

From Blitzed

Robert Swindells



There's this house in hut 5: a bombed-out London house with glass and bricks and smashed furniture. I think I mentioned it before. It's dark and you hear planes and guns and fire bells. It's dead realistic. All the kids love it – I knew they would. They're hanging over the barrier and I'm pointing stuff out to them. The burst water pipe, the leaning wall, a kid's hand poking out of the rubble. I can't really tell you what happens then: I must be overexcited or something because one second I'm with the others and the next I'm scrambling up that drift of broken bricks towards the dummy hand, pretending I'm a rescuer. I know it's stupid but I can't help myself, even when I hear Miss Rossiter bark. I suppose in a minute or two some guy would've come running to haul me out of there, but then I feel a scary lurch like the brick pile's starting to slide and Eden Camp's gone. It's still dark and the noises're the same but it's cold, there's no barrier and the hand in the rubble is real.

Name:

Date:

Read the text together, and then answer the questions.

1. What sort of museum is the school visiting? Support your answer with evidence from the text

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2. Who do you think Miss Rossiter is? Give a reason for your answer.

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3. Why does the main character begin to scramble up the pile of bricks?

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4. What do you think happens in the last two sentences? What might happen next? Support your answer with evidence from the text.

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5. '... and the hand in the rubble was real.' What effect does this final clause have?

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6. In which tense is the text written? Give an example. What affect does this have?

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7. The passage sounds as if the writer is telling you the story excitedly rather than writing it. How does the writer create this effect?

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