

Chapter 2

You might think the children stayed away from the railway after that but Bobbie, Peter and Phyllis didn't. They were used to living in a noisy city and the country was so quiet. The only thing they had was the trains. They were the link to the old life that the children had. They stood on the railings by the line and gave names to the different trains. The 9:15 up was called the Green Dragon. The 10:07 down was the Worm of Wantley. The midnight express was the Fearsome Fly-by-Night.

The Green Dragon was the train that the old gentleman was always on. The train went to London, so the children sent their love to Father with the train. To send their love, they waved at the train. They waved their pocket handkerchiefs at the train and a hand waved back from the first-class carriage.

It was the old gentleman. He was always very well dressed and had a newspaper in his hand. Every day the children waved at the Green Dragon and every day the old gentleman waved back.

Mother spent all of her time writing. She sent out large blue envelopes with stories in them. Envelopes would come back and Mother would say, "Oh dear, another story come home to roost."



They waved their pocket handkerchiefs at the train.

The children all felt very sorry when this happened. Sometimes the envelopes came back and Mother would say, “A sensible editor! He’s taken my story. Here is the proof.” A proof was the story which is printed on it. When this happened, there were buns for tea.

One day, Peter went to **fetch** the buns and met the stationmaster. Peter was very uncomfortable. He hadn’t seen the stationmaster for a long time.

Peter didn’t say good morning when he saw him. But the stationmaster did.

“Good morning,” he said to Peter as they passed each other in the lane.

“Good morning,” Peter replied. He stopped walking and thought for a moment. Then he turned around and ran after the stationmaster.

“What is it?” the stationmaster asked.

“I didn’t want you to be polite to me if you didn’t know who I was,” Peter said.

“Of course, I know who you are. **Let bygones be bygones.** Where are you going?” the stationmaster asked.

fetch (v) to bring

let bygones be bygones (idiom) to forget about a disagreement that happened in the past; to forgive someone for what they have done to you

“To buy buns for tea,” Peter said

“I thought you were poor,” said the stationmaster.

“We are. We always have buns for tea when Mother sells a story or a poem,” said Peter.

“She writes stories? You should be proud to have such a clever mother,” said the stationmaster.

“We are, but she used to play with us before she had to be so clever,” Peter said sadly.

The stationmaster and Peter were friends after this. The next day, after the children had waved at the Green Dragon and the old gentleman, Peter took Bobbie and Phyllis to the station.

“We shouldn’t go!” Bobbie said.

“The stationmaster and I are friends now. It’s all sorted,” said Peter.

The children spent two hours with the porter at the station. He never got tired of answering the children’s questions. He told them all about trains and the stationmaster came to talk to them too. It was like they had never stolen the coal.

Peter noticed that different train engines had different numbers. He decided to write them down in a little black note book.

The next day, Mother was ill. The doctor said she had **influenza**. Bobbie made herself head nurse and made a fire in Mother's room to keep her warm. The doctor told her, "Give Mother beef tea, brandy, milk, soda water and grapes and she will be better."

Bobbie told Phyllis and Peter what the doctor and Mother had said.

"We can live on bread and butter," said Phyllis.

Mrs. Viney went to the village with one shilling to buy as much brandy, beef tea and soda water as she could. The children were worried. They knew that a shilling wouldn't buy very much. The children thought for a long time, then they had an idea.

Peter and Phyllis got out a large bedsheet and a pot of black that was used on the fire.

Bobbie went to sit and talk to Mother. She stayed up all night and kept the fire going. She gave Mother milk and soda water when she was awake and fell asleep in the chair when Mother was asleep.

influenza (n) flu, a very bad cold



Lots of people on the train stared at the sign.

The doctor came back to see Mother the next day. He saw the beef tea and the brandy, but there were no grapes.

“They are coming tomorrow,” said Bobbie when the doctor asked about them. The doctor sent Bobbie to bed, so that she would not be ill and Mrs. Viney sat with Mother.

Peter went down to the trains on his own. When the Green Dragon went past, the old gentleman got ready to wave. He looked and didn’t see three children. Only Peter was there. He was pointing at a big white bed sheet that was nailed to the fence and it had big black letters on it.

Lots of people on the train stared at the sign. It said:

LOOK OUT AT THE STATION

COMPREHENSION CHECK

Test 1

Are the following sentences TRUE (T) or FALSE (F)?

1. The Railway Children had a dog called Peter. T / F
2. The Doctor called Bobbie “Head Nurse”. T / F
3. The Doctor gave Perks a stuffed squirrel
for his birthday. T / F
4. Bobbie wrote a letter to the stationmaster
asking for help with Father. T / F
5. The children saved the 11:29
from running into a landslide. T / F
6. The old gentleman was called Jabez Szezcpansky. T / F
7. Bobbie’s real name is Roberta,
but nobody calls her that. T / F
8. The midnight express was called
the Worm of Wantley. T / F
9. The cook and the maid the old gentleman sent
were horrible. T / F
10. The boy in the red jumper was called Jim. T / F

Test 4

Answer the questions below.

1. What blew up and frightened the dog?
2. What did Bobbie and Phyllis call the green train?
3. What is the name of the house that the children and Mother went to live in?
4. How many boys were chasing the hare in the paperchase?
5. What was the Russian man's job?
6. What colour were the flags and petticoats that the children used to stop the train?
7. Who was the grandfather of the boy in the red jumper?
8. What did Mother send out in long blue envelopes?
9. Who got off the train after everyone in the village waved to Bobbie?
10. Who did Bobbie and Phyllis tie up and leave on the sofa?

GRAMMAR CHECK

Test 1

Complete the sentences with *despite, although, however*.

1. all the challenges, we managed to finish the project on time.
2. they are very rich, they live in a very small house.
3. The open air concert was planned to take place today;, it was cancelled due to bad weather.
4. her illness, Mary went to college as she had an important exam.
5. He's never pleased with his salary he earns three times as much as me.
6. the heavy fog, the flights were not cancelled.
7. she didn't have all the right qualifications, the company offered her the job.
8. he stayed in Spain for three years, he can hardly speak any Spanish.
9. There was a lot of traffic in the morning;, I got to the meeting on time.
10. his leg injury, he managed to win the race.

VOCABULARY CHECK

Test 1

Fill in the blanks with the words below.

put	convenient	averted	cheered	prompt
drag	fidgeting	heal	sniffing	villain

1. The children a train accident by warning the authorities about the landslide.
2. His mother told him off for constantly in his chair at dinner.
3. She had a very bad cold. She kept and wiping her nose.
4. We decided to rearrange the meeting as the time wasn't for us.
5. The doctor told me that I shouldn't worry about my wound and that it would easily.
6. The firemen's response to the fire prevented more casualties.
7. The suitcase was so heavy that he had to to get it out of the way.
8. The audience the winner as she received her medal.
9. She often plays the in most of her movies.
10. Even firefighters from the neighbouring towns helped to the fire out.