

Writing Historical fiction - the Home Front

Source A an extract from *Small Island* by Andrea Levy

The flashlight's spark burnt spots onto my eyes. But then my legs were lifting off the ground. I could see the pavement lowering under me, feel a whoosh of air, a roaring waterless sea rushing my ears. The everything was quiet except for a note that sang sharp and high in my head. I wasn't the only one flying. Over there a woman, a bundle of rags, was rolling over—a cardigan, a skirt, twisting and flapping. A man, or was it a boy? Making an arc, diving off a swimming board. A silent ballet so beautiful my eyes were sucked from their sockets with the sight. Something hit me across the back taking the wind from me. And then I was coming back down.

Source B An extract from Reginald Thomas Easton's contribution to the BBC website commemorating the 60th anniversary of VE Day

On 28 August 1944, we were in 'the Anderson', our usual night time abode. It was approximately 2am. A colossal explosion broke the silence. A flying bomb had exploded three gardens away, smack on an Anderson. The family were killed outright. The smoke, dust and after-shock made us momentarily deaf.

In no time at all, emergency services, police, ambulance, first aid, fire and rescue were on the scene. The searchlight beams on Wormwood Scrubs were lowered to illuminate the area. The Salvation Army appeared in a van to dispense hot drinks, sandwiches. Equally, they gave us, the survivors, a cotton bag containing soap, flannel, comb, toothbrush and paste. Very welcome.

- ? Think about the way that Andrea Levy uses adjectives to describe what was happening to her
- ? Think about the dramatic language that she uses to draw the reader into the story
- ? Think about the factual evidence that is in the extract from Reginald Easton
- ? Compare the styles of both sources and think about the way in which the second source is different

TASK - Using the objects that you identified at the start of the lesson, write a short piece of historical fiction about the Home front during WW2.

Writing Historical fiction - the Home Front

Source A an extract from *Small Island* by Andrea Levy

The flashlight's spark burnt spots onto my eyes. But then my legs were lifting off the ground. I could see the pavement lowering under me, feel a whoosh of air, a roaring waterless sea rushing my ears. The everything was quiet except for a note that sang sharp and high in my head. I wasn't the only one flying. Over there a woman, a bundle of rags, was rolling over—a cardigan, a skirt, twisting and flapping. A man, or was it a boy? Making an arc, diving off a swimming board. A silent ballet so beautiful my eyes were sucked from their sockets with the sight. Something hit me across the back taking the wind from me. And then I was coming back down.

Source B An extract from Reginald Thomas Easton's contribution to the BBC website commemorating the 60th anniversary of VE Day

On 28 August 1944, we were in 'the Anderson', our usual night time abode. It was approximately 2am. A colossal explosion broke the silence. A flying bomb had exploded three gardens away, smack on an Anderson. The family were killed outright. The smoke, dust and after-shock made us momentarily deaf.

In no time at all, emergency services, police, ambulance, first aid, fire and rescue were on the scene. The searchlight beams on Wormwood Scrubs were lowered to illuminate the area. The Salvation Army appeared in a van to dispense hot drinks, sandwiches. Equally, they gave us, the survivors, a cotton bag containing soap, flannel, comb, toothbrush and paste. Very welcome.

- ? Andrea Levy uses adjectives like 'roaring' and 'rushing' - can you think of any other examples?
- ? think about how this dramatic language draws the reader into the story
- ? The extract from Reginald Easton uses a lot more factual evidence (which can be proved), for example 'The family were killed outright'
- ? Compare the styles of both sources and think about the way in which the second source is different

TASK - Using the objects that you identified at the start of the lesson, write a short piece of historical fiction about the Home front during WW2.