

What was it like? Comprehension and activities.

- Read the title and have a quick look through the pictures. What do you think the book is about? What clues are there?
- Where does the story start?
- Where does the magic key take the children?
- When and where is this part of the story set?
- Do you know anything about World War Two?
- What do you think might happen in this story?
- On page 11, ask: Why do people begin to run?
- On page 15, ask: Why did Wilf say 'This is terrible'? What is he referring to?
- What did Wilma think when she opened the paper bag? Why did she think this?
- Compare the life of children during World War Two with the life of children today.

Write sentences considering the following questions to help:

What did they eat? What do we eat?

What did they have to carry with them, and why?

What did they wear? What do we wear?

- Ask the children to look through the book to find words to do with the war, e.g. 'Blitz', 'gas mask', 'air raid', 'shelter'. Ask them to write their own definition of the word and then check it with a dictionary.
- Ask the children to look through the book to find words linked to plays, e.g. 'play', 'rehearsal', 'scene', 'part'. Encourage them to write their own definition of the word and then check it with a dictionary.