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## THE HOUSE OF HEROES BOOKS

The evil Black Owl and the good White Owl are enemies. Thanks to the White Owl and his followers, the Black Owl is now in prison. Now the Black Owl's followers want to free him, but they need to find special crystal eggs to open his prison. The White Owl lives with Alba in the House of Heroes. They travel through time and space to find heroes who can help them to find the crystal eggs first.

But these heroes have to travel to new worlds and some of them do not come back.



### Meet Tom.

Tom has no parents or family. He lives on the streets in London. He has no job and no money. Sometimes people give him money or food, but sometimes he has to take what he needs. One day, a policeman sees him take some food and he runs after Tom. Tom goes down an alleyway and opens a door. He's in the House of Heroes. Who does he meet? And how does he get out again?

*The Blue Egg* is the first book in the House of Heroes mystery adventure series. Each book is a maze reader, which means that you, the reader, can make decisions along the way about what the characters do in the story. Each decision you make leads you to a different version of the story and a unique ending: so choose carefully!

**To help you make the best decisions you need to know these words. Use a dictionary to look them up.**

crystal    evil    monster    power

# BEFORE READING

1 Match the words to the photos.

a carriage

b car

c underground train


d cart



2 Which types of transport in Exercise 1 do people use today?

3 Look at the characters on pages 8 and 9.

Who do you think is from the present and who do you think is from the past?

4  Work in pairs. Find and write five mistakes in this picture of London in 1880.



- 1 \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 \_\_\_\_\_

## CHAPTER 2

# A white owl



**Guess! What happens next?**

- A Tom is in a police station.
- B A white owl flies with Tom.
- C A white owl attacks Tom.
- D Tom becomes a white owl.

2 Tom stops and thinks. He doesn't know where he is. It's very quiet. Suddenly, a light goes on. Tom looks around. He's in a shop and there's no one there. The shop has got lots of things in it and they are all very old. There are lots of old books and old toys. There are so many things! Tom sees some gold scissors – they're nice and shiny. He puts them in his pocket. Then he sees a small gold feather and he puts that in his pocket, too.

Suddenly, he hears a voice. It's time to leave. He looks behind him but he can't see the door. Where is it? There's a wall behind him! Tom is afraid now. He hears the voice again. Tom doesn't know what to do. Hide in the shop? Talk to the person? Tom decides to walk towards the voice.

He comes to an open door. He can see a fireplace with a strange painting above it. Then he hears the voice again. There's a very tall man with white hair walking around the room and talking to himself. He's wearing a long grey cloak and he's not happy.

'Come on!' says the man, looking into the fireplace. Tom doesn't know what he is looking at because there is no fire.

'TYTO!' shouts the man and he walks towards a different door and out of the room. Then Tom sees something interesting on a table – a sandwich! Tom thinks of his meat pie and the policeman. He's very hungry. He waits for a moment and goes into the room and takes the sandwich. Then he hears the voice again – the man is coming back. Tom quickly hides behind a chair.

The man comes back into the room, then he walks around and around. Tom watches him from behind the chair. This time there is a big white owl sitting on his shoulder.

'Something bad is coming. I can feel it,' the man says quietly.

'TOOO-HOOO!' cries the white owl.



## Glossary

- **around:** to the left and to the right
- **cloak:** long coat
- **cries:** (here) makes a loud sound
- **feather:** see picture above
- **fireplace:** place in a room where you have a fire
- **quiet:** silent; without noise
- **voice:** sound when someone speaks





‘I know Tyto, but without the fire, we have no power’. We have no power and no heroes. And when there are no heroes, the Black Owl’s monsters come!’

The man looks at the table.

‘Where’s my sandwich?’ he says.

The white owl opens its wings and it flies over to Tom. Then it picks Tom up and drops him onto a sofa.

The tall man looks at Tom with angry eyes.

‘Who are you? And what are you doing here?’


- **drops:** lets fall
- **power:** (here) ability to do good things




# AFTER READING VOCABULARY

1 Write the words under the pictures.



2  Find where these things are mentioned in the book then ask a partner questions.

CAN YOU FIND THE SUNGLASSES? WHEN DOES TOM USE THEM?

3  Think of the story, which item in Exercise 1 is the odd one out and why?



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

1 Choose the correct answers.

1



**House of Heroes shop**

**We buy and sell old things**

113A Coates Alleyway, London

- A The shop is for sale.
- B The shop gives you money for old things.
- C The shop only sells new things.

2



**Tower of London**

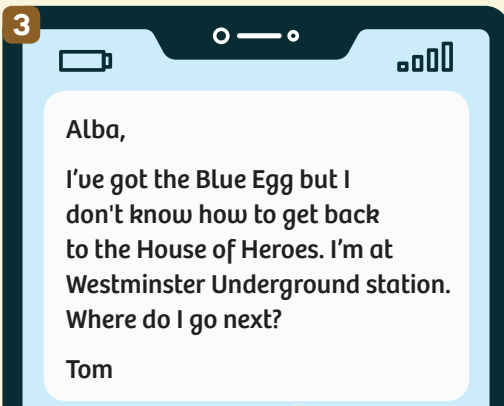
**OPENING HOURS**

Monday-Friday 10.00-4.00  
 Saturday 10.00-5.00  
 Sunday 11.00-12.30

**Half price tickets available on Mondays.**

- A On Mondays tickets are more expensive.
- B The Tower of London is not open on Mondays.
- C The Tower of London is only open for one and a half hours on Sunday.

3



Alba,

I've got the Blue Egg but I don't know how to get back to the House of Heroes. I'm at Westminster Underground station. Where do I go next?

Tom

Why did Tom write this message?

- A to ask Alba where to find the Blue Egg
- B to ask Alba for directions
- C to let Alba know where he is