

Friday 3rd April

This reading continues from the reading set yesterday.

One night the bangs shook the house so badly that they thought the roof would fall in. "We should have gone to the shelter," muttered Mom.

Next morning, when they went out, the Robinsons' house wasn't there anymore. Their things were lying all over the street among the rubble and broken glass. The neighbours said that the Robinsons had gone to the Rest Centre in the night, wearing blankets.

"That's it!" said Mom. "We've got to get you out of here Lenny."



- 1) Read the seventh page beginning “Soon, suitcase packed”. What is happening to Lenny?
- 2) How does the author make use of the senses to help the reader to understand how Lenny was feeling?
- 3) Why was mum ‘nearly crying’?

Soon, suitcase packed and his name on a label pinned on his jacket, clutching his precious medal in his pocket; Lenny joined a crowd of other children at the train station. Mom was there to see him off.

Lenny felt the shape of the coin with his fingertips. He knew he was supposed to be brave. But when he saw so many strange faces he didn't know how to be.

“It'll be a lovely place in the country,” Mom told him. Flowers and rabbits and all that.” But she was nearly crying.

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4) How is Lenny feeling about boarding the train? *Use the text to support your answers.*

5) Why do you think the author describes his mother as a 'tiny figure at the end of the platform'?



Lenny only realized what was really happening when he was in a crowded train. He put his head out the window and shouted, "Don't leave me, Mom! You come with me!"

But the train had already started to move, very slowly at first, then fast gaining speed. "I'll come to see you soon!" called Mom. "Be a good boy." She was a white face among all the others. She shouted something else, but Lenny couldn't hear her. Then she was a tiny figure at the end of the platform, waving and waving.

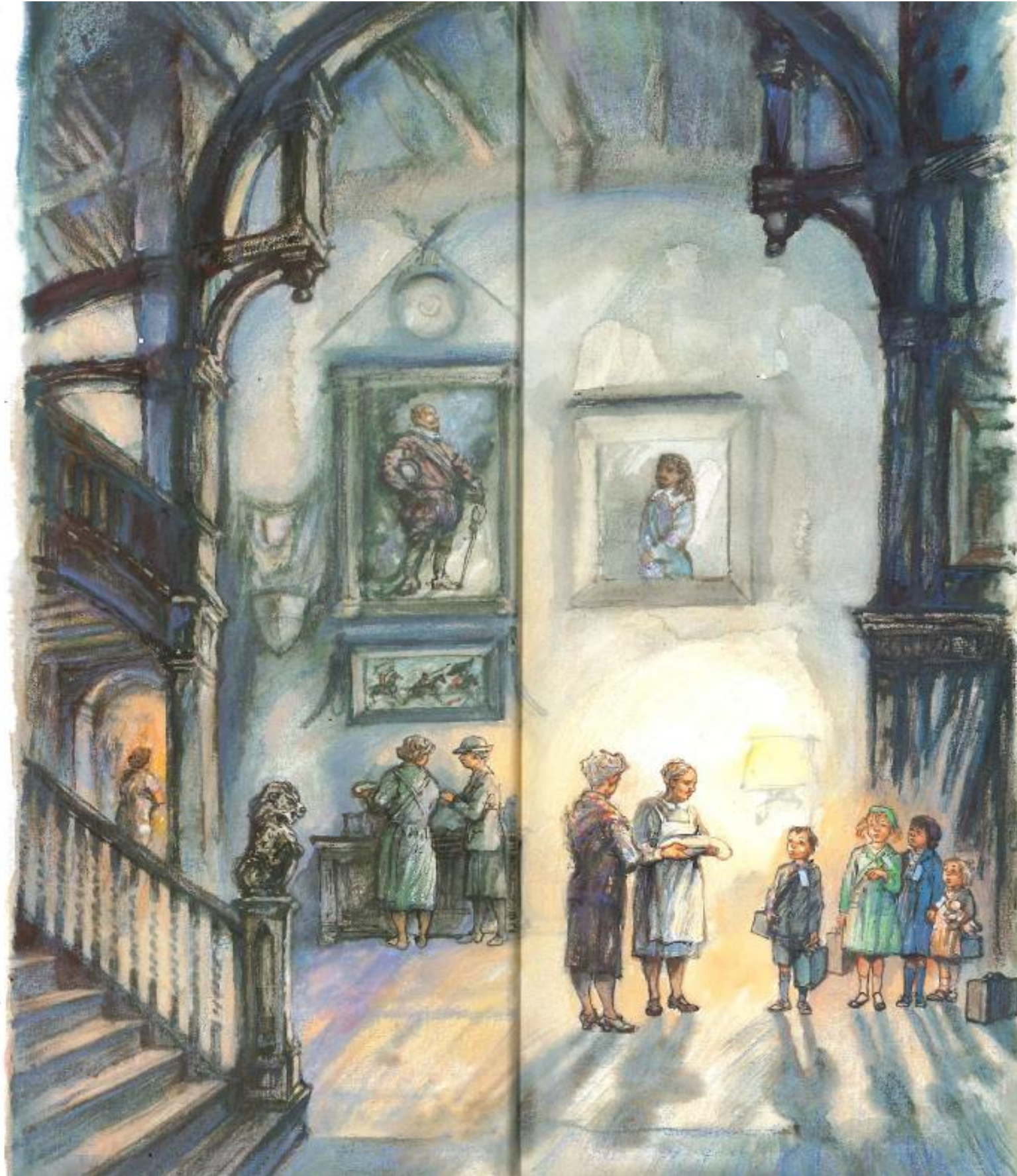


- 6) On page 12, *"We especially..." she asked'* can you read this section aloud with appropriate expression?
7) Who does Lenny meet? How was this different to who he was expecting to meet?
8) What first impression do we get of Lady De Vass from page 12?

It was so dark when at last Lenny arrived that he could not see the place. The windows were blacked out.

Then all at once he was in a huge hall, so big that it seemed their whole house in London could have fitted into it easily.

There were no rabbits that Lenny could see. Just some bored grown-ups bustling about, and two girls bigger than him who were called Joyce and Patsy. And a little one called Winne. They were evacuees. Lenny was one, too.



A lady wearing a great many scarves and woolly cardigans said, "I am Lady De Vass. You must be very tired. Nanny will give you your supper and show you where you are going to sleep."

"We specially asked for girls," Nanny complained, eyeing Lenny.

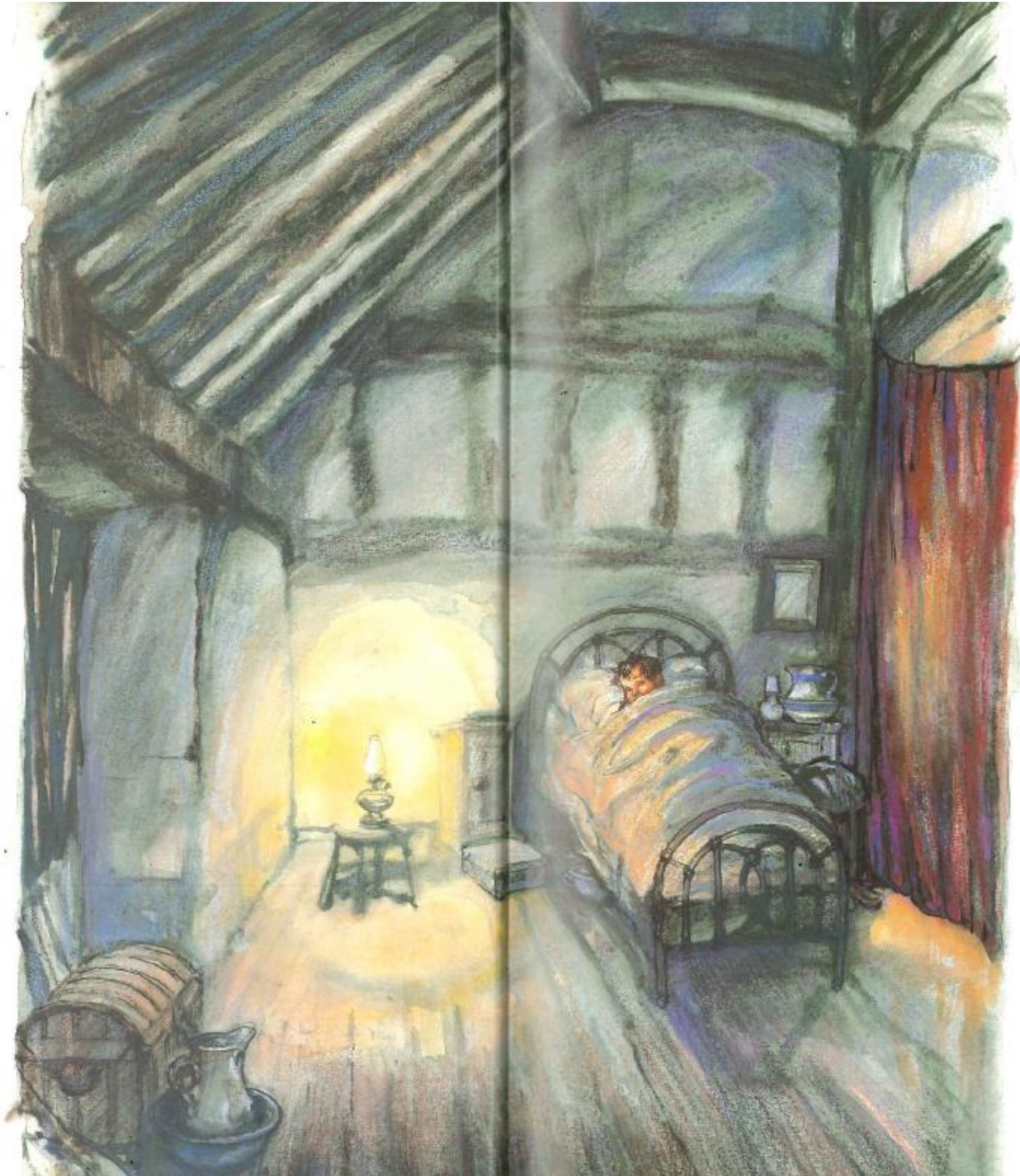
"I'm afraid it's too late now, Nanny," said Lady De Vass. "And he is not a very big boy," she added kindly.



9) What adjectives are used to describe the room in which Lenny sleeps in?

10) How did Lenny feel about his first night away? Use the text to support your answers.

The evacuees were to sleep in a big attic room with dark beams overhead. It was chilly and had no electric light or carpets, but there was a nice woody smell. A curtain hung down the middle. Joyce, Patsy and Winnie were together on one side and Lenny was alone on the other.



NANNY left a couple of little lamps burning when she said good night. Lenny got down under the blankets. He lay awake for a long time, watching the shadows moving in the high roof. He could hear the girls whispering behind the curtain. Then Winnie began to cry.

Lenny felt numb. The only thing that seemed real at that moment was the brass medal that Dad had given him, underneath his pillow. He went to sleep clutching it.

