



LITERACY: REFUGEES AND EVACUEES LETTERS AND POETRY TEACHER NOTES

This resource primarily supports the Literacy National Curriculum for students working at KS3 and Languages in the Curriculum for Excellence. However, it would also support the teaching of History and Citizenship or Social Studies and Well-being and Health

This resource provides a filmed introduction, Teacher Notes and Suggested Activities supported by items from IWM's Collections with links to follow-up resources.

Who? Annette 'Annie' Bankier was born into a non-practicing Jewish family in 1923. They lived in Vienna, Austria where her father was a master shoemaker. In 1938 the Nazi's occupied Austria and antisemitism became more visible amongst the country's population. Annie's first experience of this racial hatred was when she was 12 years old in 1935, at a football match with her father where some fans started shouting 'Jewish pigs' at people they thought were Jewish, including the referee.

The situation became more and more difficult for the Jewish population including Annie's family: her father's shoe shop was ransacked by the Nazis and the family had their home taken from them forcing them to live on the streets until they could find temporary accommodation. Annie's parents had to make a difficult decision and they decided to send Annie to Britain as one of the children permitted to seek refuge on what was known as the Kindertransport – 'children's transport'.

Her parents fled to safety in Shanghai. Annie's journey to England by train and ship took two days but it took quite a few months for her – then 15 years old - to settle and she ended up having a nervous breakdown. Annie had a difficult time living in England and was moved to new homes and hostels many times.

After the war Annie's parents moved back to Austria, but Annie stayed in England, got married and became a piano teacher. In 1960 her parents moved to England to spend the rest of their lives living near Annie and her husband. She died in London in 2011.

What? This resource focuses on the idea of 'home'; what a home is and where it is that we feel to be 'at home'. It is a constant theme during times of uncertainty, upheaval and conflict, as evidenced by the collections of personal papers, recordings and objects held in IWM's archives. Through Annie Bankier's collection of personal objects and the use of archival photographs and film footage, students explore how children of the Second World War were displaced from their homes and learn something about their experiences of their new homes.

Children who were part of the Kindertransport were voluntarily sent to unfamiliar homes in the UK by their parents in the hope that their children would be safer.

About half of the children who came to Britain were placed with foster families - both Jewish and non-Jewish, while others lived in hostels or on farms. The children's experiences varied - many found support and affection from their carers; others were very unhappy. The parents would also hope to welcome their

children back to their homes once the war had finished. Sadly, most of these children never saw their parents again.

The resource includes two videos: in the first video, introduced by IWM expert Ngaire Bushell, students can hear Hafsah recite her poem 'Goodbye for the Moment', see Annie's objects and learn about Second World War evacuees and refugees.

In the second video Hafsah shares with us her artistic process; a unique chance for students to take a 'behind the scenes' glimpse at the way she works creatively.

Why? Annie was brought to the UK from Vienna on the Kindertransport. Children were only allowed to carry one bag of personal items and in Annie's leather case she brought her night gowns, some sheet music, a postcard of Vienna (in which you could make out her home which she marked with a cross) and her ice skates. In Vienna Annie played the piano and dreamed of becoming a concert pianist. She was also a confident ice skater and hoped that once in the UK she would be able to use her ice skates as she did in Austria.

When? During 1938 and 1939 the British government oversaw a large-scale rescue effort to bring nearly 10,000 mostly Jewish children living in 'Greater Germany' (Germany, Austria, Czechoslovakia, and the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia) to the UK to avoid persecution from the occupying Nazis.

Today people still flee from war and conflict seeking a place of greater safety. The current wars in Syria and in Yemen are causing millions of people to be displaced and flee their homes in search of safety. Students may want to research current refugee experiences as a way of contextualising their historical understanding of the events of the Second World War that will be explored in the Suggested Activities.

IWM (Imperial War Museums) tells the story of people who have lived, fought and died in conflicts involving Britain and the Commonwealth since the First World War. Our unique collections, made up of the everyday and the exceptional, reveal stories of people, places, ideas and events. Using these, we tell vivid personal stories and create powerful physical experiences across our five museums that reflect the realities of war as both a destructive and creative force.