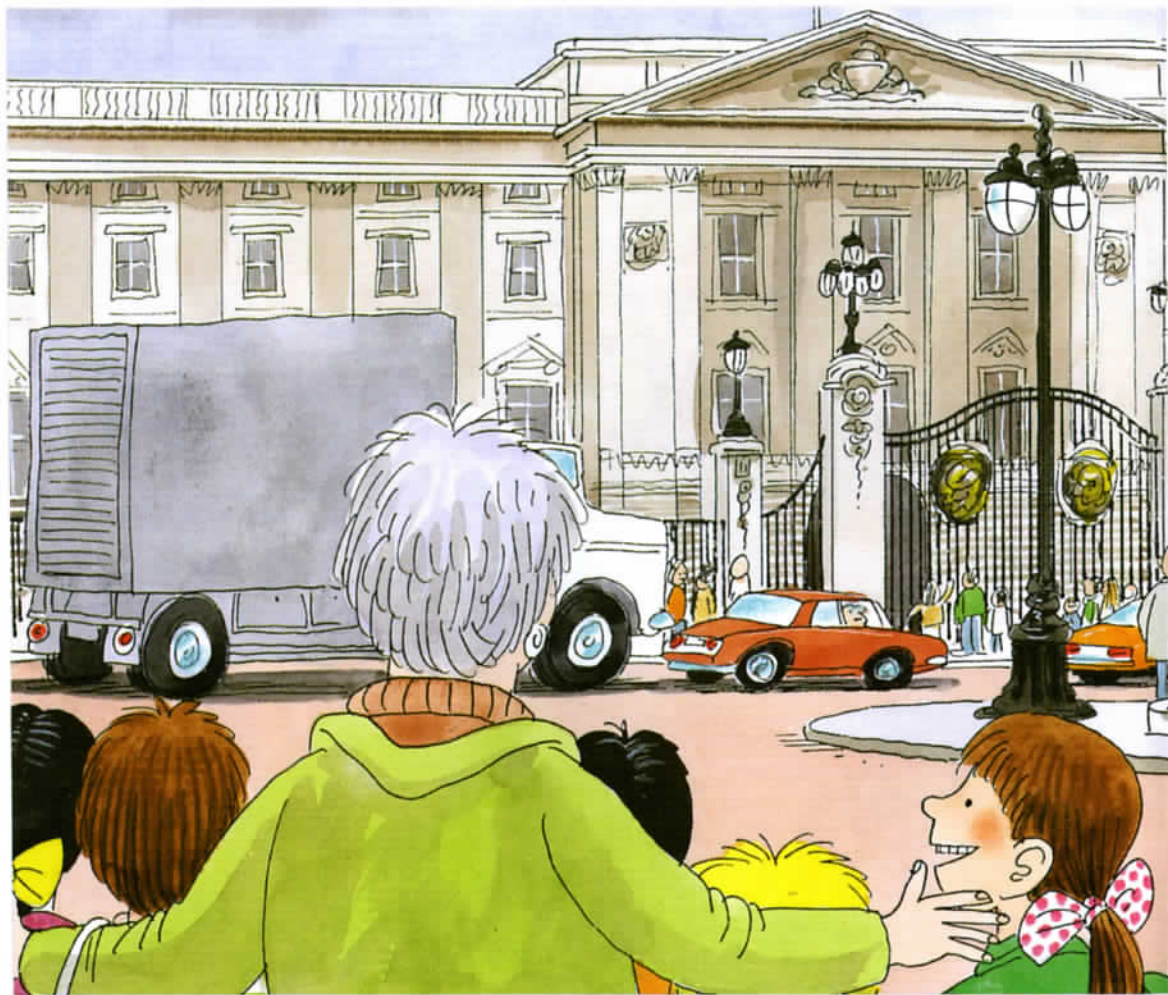
They went to Trafalgar Square. On top of the column was a statue of Nelson.

"I wouldn't like to be up there," said Biff.
"I don't like heights."



There were lots of pigeons in Trafalgar Square. Gran bought some nuts. The children fed the pigeons.

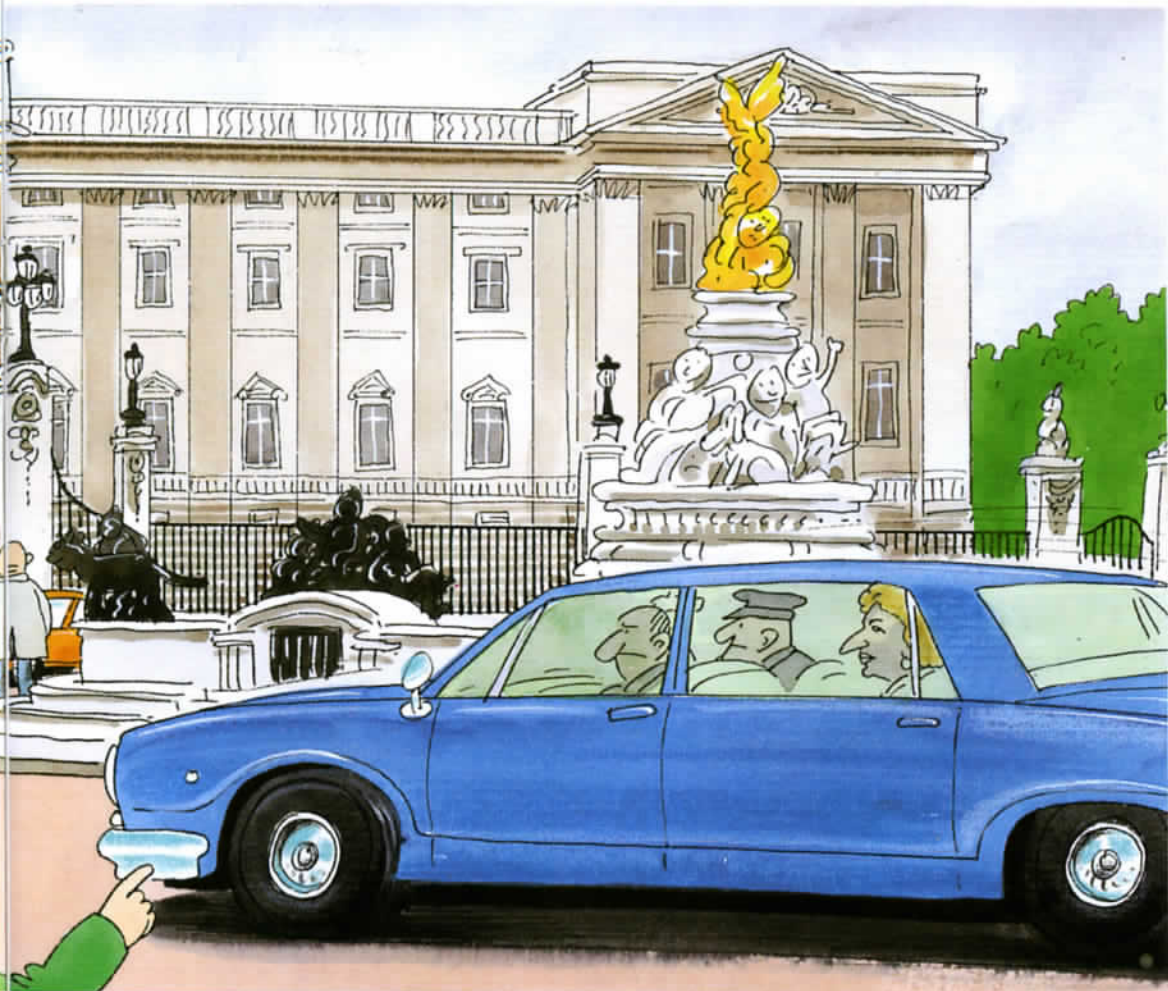
“Oh help!” said Nadim. “I didn’t know that pigeons were so greedy.”



They went to Buckingham Palace.

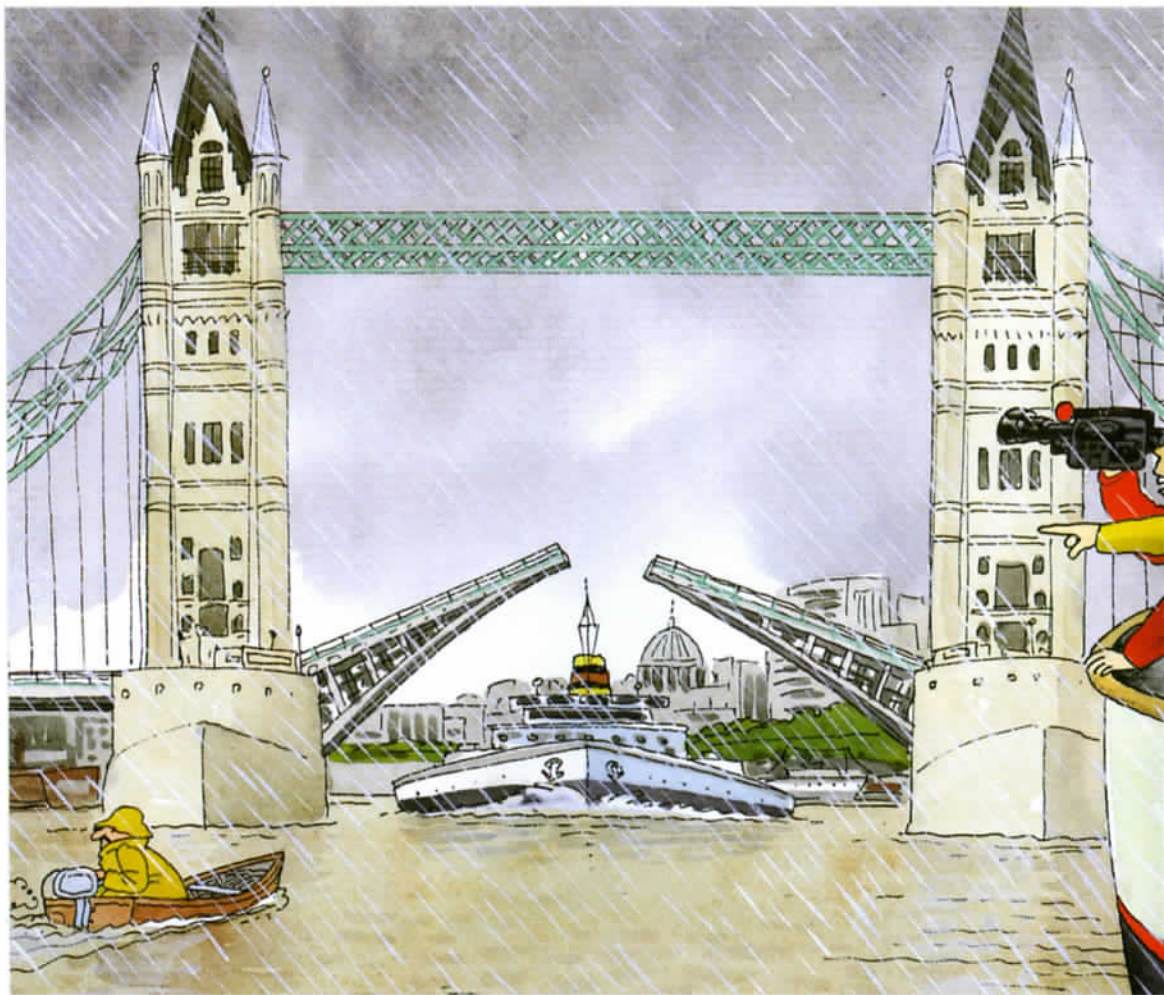
“This is where the Queen lives,” said Gran.

“It’s enormous,” said Anneena. “The Queen must be busy with all those rooms to clean.”



A big car drove past and everyone cheered and waved. The children couldn't see who was inside the car.

"Perhaps it's the Queen," said Biff.

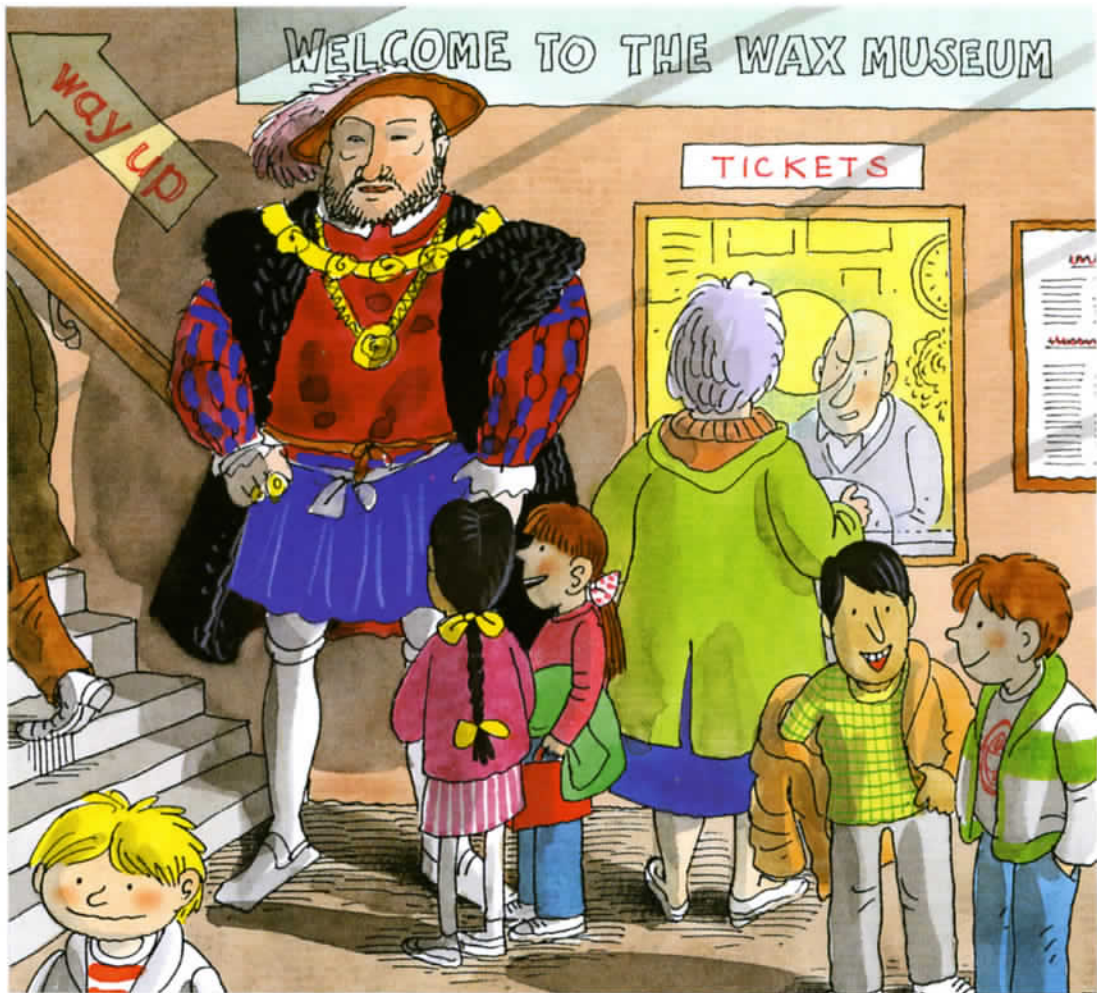


Gran took them on a boat. They went under Tower Bridge. The children were excited because the bridge began to open.



It began to rain and the wind blew. Everyone felt cold.

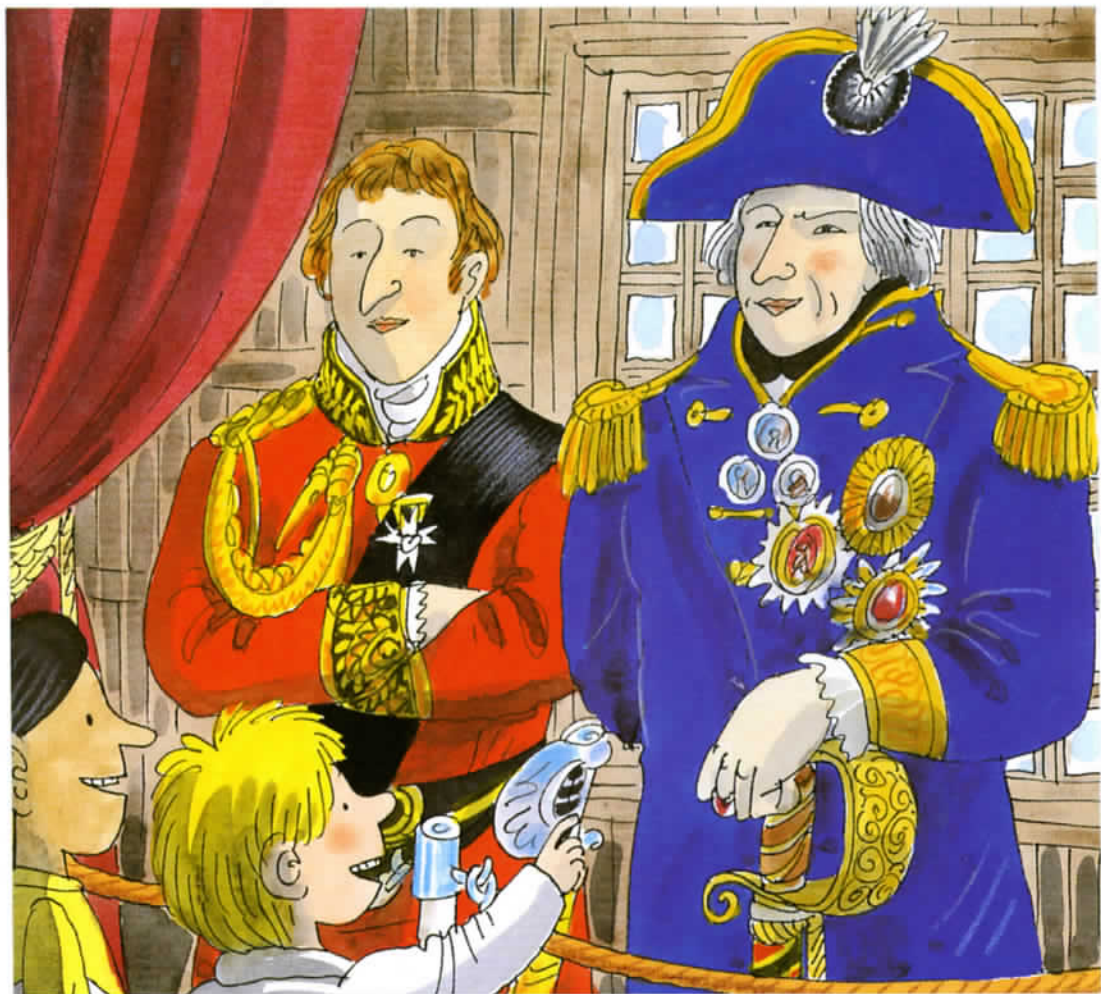
"Never mind," said Gran. "We'll think of somewhere warm to go next."



They went to the waxworks.

“What is a waxworks?” asked Kipper, as they went in.

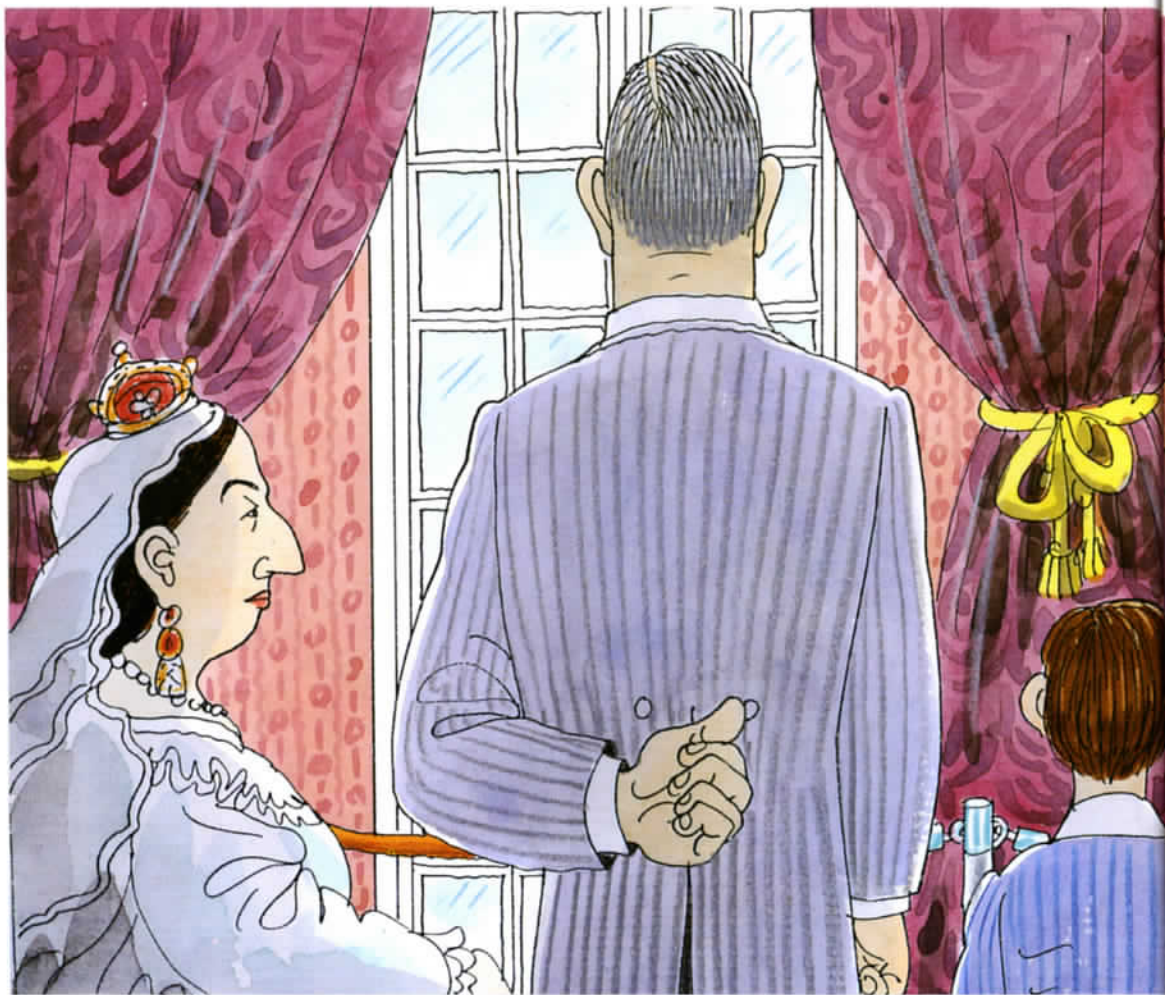
“It has wax models of famous people,” said Anneena.



They looked at the models.

“Don’t they look funny?” said Kipper.

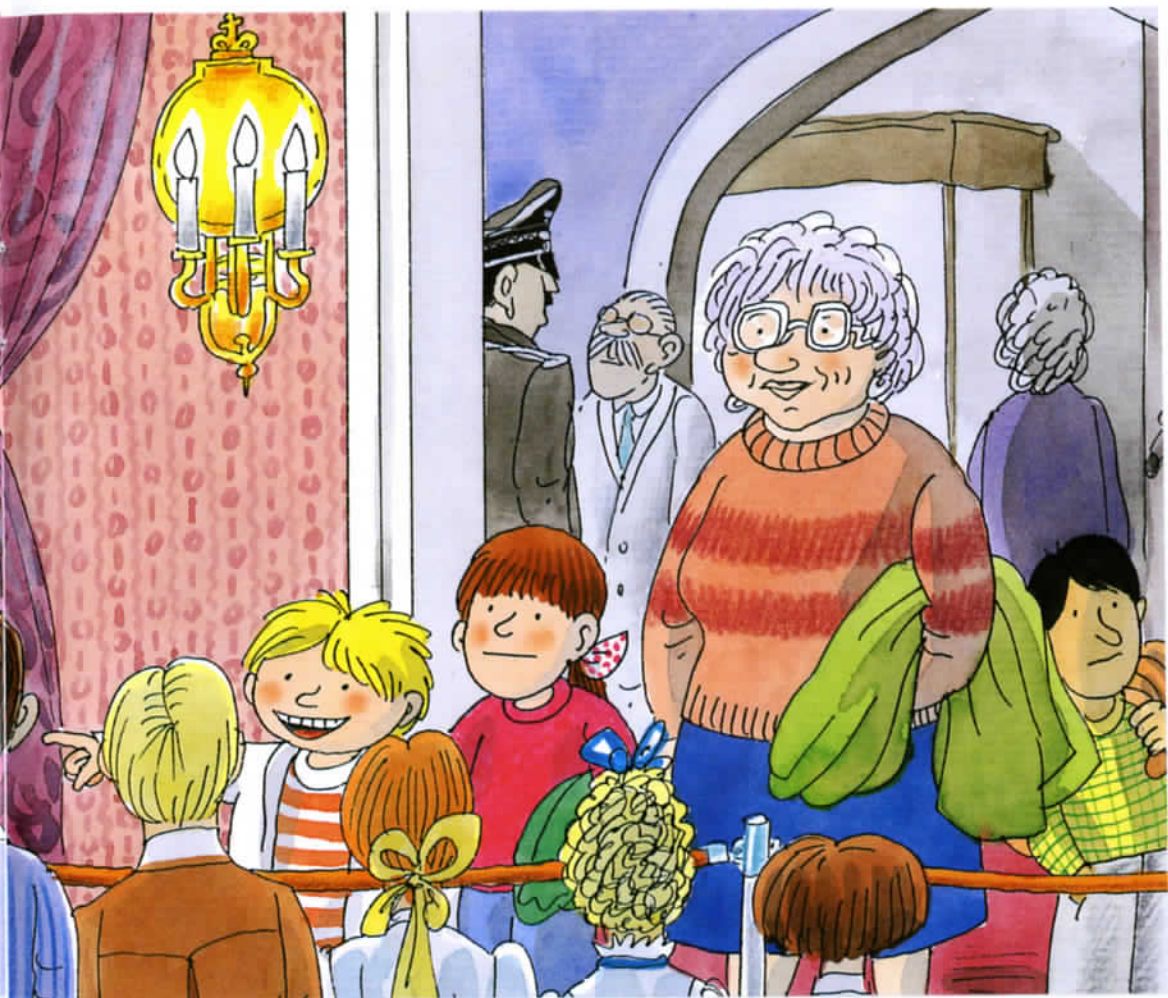
“You can tell they are models and not real people,” said Anneena.



“Who are these people?” asked Kipper.

“That is Queen Victoria,” said Gran, “and some of her grandchildren.”

“She had lots of grandchildren,” said Nadim.



“Queen Victoria looks very fierce,” said Biff.
“I bet she wasn’t like you, Gran.”

“Well, I wouldn’t like to be a queen,” said Gran.
“It must be a hard job.”

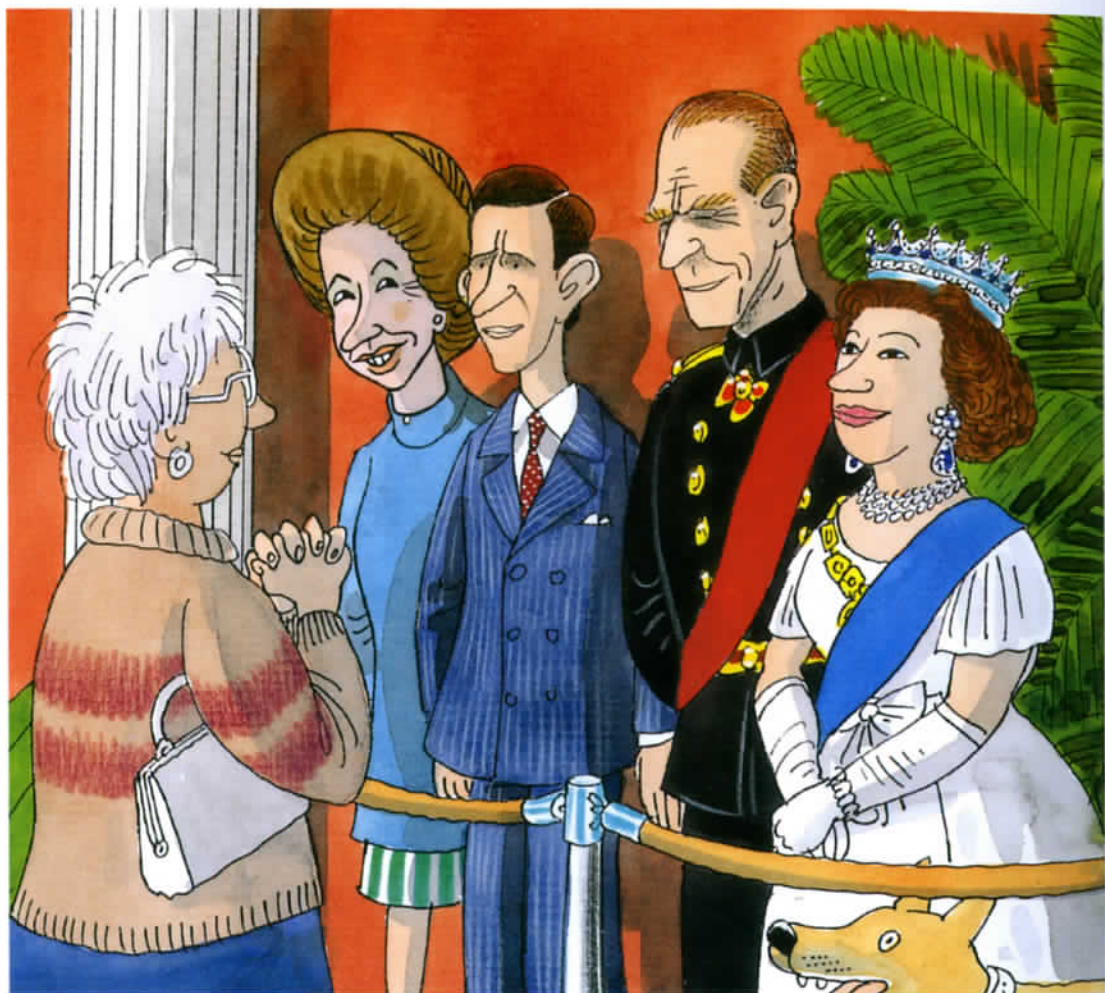


They looked at a street scene.

“This is what London was like a long time ago,”
said Gran. “A lot of people were very poor.”



“Poor children didn’t go to school in those days. They had to work instead,” said Gran. “That boy carrying brushes is a sweep. His job was to climb up chimneys and brush soot down.”



Gran went off to look at the Royal Family while the children stayed at the street scene.

“Do you think Gran should go off by herself?” said Biff.

“She can’t do much harm in here,” said Chip.



Gran dropped her handbag, and some money rolled among the models. Gran went to pick it up. As she bent down she knocked into the waxworks and they began to fall over.



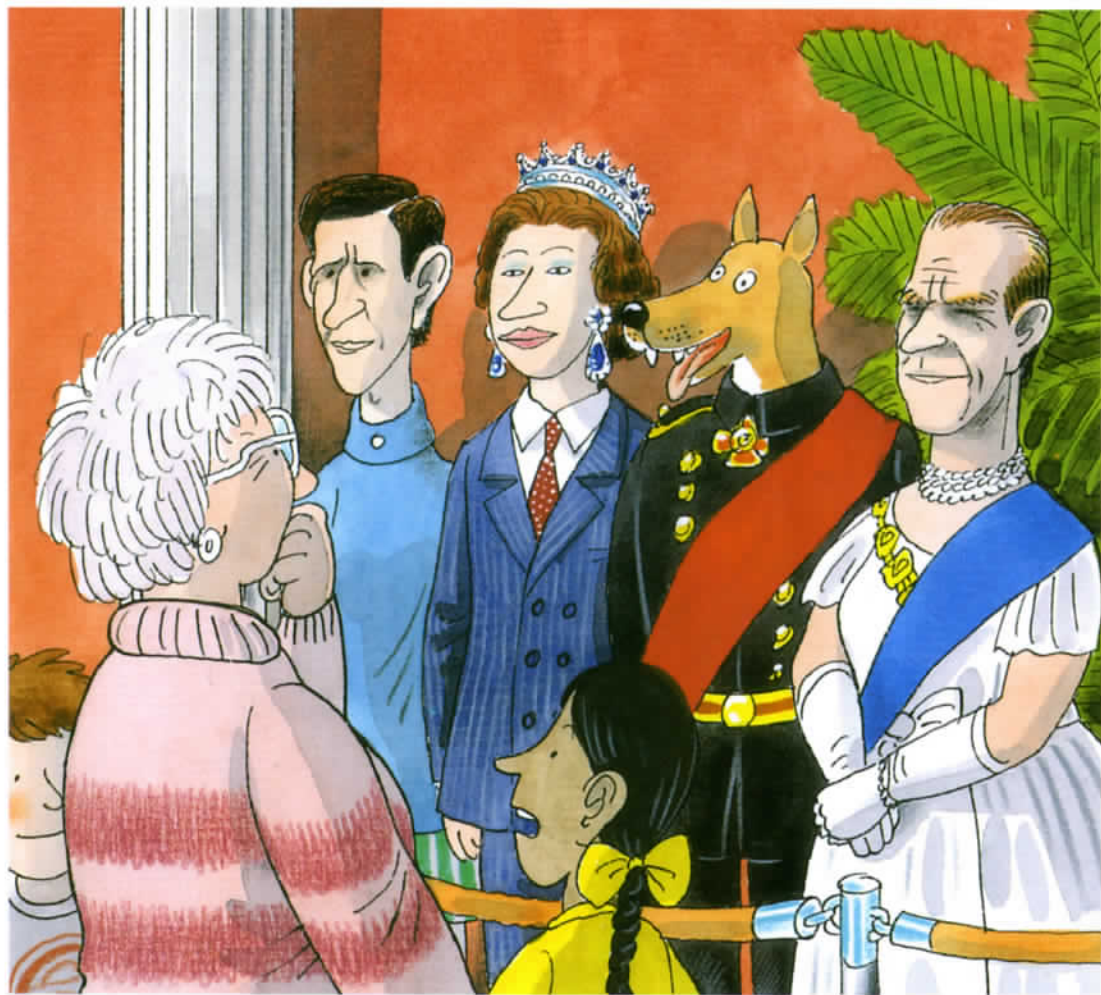
Gran picked the models up and put the heads back on. The children couldn't believe it.

"Gran! What are you doing?" said Biff.



“Don’t just stand there,” said Gran. “Help me. Pick the models up before anyone sees.”

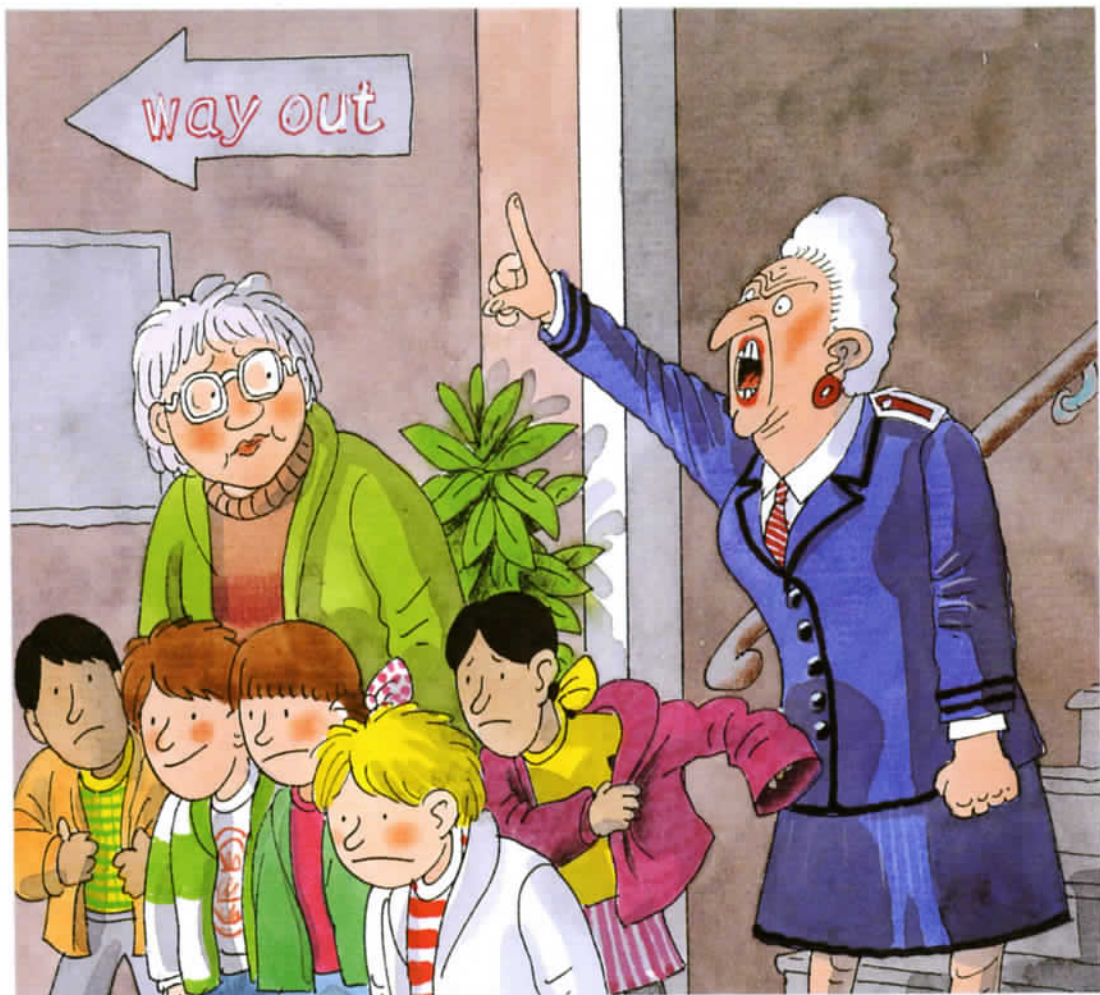
“Oh Gran,” said Biff. “I let you out of my sight for a second, and this happens.”



They picked the models up and put the heads back on.

"They look strange," said Anneena. "I don't think the heads are right."

"Oh no!" said Gran.



A lady ran up. She was very cross with Gran.

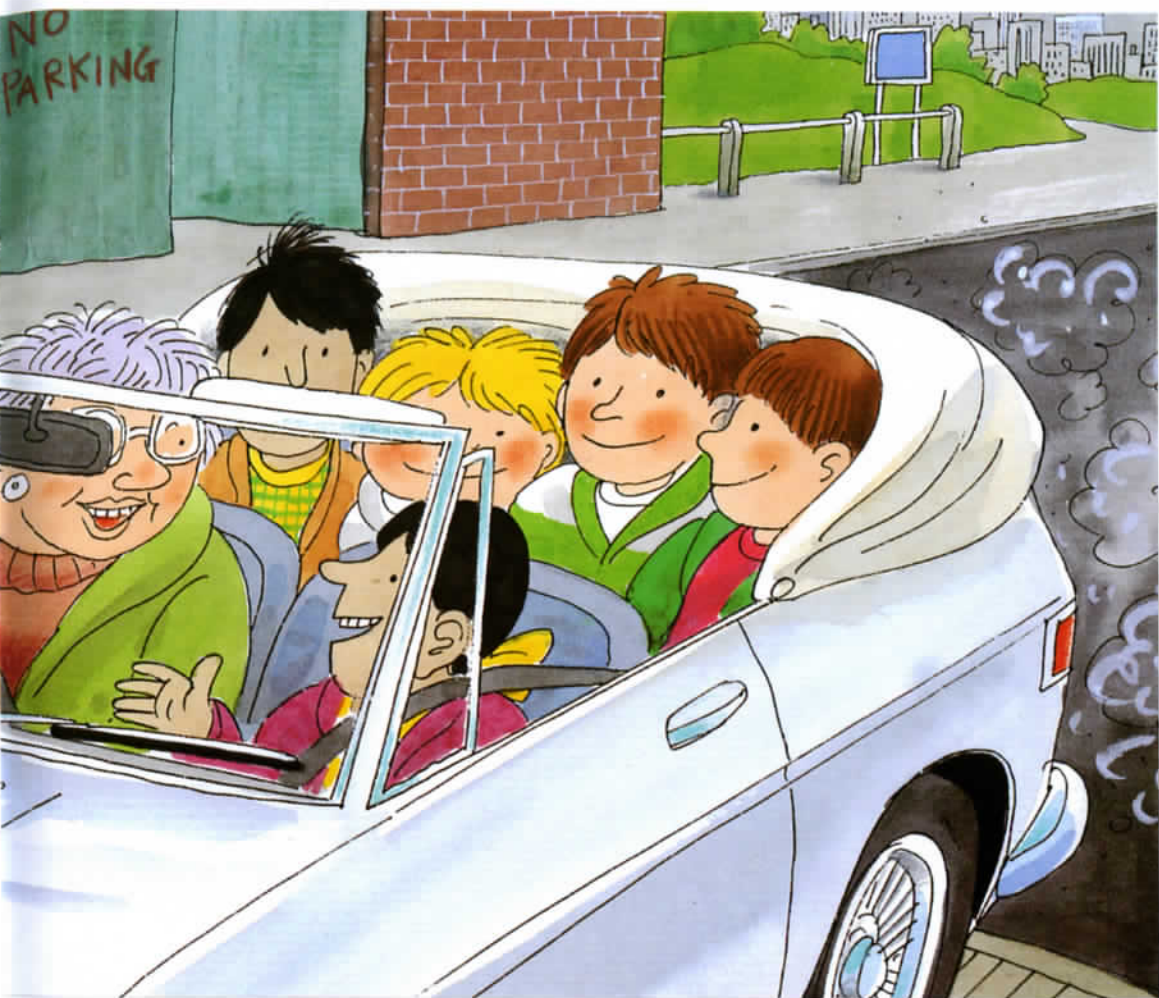
"I can't think how you knocked the models over in the first place," she said. "It's never happened before."

"I'm very sorry," said Gran.



"I don't know," said Biff. "I don't think they will let Gran in the waxworks again."

"Never mind," said Chip. "Gran didn't mean to knock them over."



“Thank you for a great day out,” said Nadim.
“We had never been to London before.”

“I liked the ride on the boat best,” said Kipper.
“Even if it was cold.”

“I liked everything,” said Anneena.



“Home at last,” said Gran. “We can tell Mum some of our adventures, but not all of them ... and not the one about beheading the Queen.”

Play a game

Who said that?

To help the child to remember details from the story. It also helps them to look through a book to find information.

- Look through the book and choose something that is said in the story, e.g. on page 6, you could say "Who said 'Let's have a band?'" The child might be able to answer from memory, but in any case ask him/her to look in the book to find the page and check the answer.
- Then the child chooses something someone said and asks you the question. Think out loud as you look for the answer. Say, 'I think that was just before...' or 'It was after they...' This shows children how you are working it out.
- Have two or three turns each.

Other ideas

You can use these ideas straight away, or on another day.

- Look at the pictures on pages 12–16 and name as many London landmarks as you can together.
- Look at a road map and find the River Thames. Find out where it reaches the sea.

A Day in London

When Gran takes the children
on a visit to London, things
don't go quite as Gran
planned!



Stage 8 Stories

Recommended order of reading:

The Kidnappers	The Flying Carpet
Viking Adventure	A Day in London
The Rainbow Machine	Victorian Adventure

Available in packs

Stage 8 Stories Pack (one of each title) ISBN 978-0-19-846604-8

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