



Oxford
Reading
Tree

Victorian Adventure



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What's this story about?

The magic key glows while the children are talking about their day in London. The magic takes them to a street in Victorian London. They make friends with children and visit Buckingham Palace. When they are caught and taken to the Queen, they are astonished to find Gran there!

Talk together

Explain that Queen Victoria was Queen over a hundred years ago. Look through the pictures to see what London was like at that time. Look at the picture of the children on pages 16 and 17. Find the word 'grandchildren' in the text.

Read the story

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

- W** As the child reads to you, remind him/her to use letter sounds and syllables to work out new words.
- C** Page 4, ask, "Why was the boy surprised to see the children?"
- W** Page 8, can the child think of another word for 'winding'?
- C** Page 11, ask, "How did the children get money for bread?"
- C** Page 19, ask, "Why did Chip say, 'Oh...never mind'?"
- C** Page 22, ask, "Why were the policemen cross with the children?"
- W** Page 24, ask, "Can you think of another word or words for 'forever'?"
- C** At the end, ask, "What do you think Gran and Queen Victoria talked about?"



Biff and Chip had been to London with Gran. They had some pictures which they put into a scrapbook. They wanted to take the book to school.



Gran came into Biff's room to look at the children's scrapbook.

"We had a great time in London," said Biff.
"Thank you, Gran."
Gran was pleased.



Suddenly, the magic key glowed. It was time for an adventure. The magic took the children into the little house. But did it take Gran?



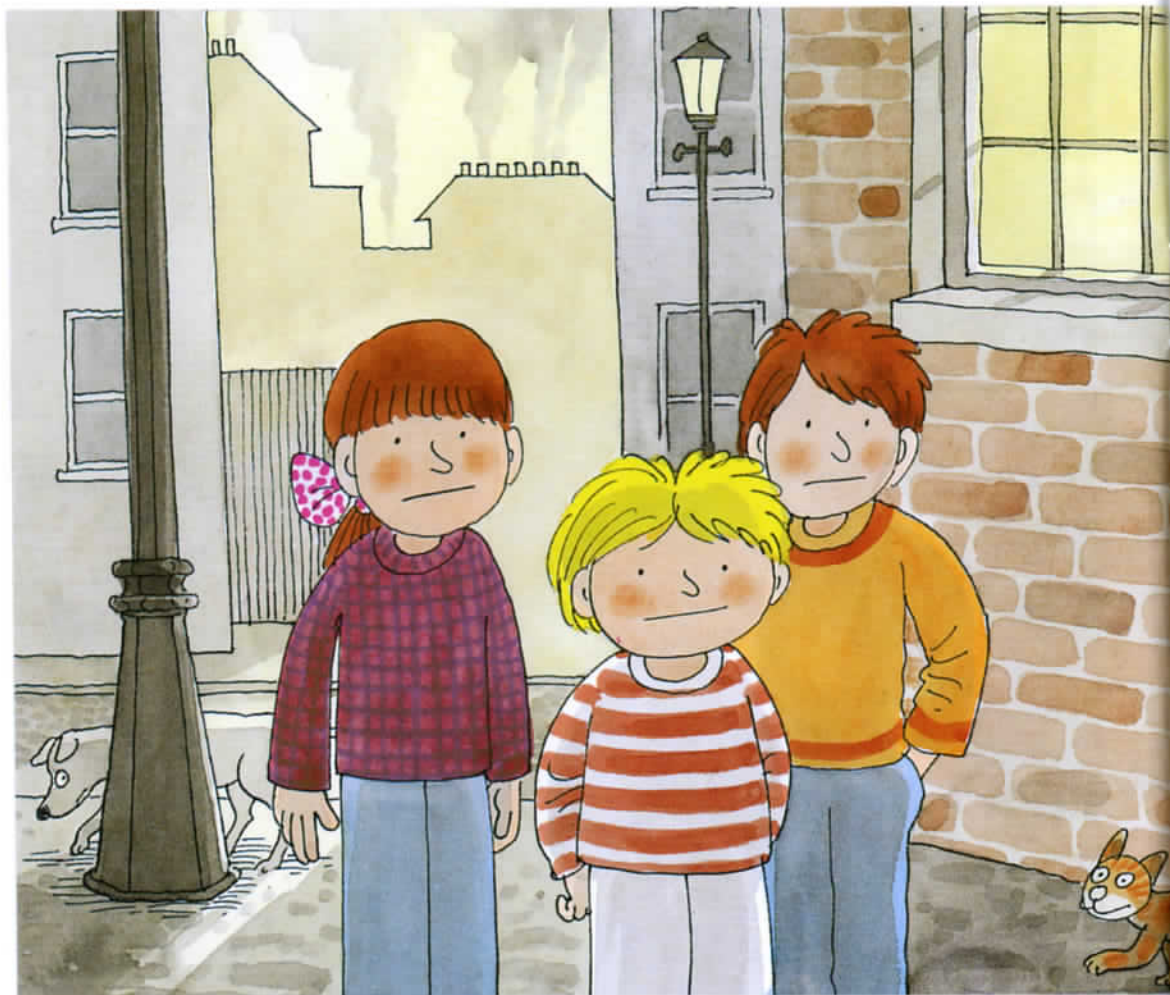
The magic took them back in time to a street on a foggy day. A boy was standing under a gas lamp. He looked at the children in surprise.



“Excuse me,” said Biff. “Do you know where we are?”

“Don’t you know?” said the boy. “This is London.”

He took his cap off. It wasn’t a boy; it was a girl!



“I’m called Vicky,” said the girl. “I’m called Vicky after the queen.”

“What queen?” asked Biff.

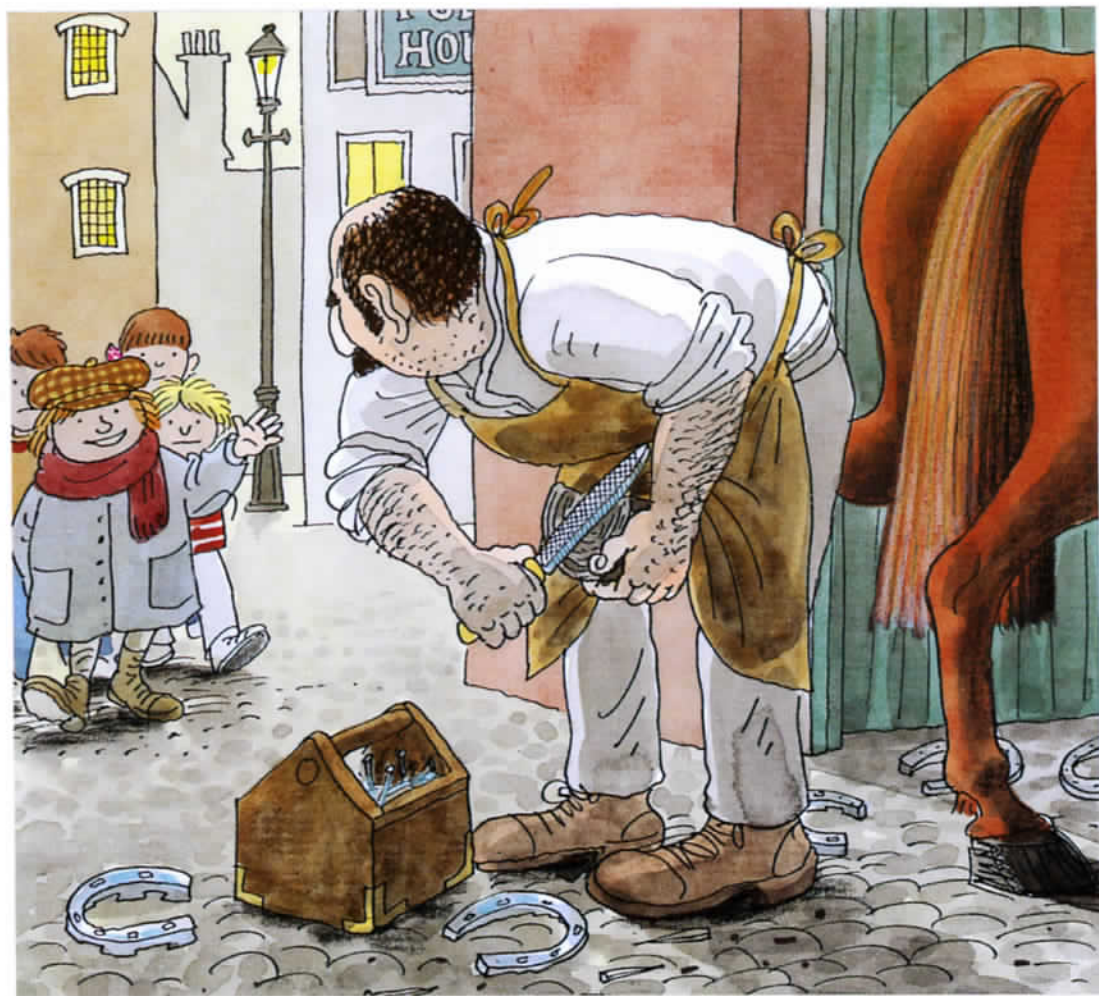
“Queen Victoria,” said Vicky. “Don’t you know anything?”



“I’m hungry,” said Vicky. “Have you got any money?”

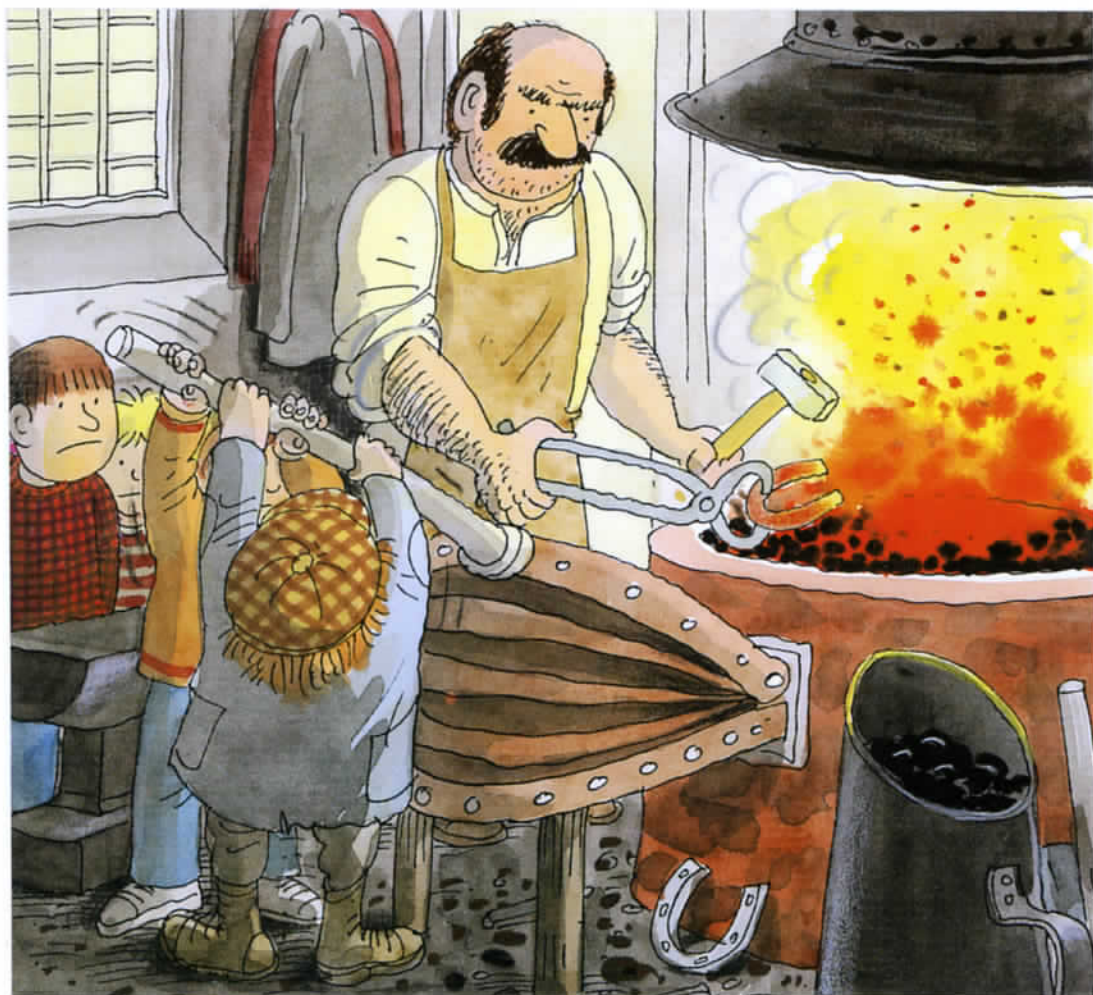
“No, sorry,” said the children.

“Come on, then,” said Vicky. “I know where we can get some. Follow me.”



They followed Vicky down winding streets. At last, they came to a blacksmith's. The blacksmith was looking at a horse's hoof. The horse needed a new shoe.

"Got any jobs, mister?" asked Vicky.



“I’ll give you a penny to pump the bellows,”
said the blacksmith.

The children pumped and pumped until the fire
glowed hot. It was hard work.



The children were hot and thirsty. Vicky took them to a pump and everyone had a drink. Then Vicky pumped the water and the children washed their faces.



The children were hungry. Vicky took them to a baker's shop. She bought some bread with the penny. She gave some to Biff, Chip and Kipper. The bread was hot and it smelled good.



Next, Vicky took them to a street with a high wall. A boy called Jack was waiting there. He looked at Biff, Chip and Kipper.

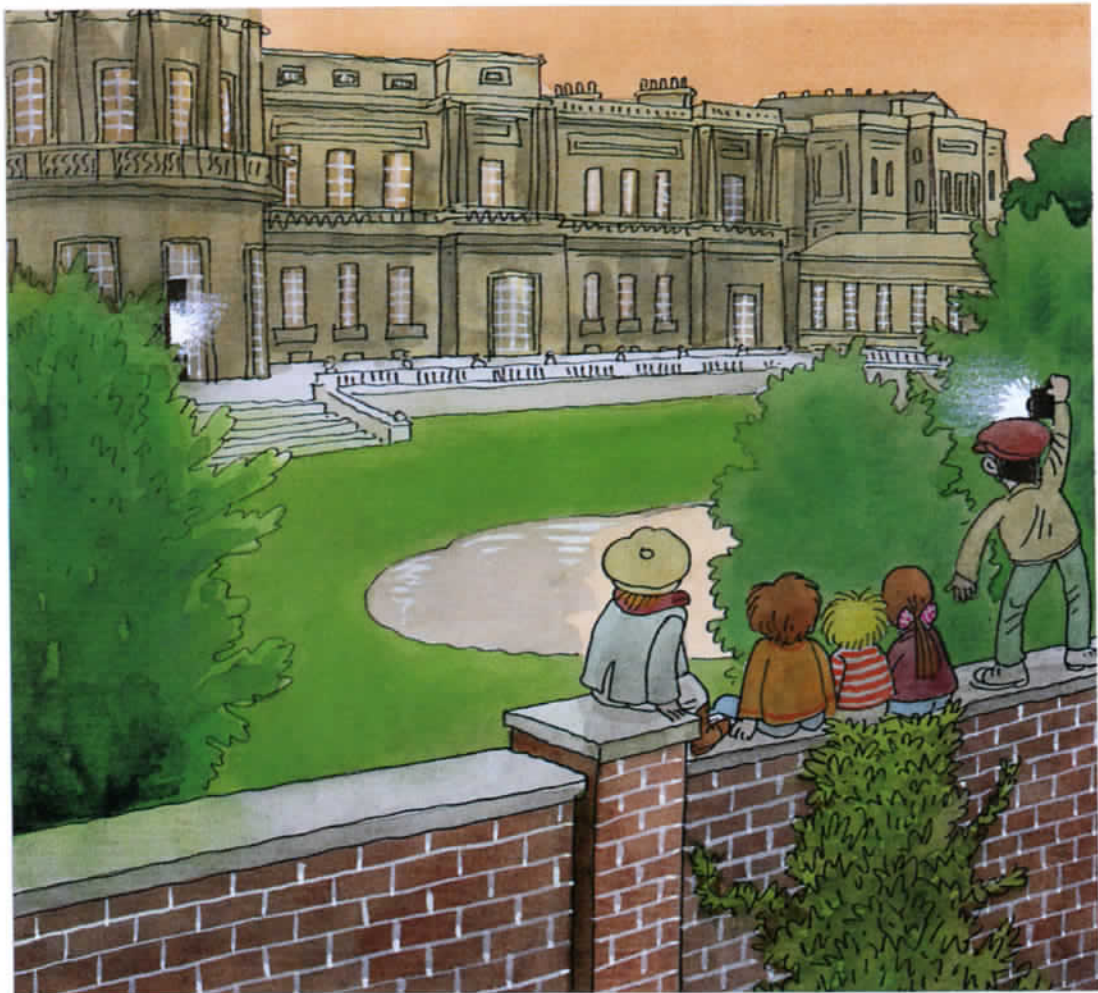
“Who are they?” he asked.

“They’re my new friends,” she said.



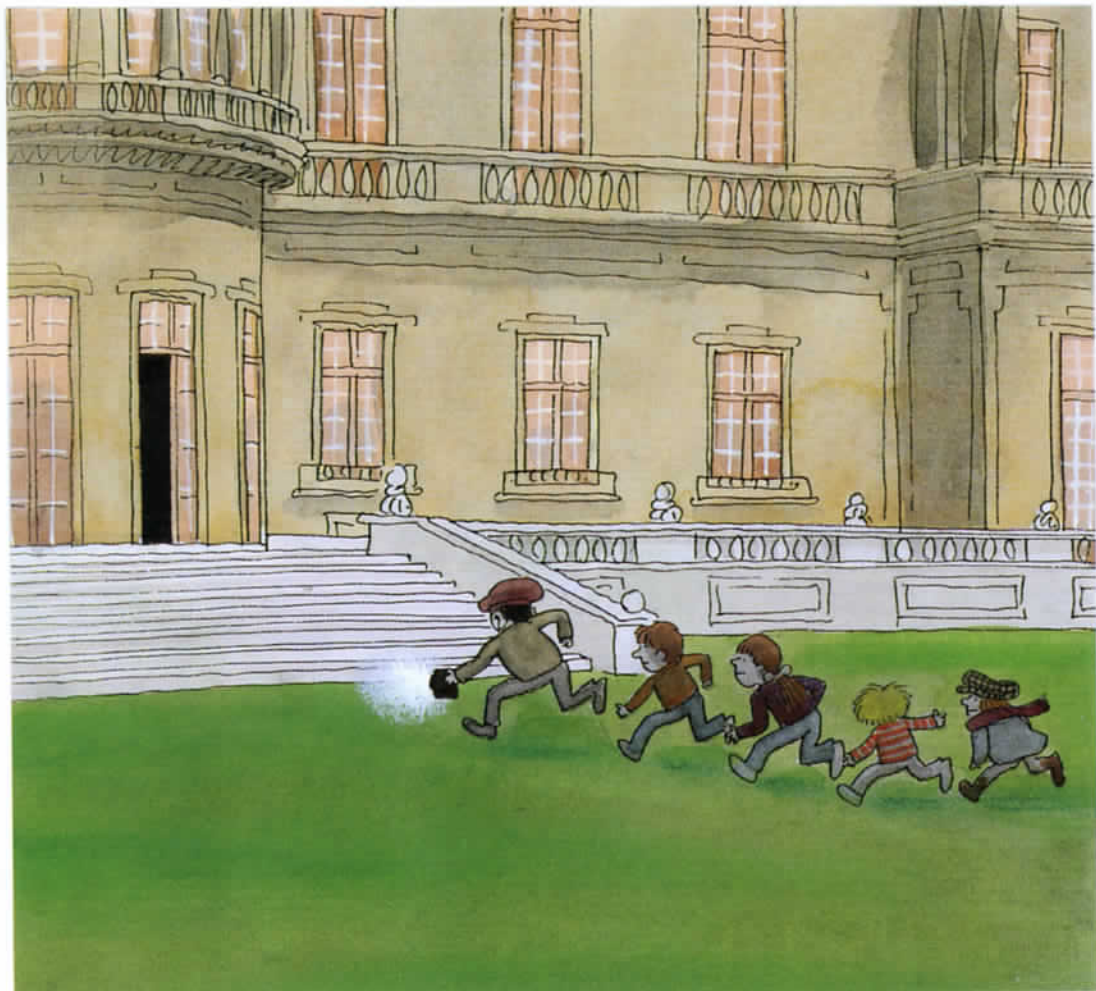
They all climbed on the wall. They had to help Kipper up. They could see a big house.

“It’s Buckingham Palace,” said Biff. “We saw it when we went to London with Gran.”



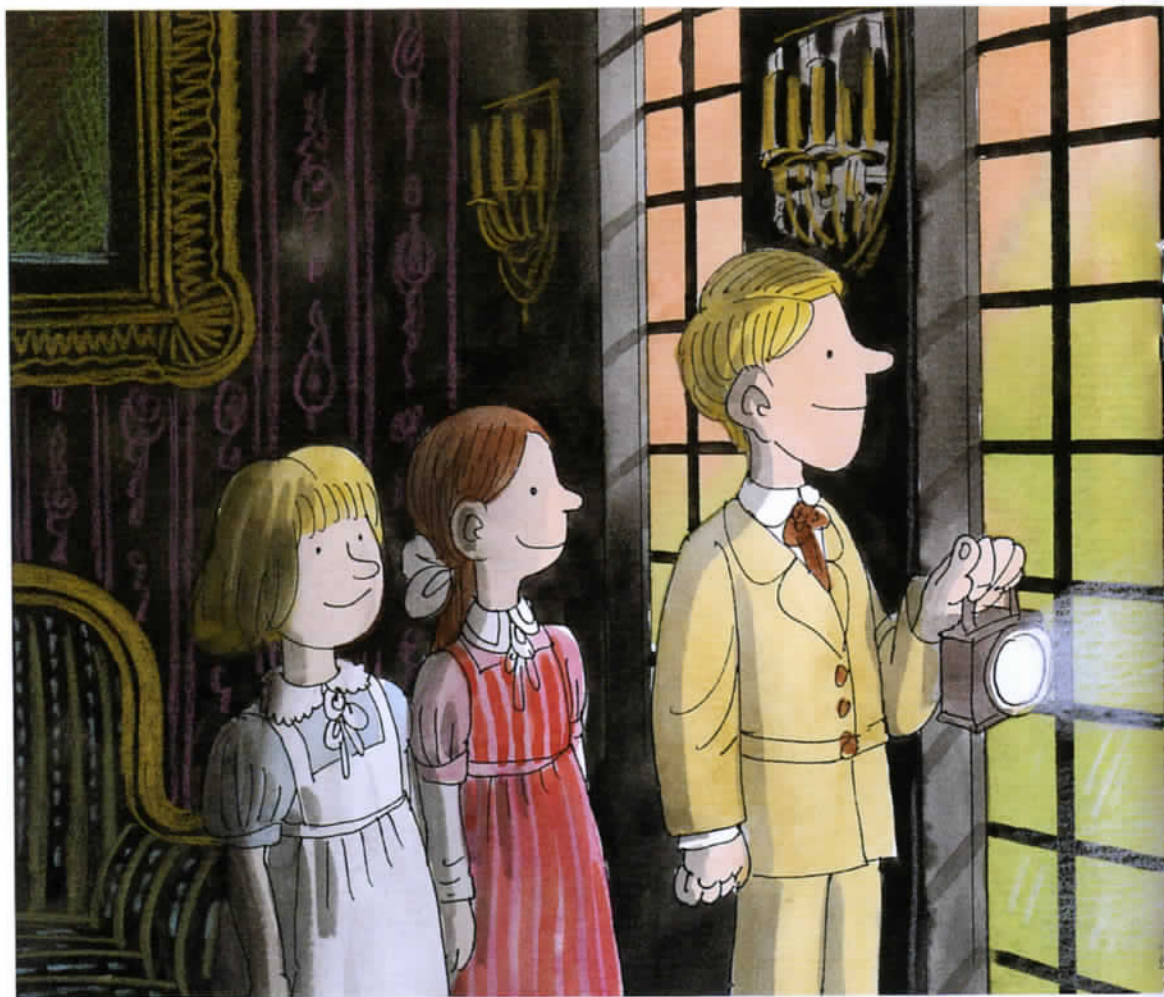
Suddenly, a light flashed at a window. It flashed on and off. It was flashing at Jack and Vicky. Jack had a lamp. He shone it back.

“Good,” he said. “Come on, follow me!”



The children jumped off the wall and ran to the palace.

“Keep down,” called Jack, “and run fast.” Someone opened a window and they all ran towards it.



There were three children inside. They were the grandchildren of Queen Victoria.

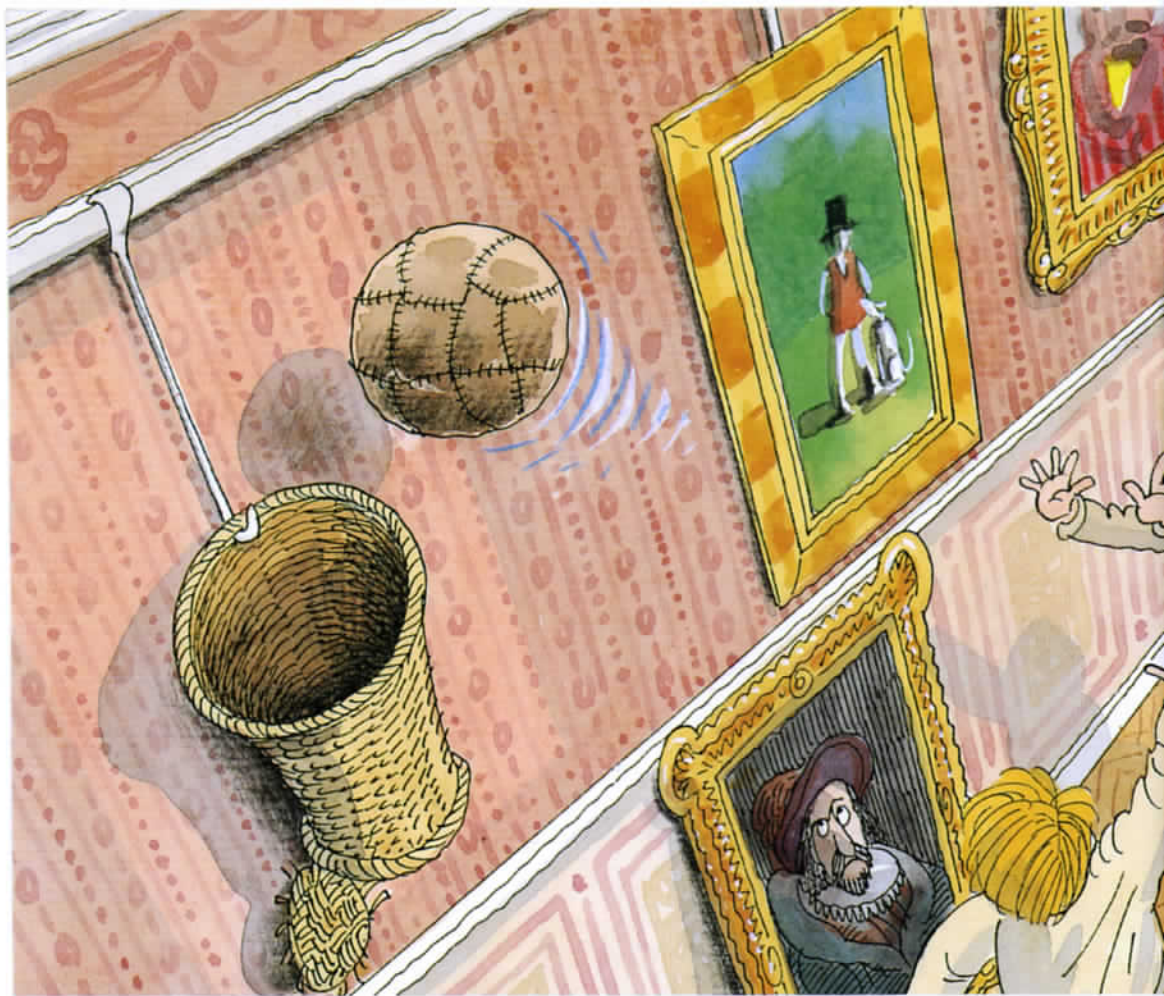
“They’re staying with the Queen but it isn’t much fun for them,” said Vicky. “We come to play with them every night.”



The Queen's grandchildren looked at Biff, Chip and Kipper.

"They're my new friends," said Vicky.
"They've come to play tonight."

"Great, now we can have some real fun," said one of the grandchildren.



The children played together. First they played hide and seek. Then they played tag. After that they played hop-scotch. Biff and Chip taught them how to play basketball.

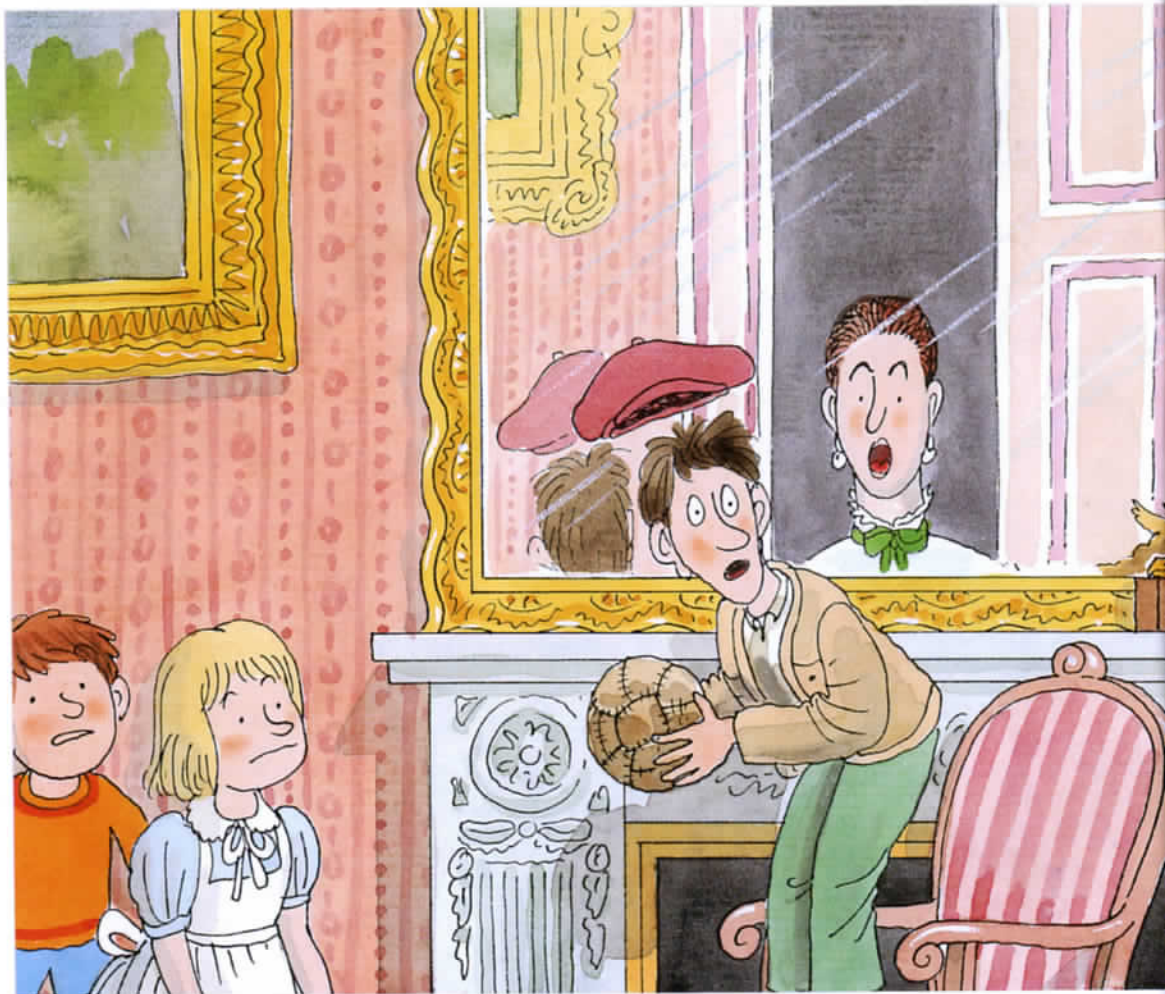


“This is a good game,” said one of the grandchildren. “How did you learn to play it?”

“We saw it on television,” said Chip.

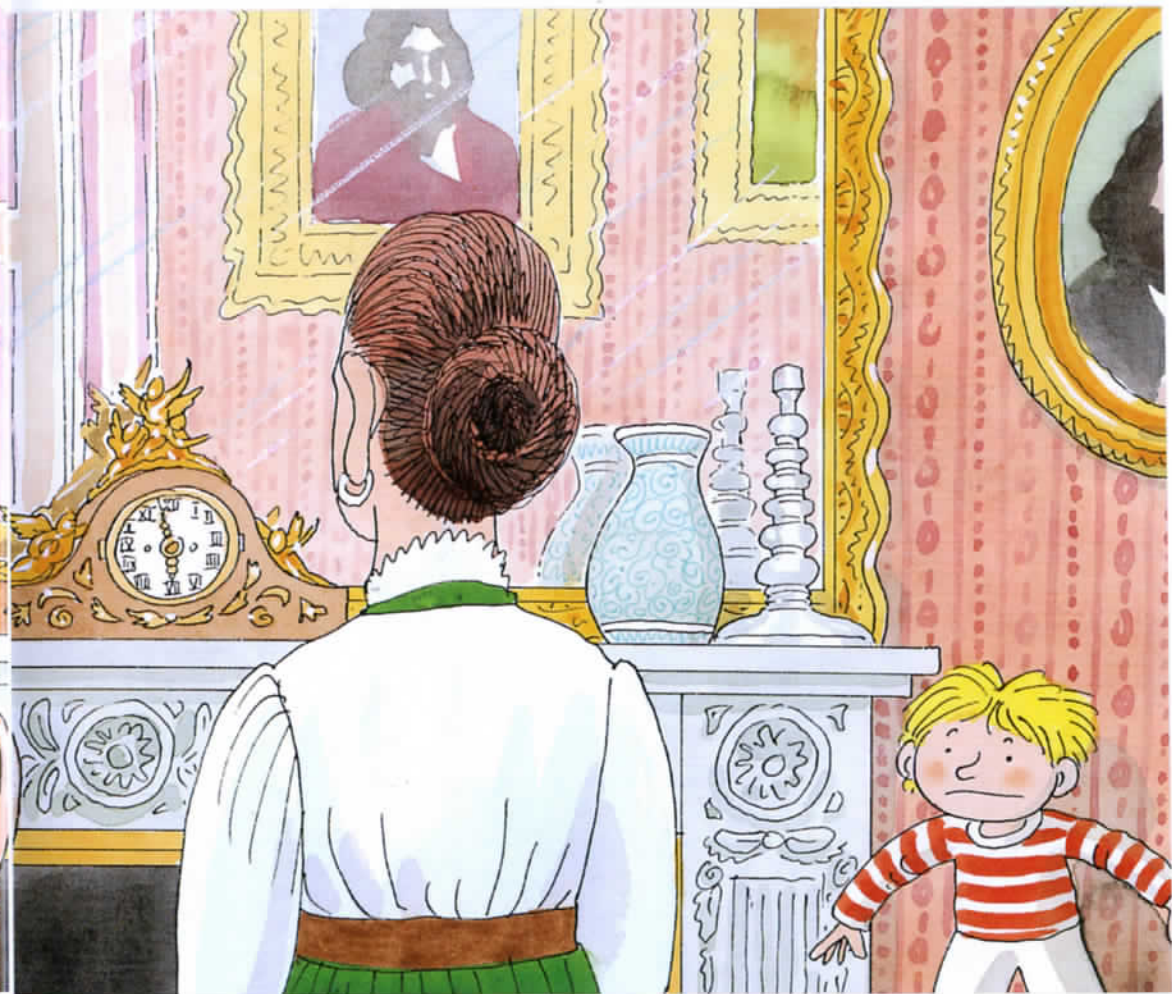
“On what?” asked Jack.

“Oh ... never mind,” said Chip.



“It’s fun playing in a palace,” said Kipper,
“but will we see Queen Victoria?”

“I hope not,” said Vicky, “we shouldn’t be here.”



“If the grown-ups find out, there will be trouble.”
At that moment, a grown-up came in and saw
them.

“Oh no!” said everyone. “Trouble!”



The grown-ups were very cross. They were cross with all the children.

“I told you there would be trouble,” said Vicky.



The royal grandchildren were sent to bed.
A policeman came to take the others away.
“This is a serious matter,” said the policeman.
“You’re not allowed to play with the Queen’s
grandchildren. Come along with me.”



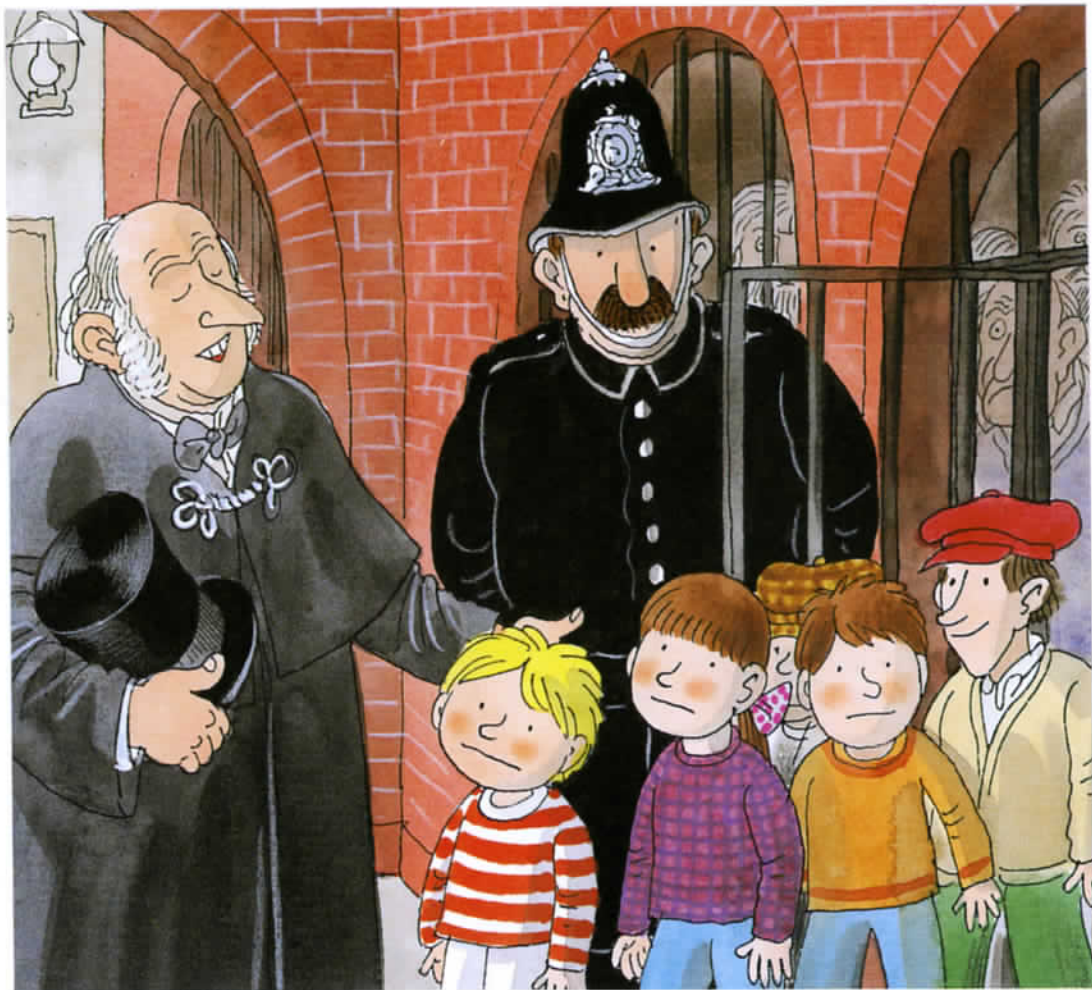
The children were taken to a police station.
They were locked up.

“You can’t go home until we find your mothers
and fathers,” said a policeman.

“Oh no,” said Biff. “We’ll be here forever.”



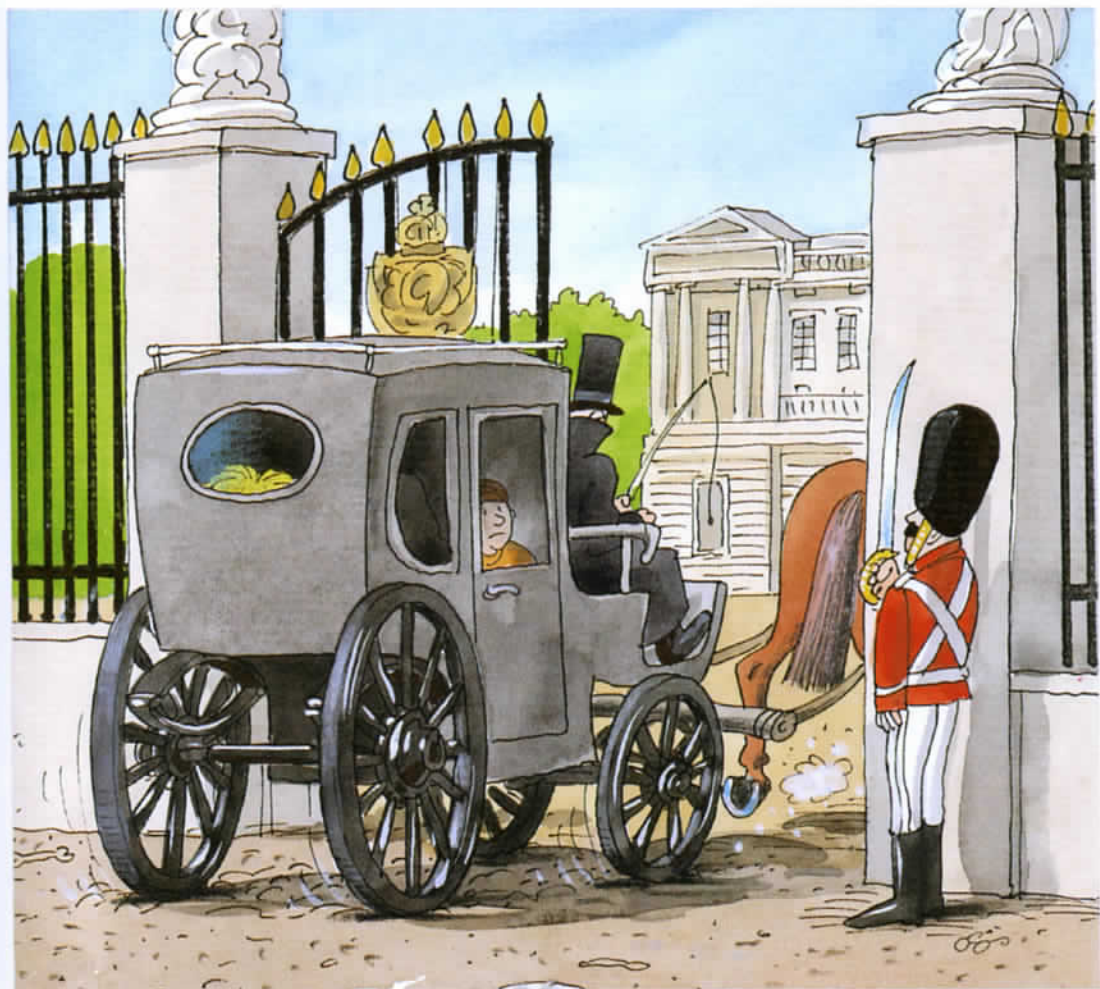
“I don’t like this adventure,” said Kipper.
“It isn’t much fun.”
He wanted the magic key to glow, but it wouldn’t.



The next day, an important man came to see the children.

“The Queen has sent for you,” he said. “Come with me.”

The policeman let them out.



The important man took them to Buckingham Palace.

“Do you think we are going to have our heads chopped off?” said Kipper.



Gran was having tea with Queen Victoria.

“Gran!” said Chip. “What are you doing in our adventure?”

“I’m having an adventure of my own,” said Gran.



Queen Victoria looked at all the children and smiled.

“Your grandmother has told me that you are good children,” she said. “You can play with my grandchildren and stay to tea.”

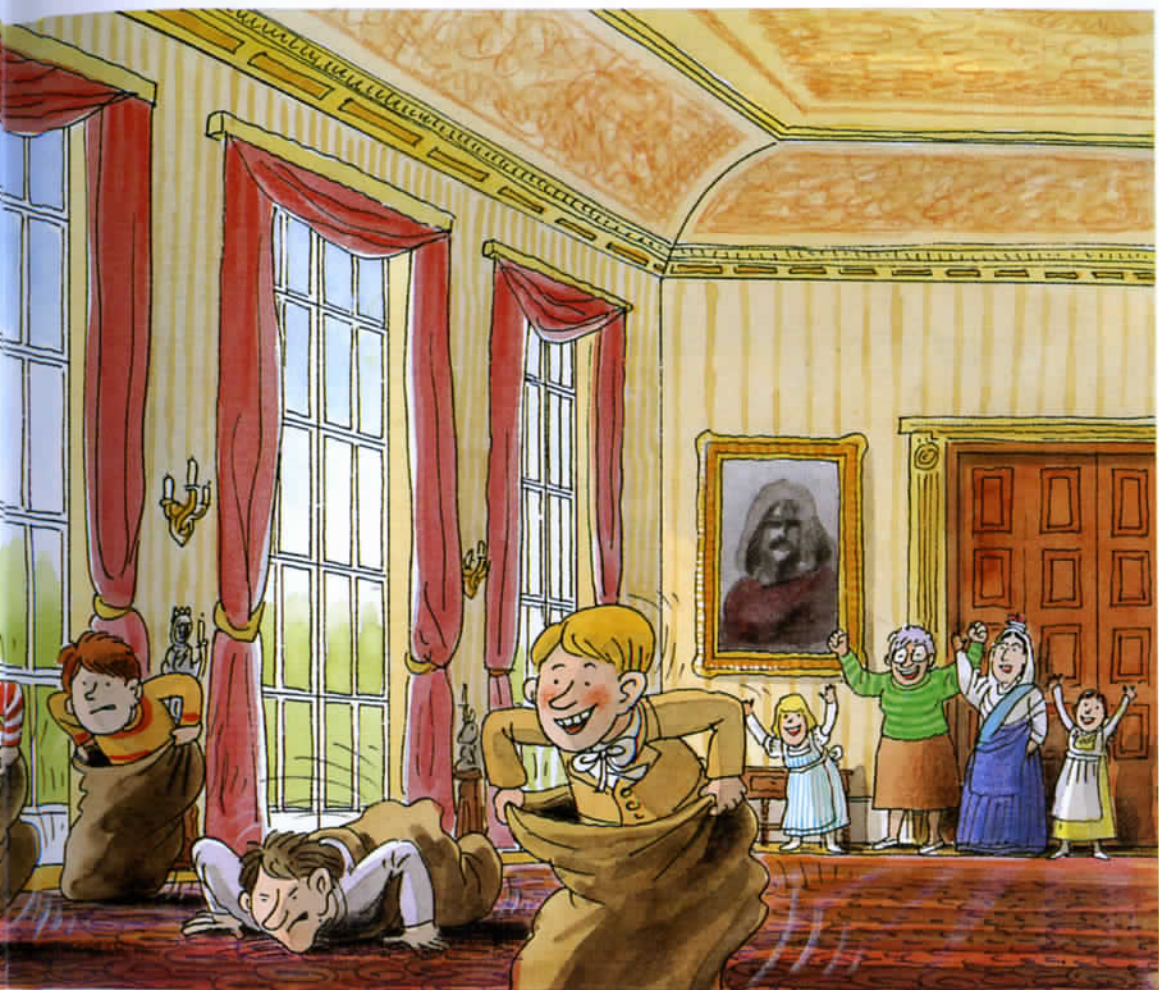


The children played in the throne room. They had a sack race.

“Come on Biff,” called Gran.

“Come on Vicky,” called the Queen.

“This is fun,” everyone said.



“You can have one more race,” said the Queen,
“and then it will be time for tea. I hope you like
scones and home-made strawberry jam.”



The magic key began to glow. It was time for the adventure to end.

“Goodbye,” said Kipper. “Thank you for having us.”

“It was a pleasure,” said Queen Victoria, “do come again.”

Play a game

Question and answer

To help the child to notice question marks and to find answers by looking back at the story.

- Look through the book to find a question. Read the question and ask, "What was the answer?" For example, on page 7 you could read the question, 'Have you got any money?' The child might remember the answer, but ask him/her to check by finding the answer in the book.
- Then the child asks you a question from the story and you find the answer.
- Have two turns each.

Other ideas

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

- Find words in the story made up from two words, such as 'grand'/'mother', 'scrap'/'book', 'black'/'smith'. Practise spelling the words.
- Look up 'Queen Victoria' in a reference book or on the Internet. Find out more about her children and grandchildren.

Victorian Adventure

The magic key glows and takes the children to London in the past. When they visit Buckingham Palace, they get quite a surprise.



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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