



Key Stage 3

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Paper 1 Explorations in creative reading and writing
Year 9 Pack 1

Insert

The Source that follows is:

Source A: 20th Century prose-fiction

It is an extract from the novel *Carrie's War* by Nina Bawden.

It is set in the Second World War and tells the story of two evacuees, Carrie and her brother Nick.

**Please turn the page over
to see the Source**

Source A

It is war-time and Carrie and her brother Nick have been sent away from their home in London, as evacuees¹, to live in the safety of a village in Wales with Mr Evans and his sister. Here, after their first night, they meet Mr Evans.

- 1 He wasn't an Ogre², of course. Just a tall, thin, cross man with a loud voice, pale, staring, pop-eyes, and tufts of spiky hair sticking out from each nostril. Councillor Samuel Isaac Evans was a bully. He bullied his sister. He even bullied the women who came into his shop, selling them things they didn't really want to buy and refusing to stock things that they did. 'Take it or leave it,' he'd say. 'Don't you
5 know there's a war on?"
- 6 He would have bullied the children if he had thought they were frightened of him. But although Carrie was a little frightened, she didn't show it, and Nick wasn't frightened at all. He was frightened of Ogres and spiders and crabs and cold water and the dentist and dark nights, but he wasn't often frightened of people. Perhaps this was only because he had never had reason to be until he met Mr
10 Evans, but he wasn't afraid of him, even after that first, dreadful night, because Mr Evans had false teeth that clicked when he talked. 'You can't really be scared of someone whose teeth might fall out,'
12 he told Carrie.
- 13 The possibility that Mr Evans' teeth might fall out fascinated Nick from the beginning, from the moment Mr Evans walked into the kitchen while they were having breakfast their first morning and
15 bared those loose teeth in what he probably thought was a smile. It looked to the children more like the kind of grin a tiger might give before it pounced on its prey. They put down their porridge spoons and stood up, politely and meekly.
- It seemed to please him. He said, 'You've got a few manners, I see. That's something! That's a bit of sugar on the pill³!'
- 20 They didn't know what to say to this so they said nothing and he stood there grinning and rubbing his hands together. At last he said, 'Sit down, then, finish your breakfast, what are you waiting for? It's a wicked Sin to let good food get cold. You've fallen on your feet, let me tell you, you'll get good food in this house. So no faddiness⁴, mind! No whining round my sister for titbits when my back's turned. Particularly the boy. I know what boys are! Walking stomachs! I told her, you fetch two girls now,
25 there's just the one room, but she got round me, she said, the boy's only a babby!' He looked sharply at Nick. 'Not too much of a babby, I hope. No wet beds. That I won't stand!'
- Nick's gaze was fixed on Mr Evans' mouth. 'That's a rude thing to mention,' he said in a clear, icy voice that made Carrie tremble. But Mr Evans didn't fly into the rage she'd expected. He simply looked startled - as if a worm had just lifted its head and answered him back, Carrie thought.
- 30 He sucked his teeth for a minute. Then said, surprisingly mildly, 'All right. All right, then. You mind your P's and Q's, see, and I won't complain. As long as you toe the chalk line! Rules are made to be kept in this house, no shouting, or running upstairs, and no Language.' Nick looked at him and he went on - quickly, as if he knew what was coming, 'No *Bad* Language, that is. I'll have no foul mouths here. I don't know how you've been brought up but this house is run in the Fear of the Lord.'
- 35 Nick said, 'We don't swear. Even my father doesn't swear. And he's a Naval Officer.'

What an odd thing to say, Carrie thought. But Mr Evans was looking at Nick with a certain, grudging

respect. 'Oh, an Officer, is he? Well, well.'

'A Captain,' Nick said. 'Captain Peter Willow.'

'Indeed?' Mr Evans' teeth clicked – to attention, perhaps.

- 40 He said, grinning again, 'Then let's hope he taught you how to behave. It'll save me the trouble,' and turned on his heel and went back to the shop.

Silence fell. Miss Evans moved from the sink where she'd been all this time, standing quite still, and started to clear the plates from the table.

Nick said, 'You don't mind Language, do you? I mean, I don't know the deaf and dumb alphabet.'

- 45 'Don't be smart,' Carrie said, but Miss Evans laughed. Hand to her mouth, bright squirrel eyes watching the door as if she were scared he'd come back and catch her.

Glossary:

evacuees¹ – children who were moved out of the major towns and cities and sent to live in the countryside to avoid air-raids during the war.

Ogre² – a frightening giant.

sugar on the pill³ – medicines were traditionally coated in sugar to hide their bitter taste and allow them to be easily swallowed.

faddiness⁴ – fussiness/choosiness.

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