

Lesson 2

Nobody knew where all the lorries were going. But people in the town talked about them. Some said they were going to a place just outside the town.

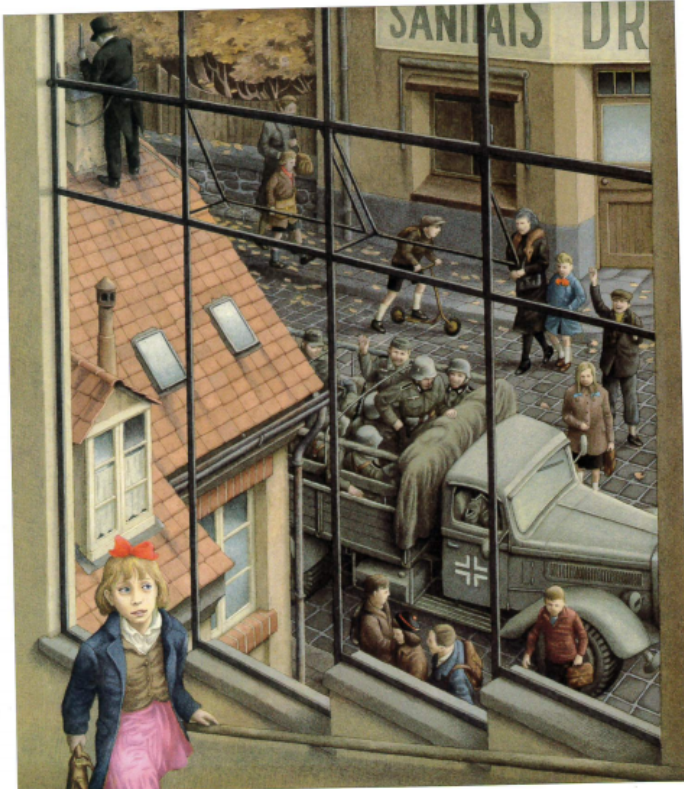
One day a lorry broke down. Rose Blanche saw two soldiers trying to repair the engine. Suddenly a little boy leapt from the back of the lorry and ran down the street.
A soldier shouted, Stop or I'll shoot.
The boy ran straight into the arms of the fat mayor.



1. What is the overall mood of this page? Use clues from the text and also the picture to support your answer.
2. *There were long queues outside the shops but no one grumbled.* Why do you think that people didn't complain?
3. Look at the boy waving at the tank: what might he be saying?
4. Read the paragraph that begins, 'Then there were lorries grinding through ...'
Make a note of interesting verbs and adjectives, for example *grinding* and *narrow*. Replace these words with synonyms (words that have the same or similar meaning). Here is an example '
'...lorries grinding through the narrow streets...'
'...lorries scraping through the tapered streets...'

Many things did not change at all. Rose Blanche still played with her friends. She did her homework after supper and went to school early in the morning with her lunch in her satchel.

And when school was over, she walked her favourite way home, along the river. At home her mother was always waiting for her with a hot drink.



5. After the outbreak of war, what things stayed the same?

6. Spend a few moments looking carefully at the second picture: what do you notice?

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7. What can you see happening in the picture?
8. Why do you think the soldiers threatened to shoot the child?
9. Write speech / thought bubbles for the boy, the mayor and Rose Blanche.

The mayor was immensely pleased with himself. He dragged the boy by the scruff of the neck back to the lorry.

One of the soldiers was furious and shouted at the boy who burst into tears.



The boy was thrown back into the lorry. Rose Blanche saw other pale faces in the gloom, when the door banged shut and the lorry drove away in a cloud of diesel fumes.



10. Read the text and look carefully at the next two pictures then answer the following questions:

a) Why was the mayor 'immensely pleased with himself'?

b) Who was the boy and why was he put in the lorry?

c) Who do you think the other people in the van are?

d) What does the illustrator and author want us to think about what has happened? Use evidence from the picture and the text to support your answer.