

The Phantom Airman by Allan Frewin Jones

1

A Spitfire is a kind of British fighter plane which was used in the Second World War. *The student could also say which was used in the Battle of Britain.*

2

Student's own answer. The student could guess that the kids have gone back in time. They have gone back to a day during the Second World War. This has happened as they went onto the old airfield. They have gone back to a day in the past when there was a storm. But Darryl has stayed outside the airfield and in the present, so the storm has not happened in the present.

3

Darryl believes in the Psychic Stain Theory. If the crash was a Psychic Stain, it has been repeated for a good reason – the theory tells him that. Does the crash happen again every year on the same day? Yes, that is what Darryl thinks, because that could be a good reason.

4

Because she remembers the Second World War well. And during that war, she worked on the airfield. She was a WAAF.

5

When she is with the pilot, she is in the past – in 1940. But if she tries to get help, she will return to the present. Then she will be nearly sixty years too late to help.

6

Florrie is blind – she can no longer see the photos herself.

7

Yes, Glen has helped Regan to find the piece of metal. First the ghost of Glen has appeared and it has pointed to the ruins of the old house. Then it has disappeared. But when Regan has walked almost up to the ruins, she has felt a hand on her shoulder. She has stopped at this point. But there was no one near her. It must have been the ghost's hand. She has found the metal on the ground where she has stopped.

8

The kids want the piece of metal to go on with the message. They want to leave it alone. 'Perhaps it will write some more, if we don't watch it,' Tom says. Regan does not want the metal to do more damage to the expensive table in the sitting room. So the kids take the metal to Regan's bedroom. They leave it alone there.

9

Glen has lifted Jennie from the ground. He is going to throw her down the stairs when Regan shouts. *The student should guess why. The student might say this is because Jennie has thrown away the piece of metal which was writing his message.*

10

Student's own answer. The student might suggest that perhaps nothing happens in 1999, because time has stopped there. The sounds of the present day (the aircraft engines) stop. Everyone except the kids stops moving. The pilot stops speaking in the middle of a sentence. When the scene from the past has finished, the sounds start again, and the people start moving again. The pilot finishes his sentence.

11

These things in previous chapters were very cold – the glass of the museum cabinet where the diary had been (Chapter 6); the piece of metal that the kids found on the airfield (Chapter 7); the flames in Regan's bedroom (Chapter 8). *The student might suggest that things which have connections with the past, and with Glen, are colder than the things around them.*

12

In 1940, the entrance to the Operations Room was where the small hill is in 1999. The kids, still in 1999, are seeing the WAAFs going to work in 1940. The WAAFs are walking down the steps which the kids find later in the chapter.

13

Because there was no punctuation in the message. The kids had misunderstood it as 'Help me [to] rest safe[ly] under the airfield. But the real meaning is 'Help me rest. [There is a] safe under the airfield.'

14

Student's own answer. This will be difficult to answer comprehensively within the student's knowledge of English at this level. The answer could be something like the following – Florrie Skinner told the kids about the ghosts of the evacuees. She had seen them on the day when the Germans attacked the airfield. They were wearing strange clothes and they looked like living children. The kids now understand something – the reason why Florrie had seen them in the Ops Room, although no one else could see them. Florrie in 1940, had been able to move out of her own time to meet them somewhere outside time. She had seen them in their modern clothes, but they had the same faces as the dead children. So for Florrie, they were the dead children in 'strange clothes'. The four kids from 1999 were in some strange way the same four kids who died in 1940. That is why they have moved between the past and the present. Florrie has not recognized them in the present, because she is blind and cannot see them.