



Friend or Foe by Michael Morpurgo

Chapter 2 Writing Task Focus: Tenses

Activity 1

Read the below extract from Friend or Foe. The text is written in present tense. Your task is to edit the text to ensure it is written in past tense. You can either re-write the passage out on a piece of paper, or, if you have access to a printer, print this page out and edit the text.

I wake up to find Mother standing over me with an apple. Every morning she wakes me up this way. Today she is dressed to go out, however. She is wearing a hat with a brown feather. My stomach turns and I feel sick.

"We need to get going," Mother says, "because it's quarter to six."

I do not want to go but know that I have to be strong. I have to be the man of the house. Mother packs my tiny suitcase with one change of clothes and brushes my hair with her fingers.

When we are walking to the train station, I see a fiery glow south of the river. More bombs have exploded over night, killing countless people.

At the train station, Miss Evers counts us all and tells us not to forget our gas masks. I blink back the tears as I say goodbye to Mother and follow Miss Evers through the tunnels, down never ending staircases and to the smoky platform.

I spend two long hours speaking to my best friend Tucky and Miss Hardy gives everyone a jam roll and a cup of delicious, hot milk which comforts us momentarily.

Finally we are on the train and Miss Robert sadly says, "Say goodbye to London, boys. Who knows when we'll return..."

I stare out of the window and wonder when I will see Mother again.

Activity 2:

Watch the clip about living through air raids during WWII.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/history-ks2-living-through-the-air-raids/zjnyri6>

Can you summarise the main points in the video in six sentences in the past tense?