**What was it like to be evacuated in the war?**

Evacuation tried to make sure children who lived in cities and big towns were safe from the German bombing (air raids). These children were sent to live in the countryside to be out of danger.

Being an evacuee must have been scary and exciting at the same time. The children had to leave their families and homes behind and try to fit in with host families in the country.

**At the station**

Children had labels attached to them, as though they were parcels. They stood at railway stations not knowing where they were going nor if they would be split from brothers and sisters who had gathered with them. They felt scared about being away from their families but also excited about going to a place they had never seen before and only read about in books.

**On arrival**

The children arrived in the countryside, tired, hungry and uncertain whether they would ever see their families again.

They were taken to the village hall, where they would be met by the **billeting officer** (the person in charge of finding them homes). A 'pick-you-own evacuee' sessions would then take place, where **host families** (the people they were going to live with) haggled over the most presentable children while the sicklier and grubbier children were left until last.