

Ranskill Primary School, Retford

Minia woke to a strange feeling of sheets, clean sheets and a bed to herself. It was comfortable and she felt like she was home. She had a bad dream, a dream that she was still stuck in those horrible concentration camps. Minia eventually dosed off.

Her eyes flickered as she awakened to the sun shining through the gap in the curtains. Minia walked outside slowly taking in everything as if it was a dream. It wasn't a dream. The sun shone on the beautiful hills like mountains of greenery and the lake glistened in this light. She felt hungry.

Mayer called to her, the word rang in her ears. "Food!" At once, Minia bolted to the kitchen and saw the mouth-watering food, she stuffed it in her pockets like food was going out of fashion and the strangest thing happened. The generous people (who had given them this home) took them to the storage room, told them how much food and different types they had. Minia suddenly felt a twinge of joy as she ate the food she had stuffed in her pockets. She felt safe. **Abigail V.**

Alfie woke up feeling like a king. The new bed and sheets made him feel joyful. He couldn't remember getting into the bed or even arriving here. Because he was curious, he climbed out the bed and explored his new home. He had no clothes so he wore blanket instead. Alfie saw a door and opened it gently. What he saw next amazed him...

The boy saw beautiful hills, houses and a magnificent lake. Alfie felt overwhelmed. He felt like he was living in paradise. For a moment, all the Nazis and bombs disappeared out his head. The refugee went back inside and woke up all the other children. He could hear a mixture of tiredness and excitement as the other refugees could see the amazing countryside.

A man suddenly appeared. He announced "Breakfast time!" So all the children made there way into a dark, gloomy room. They were greeted with hundreds of loafs of bread. Most children started praying even though they hadn't eaten in days. After they finished their prayer, they snatched the bread and sprinted to their rooms and practically inhaled their bread. The boy thought he would be punished for this but instead the children were shown all the food in the kitchen. It wouldn't run out. He wouldn't go hungry. **Ben D.**

Minia woke up to the feeling that she was safe. She could not believe that there was a warm, comfortable bed and real sheets. She could not believe her eyes. Yawning tiredly, Minia saw the morning sun peeking through the gaps. Ready to start the day, she put her clothes on that she got yesterday evening and started to head down to the kitchen. Would she be okay in this new environment?

All of the orphans, scurried downstairs into the dining room where there were loads of bread and some butter. She felt that the food could last a lifetime. As quick as a flash, she ate her food immediately. She thought the cupboards would be bare. All of the orphans (including her) took the bread and hid it in their t-shirts or jumpers. They all got taken into the kitchen and they looked in the cupboards - they weren't empty - instead they were full to the rim. A fly couldn't get in because it was jam packed with different types of food. So Minia and the other orphans put all of the bread and the other food onto the table.

Happy tears rolling down her ecstatic face, she opened the wooden front door into this breath-taking sight of the jungle-like mounds and the see-through lakes surrounding the house. Her heart started to beat fast with the excitement. The scenery was ravishing and so untroubled, not like back at home. She felt overwhelmed with happiness. It felt like she lived in paradise. Eventually, she walked near the lake to get a better view of the atmosphere. She cried happy tears. This is her new beginning. **Brooklynne F.**

Minia awoke realising she had a real bed covered with crisp white sheets that were actually clean! Was she imagining things? This was the most relaxing thing she had ever felt for many years. She hadn't slept alone for such a long time, as for many years of her terrible life she had slept with many other children, cramped together on wooden slats. She thought this was a dream.

She sprinted out through the wooden door at the back of the building and took a big sniff of the fresh air she had not smelt for years. Minia now saw a beautiful paradise before her eyes. There were glistening lakes and mossy green hills in the far distance. For the first time ever she saw gorgeous countryside stand before her. There were some lovely houses down the road, probably with lovely people inside as well. She remembered about the night before when she arrived. It had been dark so she didn't realise it was a stunning place. This was Windermere.

Minia still felt filthy because of living in the concentration camp. Showers there had meant death. She thought about having a shower and decided to go and have one to test it out. She stepped in. Water began hitting the floor like 100 little rocks every second. The shower was warm and relaxing; the water crystal clear. She finally thought this was a good place to be with kind people. Minia grabbed herself a warm, soft towel and wrapped it round herself. She was the cleanest she had been for years.

Minia was hungry and more settled now. She went through to the dining area to get some bread along with everybody else. There wasn't a lot of it so everyone grabbed the bread and shoved it where ever they possible could. They heard someone yell "STOP! Follow me!" Everyone anxiously followed thinking they were getting punishment. Instead they saw stacks and stacks of bread. They were completely wrong! For the first time in years they felt joy... For the first time in years they felt like human beings. **Faith W.**

It was dark. Minia was on her way to Windermere. She was so tired she barely remembered anything that had happened to her when she arrived. She woke up in her own room in a warm, single bed and her own sheets. She went to have a shower and even got to dry herself with clean towels. Was this even real?

Minia stepped outside and gasped. A beautiful countryside stood before her. There were bright green hills, a wonderful lake and mountains in the distance. She felt joy all around her. She must be in paradise. How could this be real?

Later, everyone was taken to get food. They were scared. Minia saw the bread and grabbed some quickly. Everyone around her shoved bread in their pockets just in case there wasn't any left for the evening. However, they were wrong. Someone took them to the kitchen and they saw stacks of bread. They felt like animals. Minia was happy that she had some for later as no-one could believe they would get more.

Minia was relieved that they were safe for now. There were many kind people and she was in a safe place so now she had nothing to worry about and nothing to harm her. She felt like a real human being. **Freya R.**

Jane woke up laying in fresh white sheets. What was she doing in this luxurious bed? She took a moment to think. She then realised she had her own room - she didn't have to top and tail with anyone. This felt like freedom. She was so excited: a fresh flannel, a toothbrush and toothpaste, most of all a bed. She had just felt like a ghost for years, now she was beginning to feel real again.

The young girl had no words. She had her own shower with clean water. 'How amazing is this? How clean am I?' she muttered to herself. 'I feel fresh.'

Jane drew the curtains wide open - the scene before her was beautiful. At this point she felt like this was all a dream and she was back at the tortuous concentration camp. Her eyes opened wider. She had to explore these lovely houses. Its paradise... but was this 'paradise' safe. The flower bed below the window filled the room with fresh air. 'I feel alive... but hungry.' she announced. Was it time for food yet?

Jane saw to her surprise she saw there was enough food to go around. No need to stuff her face like a wild animal. No need to hide every spare morsel for later. She felt like she was actually being treated like an actual person not like a flea bag. Jane just took her time. All of a sudden, Jane felt anxious, even though there was enough, was she still only going to be fed once today? She was tempted to stash but she didn't.

She will wait and see and go to explore the beauty outside. She is free. **Isabella C.**

Tom woke up in a small room on his own with amazingly clean sheets and a comfy mattress. He stepped outside to find rolling hills, a beautiful lake and nice houses. Tom ran without anyone stopping him. Through the bushes, over the broken tree logs and into the Lake Windermere splashing and bursting out with joy and laughter.

It was like living in a dream: it was paradise. Everything was so extraordinary that Tom couldn't believe that such a place existed, he thought he was just having a good dream which he hadn't had for a while. Tom felt like a human being.

He walked into the clean kitchen with anxiousness because he hadn't been fed for a while. When he entered, there were stacks of bread. Everyone grabbed a few loafs of bread and ran to hide them in their rooms whilst sniffing the fresh smell of bread; moreover, stuffing it into their mouths. He stuffed his pockets as everyone else was because they had all learnt to when they prisoners due to when they didn't get fed very often. They felt like wild animals all over again. Tom and the others soon found out that they will be fed every so they learnt not to steal.

They were all given fresh, clean clothes and everyone wondered why they were so clean and good smelling, it was luxurious for everyone so it took a while to get used to. Tom forgot there was amiable and thoughtful people like these but this place recharged his hopes. **Nataniel M.**

On the way to a new chapter of her life, Sue glanced at lovely, huge houses. It didn't look anything like the concentration camps she was used to. Was that where she was going to stay?

As the army lorry came to a halt, she slowly crept out. Her eyes brightened: beautiful lakes and walks surrounded her. She couldn't believe it. Sue had finally found paradise, but was this paradise safe?

As they made their way to the barracks, Sue had spotted two or three flying boats. She had never seen a prettier place before. It was completely different to the dark, dull sky and the horrific smell of blood and flesh.

When Sue and the other young children arrived at the buildings, people took each child one at a time and cleaned them. They also gave her a pair of pyjamas and a teddy bear, she was hesitant to take it. For once, Sue now had more than nothing.

Volunteers took the children to a large room which looked like a kitchen. Piles of bread towered on the wooden table in front of them. Sue felt a bit anxious - would this be her only meal? Imagining her sister's spirit next to her, she scoffed her feast. The sorrowful young girl was actually being treated like a human being. She started to feel alive with joy.

The orphans were taken to a row of small shacks. An old lady took Sue to a nicely decorated room. She had her own little bed, a toothbrush with toothpaste and a chocolate bar perched on her soft, silky pillow. Sue brushed her teeth, she felt so excited. The nice lady lifted the sheets of the little girl's bed and tucked her in. All Sue's worries flew away. She felt that she had found her new home, and fell straight asleep. **Olivia B.**

Minia woke up on a bright sunny day. She couldn't believe that she was alive and in clean white sheets. She wanted to explore her room and outside all before lunch. After her eyes swept the room in amazement as she never had a big room to herself before, Minia thought it would be nice to have some friends to explore with. She thought that after being in a concentration camp, that this place would look no different. But when she opened the door, Minia was in for a shock.

Although Minia thought that the Lake District was going to look horrible, quite the opposite. Her eyes widened in shock to the sight. 'How could such a place avoid all the bombs?' Minia thought. It was beautiful: hills and mountains in the distance, little houses were near the shimmering water like it was painted. It was paradise.

By the time it was lunch, Minia made some nice friends and worked up quite the appetite. The first thing Minia's eyes set on was the bread. Everyone in the hall including herself all thought the same, and grabbed the food, stuffed the food in their pockets and started to nibble on some as they didn't know the next time they would be fed. The benevolent people told everyone in the hall to come to the kitchen. On the way there the kind people told everyone that it was normal for them to stuff everything into their pockets. By now Minia was confused. But when Minia, her friends and everyone else got to the kitchen everybody's eyes widened but Minia's eyes were bigger than anyone else. There were mountains of bread and more coming tomorrow, the kind people told everyone in the

kitchen that all the children in this building has been treated in such a humane way that it would be normal for everyone. **Olivia W.**

Hesitantly, Pat stumbled off the army lorry, exhausted and shivering. She gasped in surprise. Her eyes darted to get a glimpse of the beautiful hills. A glimmering lake shone, welcoming her to this strange place. The early morning sun felt warm on her scarred cheeks and bird calls echoed in her ears. Was this her fantasy world in reality?

The unusually caring people showed her where she was going to stay. They convinced her, and the other young children, that it used to be a place where engineers lived. It seemed like the concentration camps, yet there was no barbed wire or guards patrolling the small perimeter.

Volunteers guided Pat towards a miniature shed-like building and asked her if she wanted to take a look at her new room. She walked inside with caution - was this a trick? A bed, with pale blue sheets stood before her; a teddy sat on the pillow smiling a stitched grin. There was a wooden cabinet in the corner, though Pat didn't know why. She had nothing. Someone passed her a knitted bag, which contained: a toothbrush, toothpaste, a flannel and a pair of pyjamas. Pat finally felt loved for the first time since her brother had passed away. However, she was starting to get hungry, so she shuffled up the cobbled path to a large room that looked like a dining room.

Stacks of buttered bread were piled on the tables and a rabbi was giving thanks for the dinner. Pat sat down, and as soon as the prayers were finished, it was a free-for-all. Every child had turned into a wild animal, stuffing food into their clothes and scoffing their faces. She leapt on the table and grabbed a handful of the meal. When will she be fed again?

An old man, with a strong British accent, gathered the orphans into the kitchen to show them that there was enough to eat. They would be fed three times every day, so the kids had nothing to worry about. A strong smell of fruit wafted into her nose and the excited chatter died down.

Back in her room after a shower, Pat was crouched on her clean duvet. After all that had happened to her in the last seven years: losing her brother, being starved and dirty, it would always be a part of her, yet now she was starting a new chapter. She was alive. She was free. **Robyn W.**