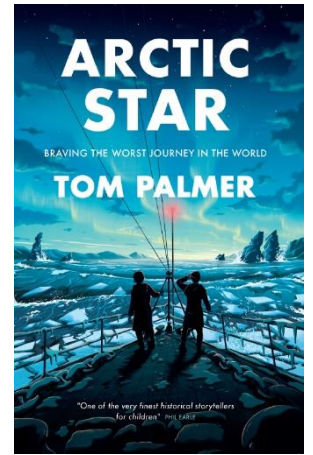


READING QUIZ

Arctic Star by Tom Palmer

Published by Barrington Stoke



Winter 1943. Teenagers Frank, Joseph and Stephen are Royal Navy recruits on their first mission at sea during the Second World War, on HMS Belfast part of an Arctic convoy sailing to Russia to deliver supplies to the Soviets. Faced with terrifying enemy attacks from both air and sea, as well as life-threatening cold, gales and pack ice, how will it feel if they make it home again?

From Chapter 14, “Survivor’s Leave”

They walked on. Over to the other side of town to where they could smell the sea over the stench of countless buildings ruined by the Blitz.

The sea. But not any old sea. Not a sea wild with anger, frozen by arctic winds. This was *their* sea. This was home.

Now they turned toward Devonport, their own part of the city. To where Frank’s Mum and Stephen’s parents were waiting for them. They’d sent a telegram to let them know.

They picked up their pace as they walked from Plymouth Hoe, through Stonehouse and on to Devonport.

The streets appeared the same as they always had. Terraced houses. Churches. Schools. The butcher’s. The baker’s. That was until you looked a little closer and saw tape across windows to stop the glass shattering if a bomb hit. Until you noticed the majority of vehicles on the roads were not private or commercial, but military. Like Murmansk.

Closer to home now they passed their old school, which looked smaller than it had the last time Frank had walked past it. Even though he’d only been away from home for a matter of weeks. It was a relief to see every house on their street was intact. No bomb damage.

1 What mode of transport are the boys taking?

2 How had they let their family know they were coming?

3 Where had the Plymouth residents put tape? And why?

4 Who was driving most of the vehicles?

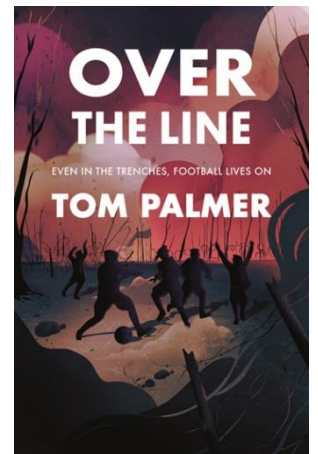
5 Why do you think Frank’s school looked smaller than last time he’d seen it?

READING QUIZ

Over the Line by Tom Palmer

Published by Barrington Stoke

It's 1914 and Jack is making his debut as a professional footballer. But the match is marred by a demonstration demanding that the players sign up to do their duty in France. It is not long before Jack is bound for the trenches with the Footballers' Battalion...



From Chapter 1

Do people ever ask what you want to be when you grow up?

What do you say to them?

That you'd like to be a doctor? A singer? A soldier? A vet?

Or do you say, "I want to be a footballer"?

That was my dream when I was a boy. To be a footballer. To play for my country.

And, for me, the dream came true.

Sort of.

So, now I am waiting for the whistle. When that whistle blows, my dream to play for my country will come true. I will go over the line.

But I never dreamed it would be like this

It was the day of my debut as a professional footballer. My dream had come true.

But even when your dream comes true, you still have to keep trying.

Within a minute of kick-off, Fred Bullock passed the ball to me. He was my team captain at Huddersfield Town. I controlled the ball with my left foot, then played it wide to our winger.

So far, so good.

Now it was my duty to get into the penalty area. I was a forward. I was a goal scorer. Our winger would cross the ball soon, so I needed to get up field.

The mud was thick on the pitch, even though the game had only just begun.

A Grimsby defender tracked me as I powered towards the goal. Sid Wheelhouse. His deep-furrowed frown made him look like a bull and he was big too. Big and strong...

- 1 What point of view is this written from – first, second, third person?
- 2 What sort of question is on the first line of the extract? open / closed / direct / indirect
- 3 Where do you think "the line" he is waiting to go over is?
- 4 What animal does Sid Wheelhouse resemble?
- 5 Which teams are playing against each other?