

## BLITZ!

**THE SCENE IS A FAMILY LIVING ROOM DURING THE BLITZ OF WWII.**

MUM: Quiet tonight, Alex.

DAD: Aye so far.

GRAN: Oh they'll be back, you mark my words. And then it'll be boom boom boom again. All night long.

DAD: Do you always have to be so cheery, granny? Anyway, maybe those bombers will go somewhere else tonight.

MUM: Oh I hope so—last night was terrible. I was terrified. And the noise of planes and then the bombs falling!

MARY: I know, mum. Wee Davey Mackay down the road, his house got blown to smithereens. They even blew up their outside lavvy.

MUM: Aye but luckily for them they were all in the shelter, so nobody was hurt. Mary, have you seen your brother, Michael? He knows it's teatime.

MARY: He's still out playing, mum. I saw him and his pals playing in a bomb crater.

GRAN: He's a wee devil that one.

ENTER MICHAEL.

MUM: There you are at last, Michael. Where on earth have you been?

MICHAEL: Just playing, mum.

MUM: Well you shouldn't be playing in bomb craters, you'll hurt yourself.

MICHAEL: Look—I found some shrapnel. And we saw some planes in the sky, Dad. RAF ones.

DAD: Hurricanes?

MIKCHAEEL: No—it was those new Spitfires, dad. They were really, really fast!

DAD: Aye the RAF will do us proud, son. The enemy won't stand a chance against our brave boys in their super-fast planes.

MARY: And even if an enemy bomber does get through, dad, we'll be safe as houses in the air raid shelter.

GRAN: I'm not going to any air raid shelter. I'm too old to be climbing up and down stairs at my age. I'll take my chances here in the house.

MICHAEL: Aye! We could all just stay here. Then we'd be able to see all the bombs falling.

MICHAEL OPENS THE CURTAINS TO LOOK OUT.

ARP: Put that blooming light out!

MICHAEL: What?

ARP: Don't you know the enemy bombers can see that light from way up in the sky and use it to guide their bombs.

MUM: Sorry warden, he was just getting carried away.

ARP: The RAF have got enough to do without you making it easy for the enemy! And if the air raid siren sounds, get straight to the shelter.

GRAN: I'm going nowhere.

DAD: Shoosh, Gran. We will. Thank you.

ARP: And put that blooming light out!

MARY: Let that be a lesson to you, Michael. We could all have got bombed there.

MICHAEL: At least I'd have got a day off school.

MUM: That's enough, you two. Anyway, like your dad says, maybe they won't come back tonight...

SUDDENLY THERE IS THE SOUND OF A VERY LOUD AIR RAID SIREN FOLLOWED BY THE SOUNDS OF BOMBS FALLING, GETTING CLOSER.

### NOTES

Continue the scene so that we find out what happens to the family in the air raid. Do they make it to the shelter? Does granny go with them? What's it like outside during an air raid etc? Try to extend the scene by at least another 2 pages.

The scene could be played like a radio play, where we only hear the voices of family. However, with the imaginative use of every-day items like chairs etc, you could also show the action as it takes place. Can you create the living room interior from objects/furniture that you find around you?

What are the characters like in the play? Michael seems like a bit of a tearaway while granny seems rather grumpy. What is the relationship between Michael and his sister, Mary? Do they argue like a lot of brothers and sisters? What is the ARP Warden like? He seems very angry but maybe that's just part of his job? ARP stands for Air Raid Precautions. Can you find out what this means and what the wardens did during the Blitz?

How do you think sound might play a part in enhancing the drama of the scene? The family might have a radio playing in the background with music or news from the war. Perhaps a clock chimes. What other sounds could be heard in the house? How would you recreate the noise of the air raid siren? Can you find out what this sounds like? There was also an 'all clear' siren which sounded different. How would you recreate the enormous and terrifying sound of falling bombs?

Try to create a definite, dramatic ending to the play. What happens to all family? Do they get split up in the dark, trying to find the shelter? Does granny decide to go too? Perhaps the sound of a bomb going off nearby spurs her into action? Perhaps we see the inside of the shelter, with other

characters sheltering there too. What is it like outside when they emerge from the shelter when the air raid is over?