

War Boy

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- 1 I woke up when the bomb came through my roof. It came through at an angle, overflowed my bed by inches, bounced up over my mother's bed, hit the mirror, dropped into the grate and exploded up the chimney. It was an incendiary. A fire-bomb.
- 5 My brother Ivan appeared in pyjamas and his Home Guard tin hat. Being in the Home Guard, he had ensured that all the rooms in our house were stuffed with sandbags. Ivan threw sand over the bomb but the dry sand kept sliding off. He threw the hearthrug over the bomb and jumped up and down on it, until brother Pud arrived with a bucket of wet sand from the yard. This did the trick.
- 11 Mother grabbed me from the bed. The night sky was filled with lights. Searchlights, anti-aircraft fire, stars and a bombers' moon. The sky bounced as my mother ran. Just as we reached our dug-out across the street, the sky flared red as the church exploded.



1 Where was the narrator just before this story begins?

2 "*I woke up when the bomb came through my roof.*" (paragraph 1)

Why do you think the author began the story with this sentence?

3 "*It was an incendiary. A fire-bomb.*" (paragraph 1)

Why do you think the author added the information telling you what kind of bomb it was?

4 The Home Guard were not soldiers but they were trained to keep people in towns and cities safe.

How did being in the Home Guard help Ivan and Pud to keep the family safe?

5 How do you think Ivan felt when he was throwing sand on the bomb?

Explain your answer using ideas from the text.

6 Do you think it was dark outside?

Yes No

Explain your answer using ideas from the text.

7 "*the sky flared red as the church exploded.*"

Suggest a different word with a similar meaning that the author could have used instead of "*flared*".

8 The setting for this story is in 1940.

Find **two** more pieces of evidence that show that the setting is during a war.

9 Do you think the narrator was an adult or a child when this event happened?

Explain your answer using ideas from the text.

Challenge 3

Write the question number and then answer the questions:

Answers: