

Key stage 2

Pupil A – Piece B: a formal letter

Context: as part of their World War 2 studies, pupils read 'Goodnight Mr Tom' by Michelle Magorian. They also examined the structure and vocabulary used in persuasive letters. They were then tasked to write their own letter in the character of Mr Tom writing to persuade the council to allow him to adopt William.

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To whom it may concern,

I am writing with regards to William Beech, an evacuee put in to my care at the beginning of the war. I have noticed very peculiar behaviour that I believe is the result of physical abuse supplied by his mother, Lucy Beech, stunting his mental growth. It is ~~my~~ of my opinion that him staying to live with me would be immensely beneficial for not only William, but for me as well.

The first reason for this is that at his home in London, he is neglected, beaten and made to feel sinful. To further prove my point, he is covered by bruises and shockingly expects beatings for asking questions. If you knew someone who was treated like this, would you just stand and watch, or would you intervene? If he came to live with me, he would never have to endure that kind of treatment again.

I would also like to bring to your attention that even at his age of eight years old, he is ~~frankly~~ incapable of reading or writing: he is greatly behind the average of the children of the local school. Furthermore, his mother expects him to read the Bible every evening. How, may I ask, can he do this when there is an ~~absence~~ absence of literary ability? William has also revealed that his schoolmaster spends more time whipping students than actually teaching. In addition, Mrs Beech also seems to have a certain disregard

for feeding him. I have drawn this conclusion from the fact ^{that} his ribs protrude from his chest like mountains.

You may find that others rightly think that the bond between mother and child is too strong to break and in most cases, I'd agree. But in a scenario where one is abused and neglected, it is for the best that they be moved to a place where they are cared for, not shunned to the side.

Ultimately, William's future lies in your hands. Will you return him to his mother where he will continue to ~~be~~ in misery, or will you give me permission to keep him in my care? Only you can decide.

Yours truthfully,

Thomas Oakley