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# The EDWARDIANS AND THEIR MEALS



**In 1901 Edward VII becomes king when his mother Queen Victoria dies. Edward is king for nine years, until 1910. These nine years are called the Edwardian Age. *Five Children and It* is set in the Edwardian era. Let's take a look at what people eat at that time.**

*King Edward VII  
loves his food.  
He has five meals  
a day - and a snack in bed  
of roast chicken!*

*Party time* The new king loves going to parties, playing sports and watching horse races. He also loves eating and drinking, especially French food and French champagne! He brings a chef from France to prepare food for him and his family – and starts a fashion! Rich people want to be like the king, so they also change their eating habits.

# A TYPICAL DAY

## *Breakfast*

A typical day in the life of a rich Edwardian starts with breakfast. It is an important meal. There are always many different things to eat: porridge, meat, fish, bread and butter, jam and honey. Coffee is a popular drink at breakfast time, but there is also tea.



## *Lunch*

Lunch (or luncheon) is at one o'clock in the dining room. There are usually three courses – soup, meat or fish and vegetables and a pudding. In the summer when the weather is nice, they often take their food outside and have a picnic in the garden.

## *Tea*

Afternoon tea is a small informal meal at five o'clock. Women often invite their friends and they eat on sofas in the sitting room. They have small sandwiches and cakes or biscuits, and of course they drink tea, not coffee. Children have their tea in the playroom. They eat more at teatime because it is usually the last meal of the day for them.



*Now use the internet to find out what ordinary people eat in the Edwardian era. What do people in your country eat at that time (early 1900s)? Use the internet to help you.*

# Five Children and It

Meet the characters in the story.  
Who is Martha? What is It?

Mother



Cyril



Anthea



Jane



Robert



The baby Martha

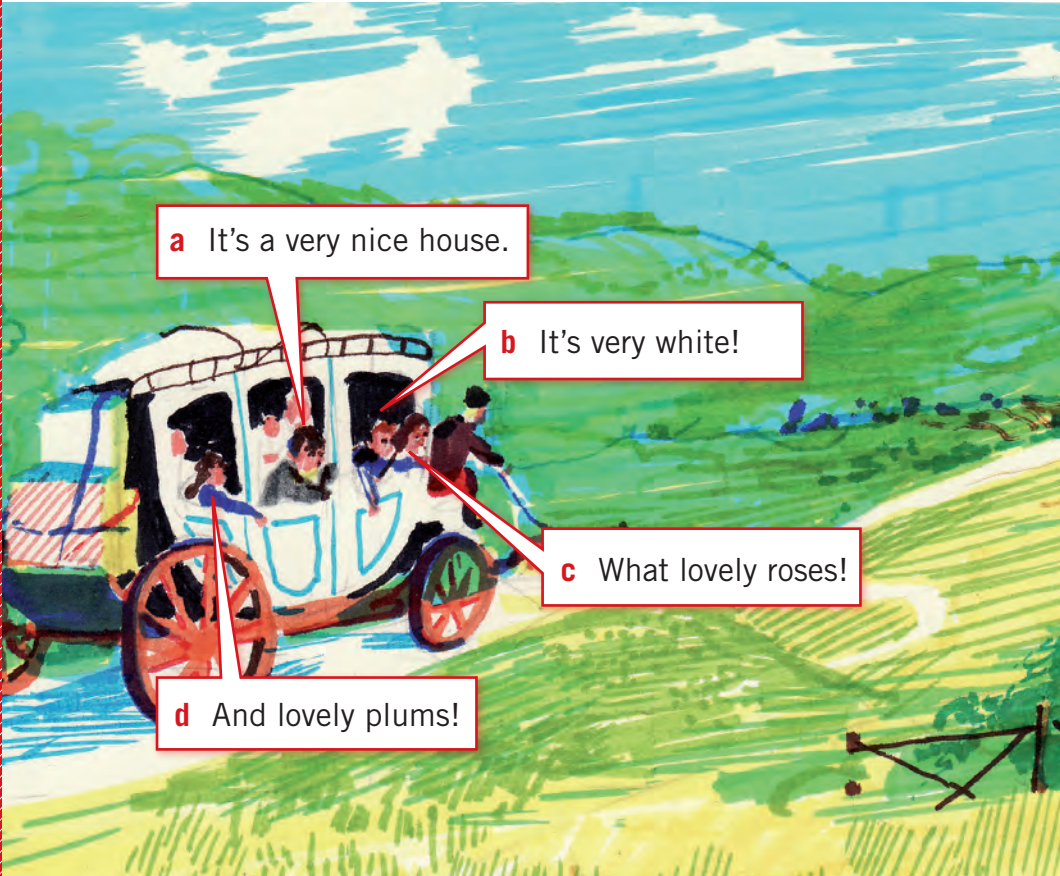


It



## BEFORE READING

- 1 **▶ MP3** Look at the picture and listen to an extract from the beginning of the story. Match the sentences to the names below.



1  Cyril    2  Anthea    3  Robert    4  Jane

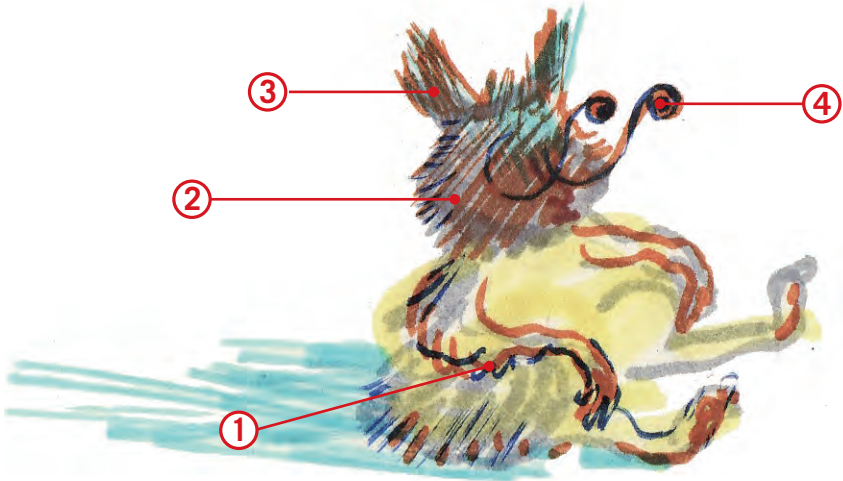
- 2 **▶ MP3** Listen to the extract again. Answer the questions.

- a Who points to a white house on a hill? .....
- b What does the baby want to do? .....



- 3** Read the extract from the story about it, the sand fairy. Match the underlined words (a–d) to the parts of the body (1–4) in the picture. Write the correct number in the boxes.

Suddenly the sand starts to fly in all directions. The children close their eyes. When they open them again there is a very strange thing in the hole. There are two long horns on its (a)  head. Its (b)  eyes are on the end of them. It has big (c)  ears and a fat (d)  body covered in fur.



- 4**  The sand fairy has another name – ‘Psammead’. Listen to the pronunciation. Repeat it.

- 5** Look at the titles of the chapters on page 3. Match the children’s wishes (a–e) to the chapters (1–10). Write the number of the chapter in the boxes. Check your answers after reading the story.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>a</b> <input type="checkbox"/> to fly                       | <b>d</b> <input type="checkbox"/> to be rich |
| <b>b</b> <input type="checkbox"/> to meet some Red Indians     | <b>e</b> <input type="checkbox"/> to be big  |
| <b>c</b> <input type="checkbox"/> to have something for Mother |  |

## 1 It

1 London is a very boring place for children in the summer holidays. It isn't like the country. There are no green fields to play in. And it isn't like the beach. There's no sand or water to play with.

Mother and Father want to take their five children to the country this year. Mother finds a nice house near a town called Rochester. It's a long way from London. First they must take a train to Rochester and then a carriage to the house.

'Are we there yet?' the children ask every five minutes. Trains and carriages are fun, but the children are tired now.

Finally Mother says, 'Look, children! There it is!'

She points to a white house on the top of a hill. The children put their heads out of the window of the carriage and look.

'It's very white!' says Robert.

'What lovely roses!' says Anthea.

'And lovely plums!' says Jane.

'It's a very nice house,' says Cyril.

The baby shouts. He wants to get out and walk.

The carriage stops outside the house. The children don't wait for Mother. They jump out and run into the garden. It's big and there are a lot of fruit trees and flowers in it. From the garden they can see some houses and farms at the bottom of the hill. They look in every corner of the garden and then they walk down the road. There's a wood behind the house and a big sand pit next to it. Everything is new, different and exciting. They are very happy to be in the country for the summer.

### GLOSSARY

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• **carriage:**



• **plums:** soft round fruit

• **sand pit:** area in the ground with sand in it

• **wood:** a lot of trees together



A few days later Father goes back to his job in the city. Mother goes away too. Granny isn't well and needs her help. After Mother and Father leave, the house is very quiet. The children start to feel bored. Then Cyril has an idea.

'Let's go and play in the sand pit,' he says. 'We can build a sand castle.'

'Oh, yes!' says Anthea. 'Good idea! Father says there are shells there too. They are very, very old.'

The sand pit is big and there's a lot of sand in it. The children start digging and they build a very beautiful castle.

'What shall we do now?' asks Jane. 'The baby is quiet.'

'Let's dig a hole to Australia!' says Robert.

They dig and dig for a long time and soon there is a very big hole in the sand.

'Phew!' says Jane. 'It's very hot in this hole. I want to look for shells now.'

She climbs out and Robert and Cyril follow her. Only Anthea continues digging.

Suddenly she screams. The others run back to the hole.

'What is it, Anthea?' Cyril asks.

'There's something in the sand. It's moving!' says Anthea. 'It's got feet and fur.'

'It's a rat,' says Cyril.

'No, it isn't a rat,' says Anthea. 'It can speak. It is saying, "Leave me alone!"'

Cyril and Robert don't believe her, but they start digging. They dig very carefully with their hands. The girls watch.

## GLOSSARY

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- **brave:** not afraid
- **digging:** making a hole in the sand
- **fur:** soft hair that covers the body of some animals

- **horns:** hard parts that grow on the heads of some animals
- **screams:** makes a loud, high cry
- **shells:**



Suddenly the sand moves. The children jump back in surprise. 'Leave me alone!' a voice says.

This time all the children hear it.

'But we want to see you,' Robert says. He isn't afraid.

'Yes, please come out,' says Anthea. She feels brave now too.

'Oh, alright,' the voice says.

The sand starts to fly in all directions. The children close their eyes. When they open them again they see a very strange thing. There are two long horns on its head. Its eyes are on the end of them. It has big ears and a fat body covered in fur. Its hands and feet are like a monkey's hands and feet.



‘What is it?’ asks Jane. ‘Can we take it home?’

The thing looks at her with its long eyes.

‘Does she always ask silly• questions?’ it says. It isn’t very friendly.

‘Don’t be angry!’ says Anthea. ‘Who are you? Please tell us!’

‘Don’t you know?’ the thing replies. ‘I’m a Psammead.’

The children look at each other.

‘A *sammyad*? What’s **that**?’ they ask.

‘A sand fairy, of course!’ it says.

## THE PSAMMEAD

What do you know about fairies? What are they usually like in stories? Tick (✓) the boxes.

They ...

- live in holes in the ground.
- are fat and furry.
- can fly.
- are always angry.
- can give wishes.

Is the Psammead like other fairies?

It starts digging in the sand with its hands.

‘Oh! Don’t go!’ says Robert. ‘Tell us something about yourself! Please!’

‘Yes! Please stay!’ says Jane. ‘You really are very nice. And we don’t know anything about you.’

### GLOSSARY

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- **silly**: stupid; not intelligent

# AFTER READING VOCABULARY

**1 Word groups. Put these words into the correct list. There are four words in each list.**

boat carriage cart coat dress eye  
field foot hat head hill jacket  
nanny policeman river shopkeeper  
shoulder train vicar wood

**A**  
**BODY**

**B**  
**CLOTHES**

**C**  
**JOBS**

**D**  
**NATURAL**  
**WORLD**

**E**  
**TRANSPORT**

.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

**2 Opposites. Match the words in A with their opposites in B.**

**A**

- 1** boring
- 2** beautiful
- 3** hot
- 4** full
- 5** clean

**B**

- a** empty
- b** cold
- c** interesting
- d** dirty
- e** ugly

## **K** A2 Key English Test Reading and Writing Part 1

1 Tick (✓) the correct answer 1, 2 or 3.

### **A** See the giant!

Adults £5.  
Reductions for  
children under 10.

**ONE DAY ONLY!**

- 1  Only adults can enter.
- 2  The giant is only 10 years old.
- 3  Younger children pay less here.

- 1  This fruit is very fresh.
- 2  Victoria collects the boxes for you.
- 3  The offer is only available in the mornings.

**B**

**VICTORIA PLUMS**  
for sale.  
Picked this morning.  
£1 a box.

**C** We buy and sell  
second-hand jewellery.  
Open 7 days a week.

- 1  You need to wait 7 days before you get your jewellery.
- 2  This place only has jewellery you can wear on your hands.
- 3  If you want to sell an old necklace, go here.

- 1  Mary is frightened of what she can hear.
- 2  Mary is locked inside the church.
- 3  Mary is too afraid to go home.

**D**

William, come home quickly.  
I can hear voices in the church tower. I'm scared... Mary x