

Aethelflaed

with audio!

and the

Missing Trophy

Upper-Intermediate / Advanced



Reading & Activities for English Learners

Jonathan Olliffe

This book includes:

- Conversational English of the type that is used in everyday life.
- Written notes in every section, explaining different words and expressions.
- 21 picture activities in the story, focusing on different aspects of vocabulary, grammar or functions.
- Extra exercises at the end of the story to teach grammatical structures, phrasal verbs and extending vocabulary.
- Extra articles focusing on aspects related to the story.
- A link to an audio file to listen to the whole story.

Above all, I have tried to write a story which is entertaining as well as educational. This is my first book and I hope that you enjoy it.

If you find it useful, please let others know. If it is successful I will be able to dedicate more time to writing stories like this!

Finally, if you have any question related to this book, or to English in general, please do not hesitate to write to me on the following web page:

Profesor Nativo Gratis – Ask!

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MUESTRA GRATUITA

Saturday: The Big Match

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In Davingstock nothing ever happened, so people were always excited when it did.

On the day of the big match Aethelflaed was having lunch with her brother and father in their cramped¹ little terraced² house, and Athelstan was explaining to his father what all the fuss³ was about. Alfred Jones made a point⁴ of ignoring the news, and generally knew much more about events twelve centuries earlier than those of the previous week.

Athelflaed was not usually interested in football either, although now that her friend Samantha's brother was the local team's goalkeeper she was happy to make an exception. In fact, she had planned to meet up with⁵ her after lunch to get the best seats for the game. If Samantha found Aethelflaed's sudden interest in football surprising, she made no mention of it.

"I'm off." Aethelflaed said "I'm picking up Sam and Nat on the way to the stadium. Are you coming Stan?" She asked her brother.

"No, you go ahead. I haven't finished eating. I'll see you there."

Aethelflaed lived only about a five minute walk from the stadium, but her friends Natalia and Samantha lived at different points of Davingstock, so she had to leave early, not that she was bothered⁶. Aethelflaed didn't mind walking.

No sooner had she⁷ stepped out of the front door when she bumped into her next-door neighbour, Rodney, who was a tough-looking twenty-year old. Beside him was his friend Gary, as always with his cowboy hat and clothes, cigarette, and a generally dodgy⁸ look about him.

Aethelflaed didn't know so much about Gary, apart from the fact that he was old Scroogey's son. In a town full of oddballs⁹, Scoogey stood out from¹⁰ all the rest, living in a boat on the water, surrounded by piles of junk he fished up from the river. Apart from Gary, nobody had spoken to Scroogey for years.



Activity 1: Which of the following are **not** in the kitchen?

ANSWERS!

Microwave-	Oven	Magnet	Jar	Hob
Kitchen Glove	Knife	Tiles	Cage	Fridge
Washing Machine	Teapot	Fork	Vase	Stool
Dishwasher	Envelope	Spoon	Sink	Napkins
Frying Pan	Tea Towel	Drawer	Pot	Cup and Saucer

As far as she knew, Rodney was Gary's only friend. People steered clear of¹¹ Gary. If the father was strange, then his son must be too. Rodney was generally seen as a bit dodgy too, but to be fair, Aethelflaed knew all about being the talk of the town. She was well aware that, due to her own learning problems, she was considered the dunce¹² of the town. Logically, she made a point of ignoring the local gossips.

¹¹

¹² Duncie – A traditional term for the least intelligent person of the class



Activity 2: Which are the best answers for these questions?

ANSWERS!

No problem, Rodney!	Might do!	Not yet – later.
No, what about you?	Not at all, thanks!	I'm doing great!

Aethelflaed walked towards the town centre, past the library where her father worked. Rather than walking into the town square she turned left at the roundabout and carried on to the traffic lights at the end of the road.

She could have hooked right at this point, but instead decided to cross the footbridge over the railway and go around the back of the station turning left to stop in front of Natalia's house.

Natalia's parents were at their restaurant, and she was at home alone. They walked together through the back garden and turned right, under the tunnel and carried straight on along the alleys, past the theatre until reaching the square. Here they turned left, and then right at the roundabout. Samantha was waiting for them outside her house. Aethelflaed was never too sure what Samantha's parents did for a living, but they had one of the best houses in Davingstock, with a garden next to the water, where their boat was moored¹³.

Aethelflaed considered Natalia and Samantha the worst friends any girl could have, and wasn't shy to tell them so. She wasn't the only one to think that she was plain¹⁴ in comparison. People suspected that they only hung out with Aethelflaed just to look even more stunning¹⁵. Samantha's beauty spot and Natalia's lovely curls was Nature's way of rubbing it in¹⁶.

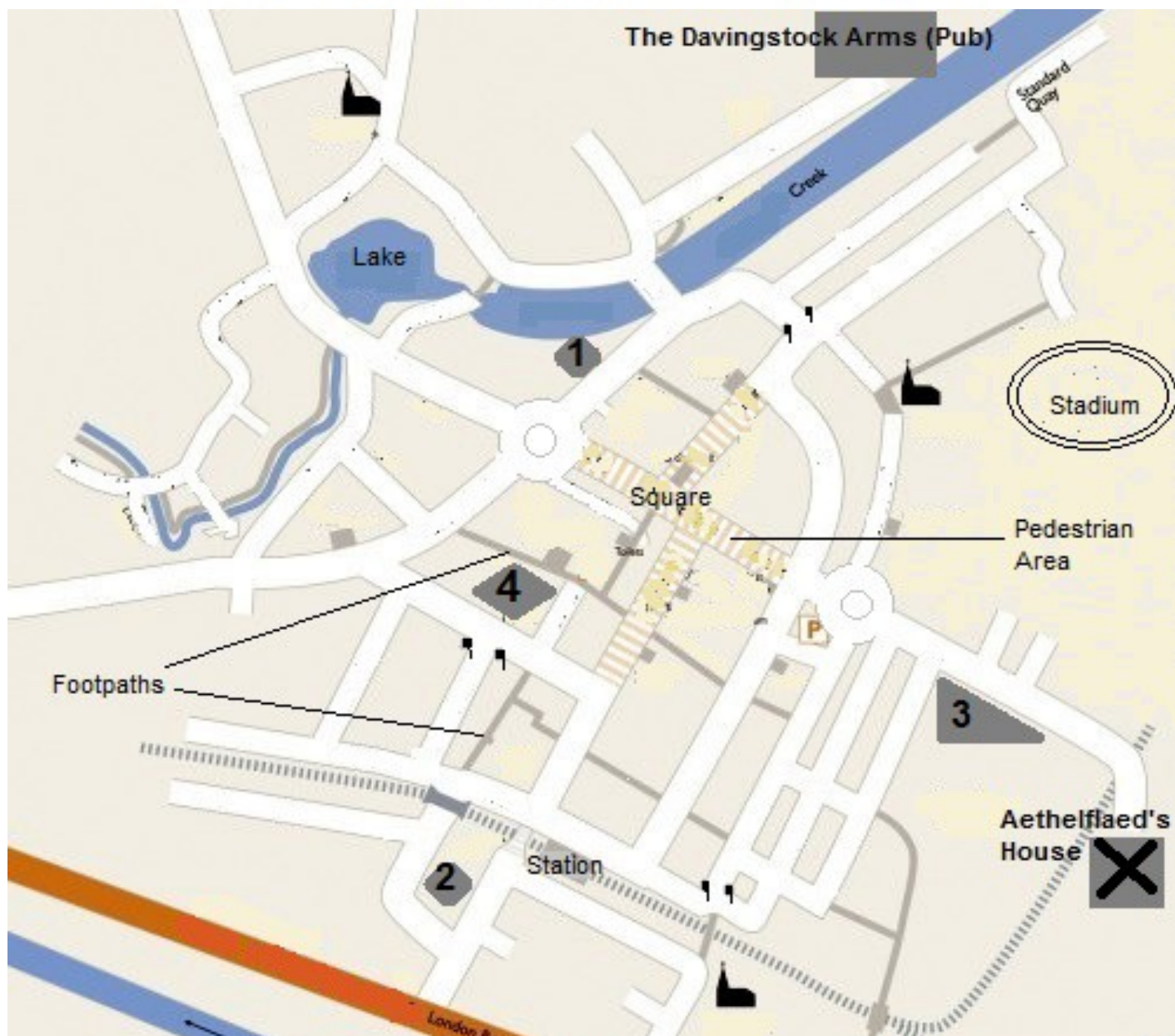
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14

15

16

MUESTRA GRATUITA



Activity 3: Follow Aethelflaed's route. What are points 1 – 4?

ANSWERS!

Read the rest of the route, and fill in the blanks with the words below:

"... **From** Sam's house they walked 1. _____ the river and around a 2. _____ until they 3. _____ to some 4. _____ lights. 5. _____ the crossroads they went 6. _____ on, taking the footpath in front of the church until they 7. _____ the stadium..."

From	along	traffic	bend	at	straight	reached	got
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MUESTRA GRATUITA

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In any case Aethelflaed considered that the opposite was also true, and that after ten minutes' conversation with Natalia and Samantha any boy would sigh with relief¹⁷ to see Aethelflaed's arrival, knowing she would liven things up immediately. That's what she liked to think, anyway.

Samantha had wavy blonde hair, but often chose to wear it in a ponytail, braids, or pigtails. Today she had her hair loose back behind a long blue blouse - patterned at the base - and some cream shorts. A casually wrapped neck scarf and belt around the waist were the finishing touches.

Apart from her beauty, Natalia was the opposite to Samantha in almost every sense. With a Spanish mother and Brazilian father, she had dark curly hair and a permanent tan. Aethelflaed had known both of them since nursery¹⁸, and the three were inseparable.

When they arrived, the whole area around the stadium had a festival atmosphere, full of food stalls¹⁹, music, flags and the round and cheerful face of the captain in a Che Guevara pose: 'Yes, we can!' screamed one giant poster, and another: 'Now is the time!'. Everyone was talking, no-one was listening, and hardly anyone noticed.

And all for a good reason! For weeks the Davingstock Times had spoken of 'Davingstock's Greatest Moment of Sporting Glory', or in other words, the North Kent Football Cup Final. As Athelstan had breathlessly explained to his father: "Davingstock will be famous for more than 50 miles around!!"

Not that this was a golden generation of footballers, though. In one match the rival team had a perfectly decent goal disallowed by the referee²⁰. In the next Davingstock Rovers FC spent the full 120 minutes desperately defending before winning on penalties. The last match had only been won when the rival team got two players sent off, but who cared? They were in the final, and against the champions, Maidstone!

The girls had to push their way through the crowd to get in. The stadium was already filling up. Samantha stopped in front of the halfway line, looking for three empty seats.

"Why don't we sit nearer the goal?" suggested Aethelflaed "So you can support your brother, I mean."

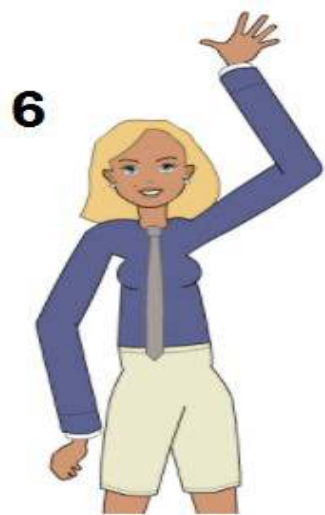
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18

19

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Referee – The person who controls and supervises a football match



Natalia giggled²¹, but Samantha made no sign of surprise. "We're better off here in the middle." she replied "Remember the goalkeepers switch sides at half-time."

"Oh, do they?" Aethelflaed realised she knew nothing about football. She needed to catch on²² quick.

"Tell us who the players are." asked Natalia "That's Bob the captain....."

"He looks bit old and chunky²³ to be playing football....." commented Aethelflaed "He must play really well!"

"He's hopeless." Samantha laughed "but he gets on well with everybody in the team, and he's always cheerful, so that's why he was chosen to be captain – and a captain has to play....."

"I suppose so, but it's a strange sort of logic."

"...In fact, the only players who are any good are Ayaan and my brother. The rest are awful. If it wasn't for Dean's saves, we wouldn't have passed the first round."

Samantha beamed²⁴. She was incredibly proud of her brother. They got on very well.

"And Ayaan?" exclaimed Natalia "Where's Ayaan? He scores all the goals....."

"He's not playing. He had to go out with the RNLI²⁵" Samantha replied calmly.

"What?!!!!?"

"You knew he was a lifeboat volunteer....."

"Well, it was nice when it lasted....." sighed Natalia "we can stop dreaming now. If Ayaan's not playing, forget it!"

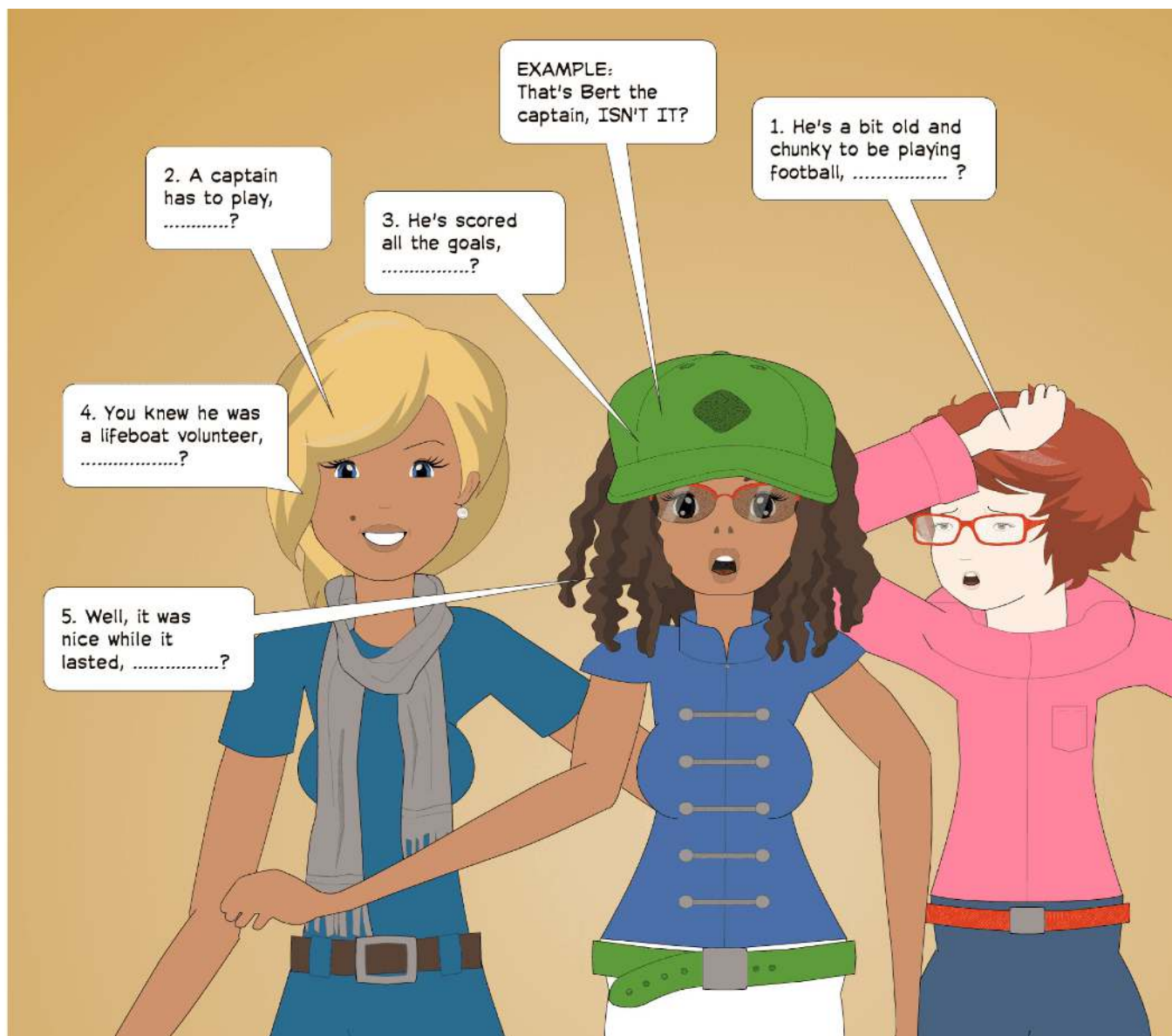
Not all of you are keen on²⁶ football, so I'll get to the point²⁷ as quickly as possible. From the starting whistle²⁸ on practically the only player from Davingstock Rovers to touch the ball was Dean. He made saves in the 3rd, 8th, 9th and 13th minutes, and then again in the 17th, 18th and 20th (with a double save). Maidstone finally scored in 22nd minute, with a goal that left the fans open-mouthed.

"But where on earth have this lot come from!!" shouted Bill the butcher. "They must be Chelsea youth players in disguise!"

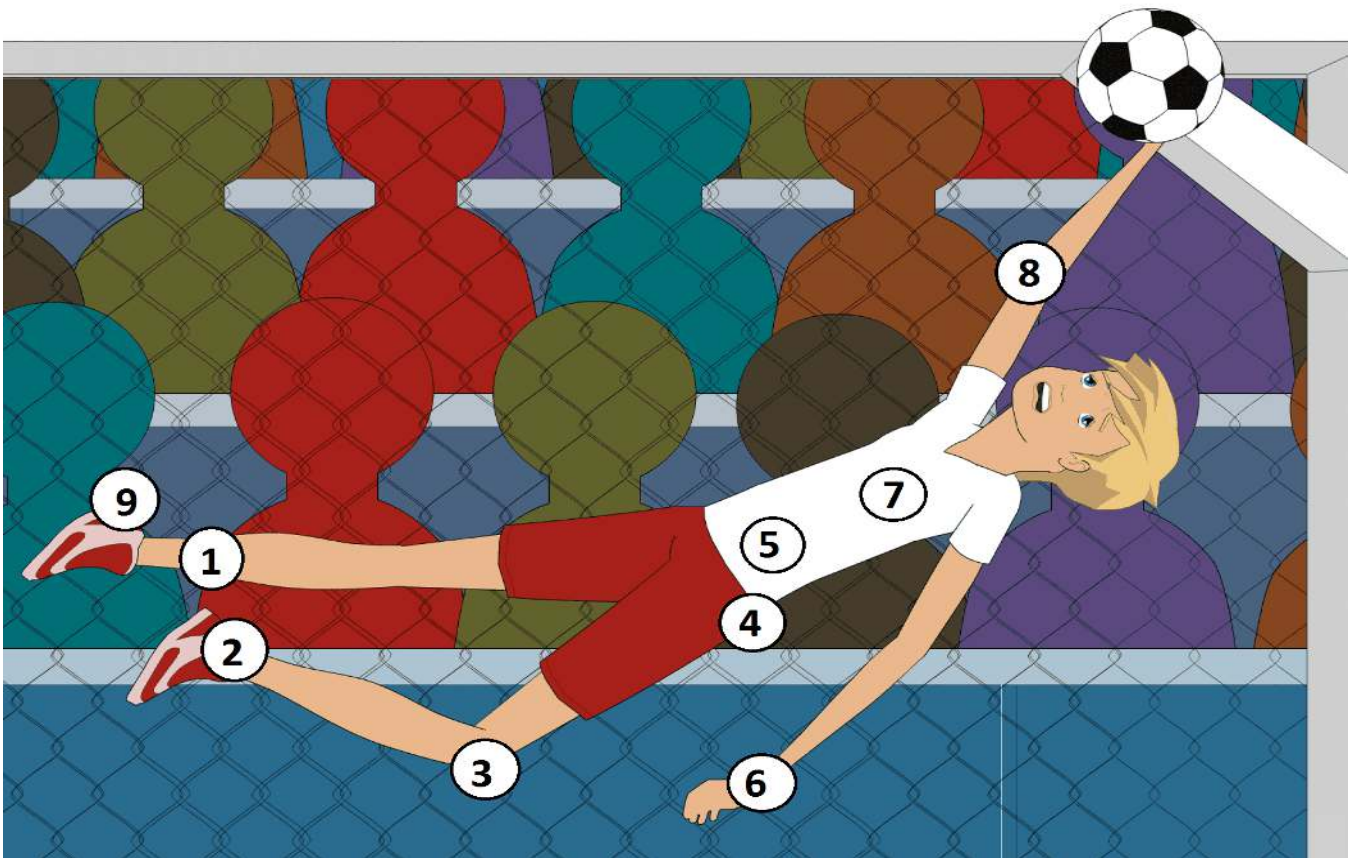
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When the ball hit the post in the 36th minute it was too much for Bill. He looked like he was going to explode. "Do something you ninnies"²⁹! He roared, jumping from one foot to another "Don't just stand there – you're not in a museum!"

Yet there was no sign of any retaliation from the locals. The Maidstone players had moved back into their half of the pitch, not wanting to take risks, and for the first time the Davingstock players began to touch the ball.



Activity 5: Complete the sentences with tag questions. If you need help with tag questions, go to profesornativogratis.com/tag-questions



Activity 6: Match the words with the parts of the body:

Wr__	__ee	__kl_	H__ / __gh	__st	__lly	Sh__	H__l	__w
------	------	-------	------------	------	-------	------	------	-----

“Calm down Bill” begged³⁰ people around him “you’ll have a heart attack at this rate.”

In fact, one player did look like he was paying attention. Fat Bob was playing as if his life depended on it, using his corpulent body to bounce⁴ rival players off the ball, sweating and yelling³¹ at his teammates until the whistle blew to finish the first half.

The mood was quietly gloomy³². Aethelflaed tried to cheer the fans up. “Well” she said “That wasn’t so bad, was it? I mean, we could be four or five goals down, but we only need to score twice and we’re champions, aren’t we?”

“Such a wise comment from young Ethel, our local genius,” responded Bill bitterly³³ “and as I see you’re such an expert, maybe you can tell everybody how we’re going to score two goals if we don’t have the ball?”

"Steady on"³⁴, Bill" replied Samantha "It's hardly her fault, is it?" Aethelflaed decided to keep quiet for the rest of the match.

Soon there was a roar from the visiting fans, and the Maidstone players ran out of the tunnel, stretching, jumping and preparing for the final assault. They looked confident, determined. Behind them, heads down, came the Davingstock players.

"Look at the lot of you! Is this your Gran's funeral?" yelled Bill "Are we going to have another 45 minutes of this? Pull yourselves together"³⁵! This is like boys against men!"

But his worst fears were soon confirmed. The second half started in exactly the same way as the first had. It took just two minutes for Dean to make his first save, and then to make matters worse, a Davingstock player fell down clutching¹³⁶ his ankle.

"He's pulled a muscle!" scoffed³⁷ Bill, "Not that it makes much difference though. They're all a bunch of ninnies."

"The butcher's starting to get on my nerves." whispered Samantha to her friends "Remind me to stay vegetarian next week."

As the player lay on the ground, surrounded by the medical staff, heads began to look up, and people began to hear the sound of an aircraft. Players, fans, staff – everybody was pointing and waving up at the sky as a helicopter suddenly came into view above the stadium and then slowly lowered itself onto the pitch³⁸. With the whole stadium watching, the doors opened...and Ayaan appeared from inside the helicopter!

Already dressed in his football kit, Ayaan gave a thumbs up at the helicopter as it took off and disappeared. Undoubtedly enjoying the moment, he waved at the fans, who had started to cheer¹.

"The RNLI!" Natalia exclaimed, eyes shining "He must have finished, and now he's asked the lifeguards to fly him into the match!"

The Maidstone FC players were whispering nervously. Who was this player, who was so good that he had been sent for by helicopter? They quickly formed a circle and were given new instructions by their coach. Then the match started again, with Ayaan replacing the injured player.

"OK" said Bill the butcher to the fans around him "Let's get down to business!" Everybody sensed a change of mood.

But the truth was that Ayaan could not do everything on his own. If he went past two players, a third would take the ball. If he passed, nobody else in the team was good

34 Stea

35 Pull

36 Clut

37 Sco

38 Pich

enough to do anything special. The Maidstone players began to feel confident again. It was just at this moment when the match changed in the strangest way. Ayaan kicked a high ball into the area for Bob to run on to. Looking up as he ran, and as clumsy as always, Bob tripped over his own feet and fell face down in the area. He hadn't touched anybody, but it didn't matter. The referee did not hesitate. He put the whistle to his lips and blew – penalty!

The Maidstone players were enraged, but the referee was adamant. After the protests and complaints had died down Ayaan came forward, took three steps and scored! The fans couldn't believe it – despite everything, they were level!

With only ten minutes left, Maidstone attacked more ferociously than ever. The Davingstock footballers were playing with all their heart, but the difference in quality was plain to see. Once again, Dean had to make three incredible saves, and the fans once again began to bite their nails and hide their heads in their hands.

“Get the ball out!” shouted Bob, who was the only player near the Maidstone goalposts “It doesn't matter where – just kick it!”



Activity 7: Ayaan, Aethelflaed, Samantha, Natalia, Rodney and Gary are wearing something that belongs to someone else.

Example: Samantha is wearing Gary's cowboy hat..... (Find 5 more.)

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But every time the ball was kicked out, Maidstone picked it up and attacked again. Ayaan ran out of the Davingstock half with the ball until, surrounded by opponents, it was kicked out for a throw in.

“Just chuck³⁹ it in!” yelled Bob “Give it here and I'll put it in the net.”

No sooner had he finished the sentence than the ball was thrown at Ayaan, who skillfully backheeled the ball at him. Bob had no time to react. The ball bounced off his round belly, wrongfooting the defender, and – with the goalkeeper watching helplessly – landed in the back of the net. Bob had just scored his first goal for Davingstock Rovers!

There was a second of complete silence as the fans registered what they had just seen, and then the stadium trembled with the eruption of sound. Who could have written a better ending? As any football fan knows, nothing is better than winning when you so clearly deserve to lose.

I wish I could tell you everything that happened from that moment on- the medals, the trophy and the celebrations that lasted far into the night; the bus load of white and incredulous faces on the way back to Maidstone; the tears of Bill the butcher (“The quality! These players should be professionals. Did you see that goal?Tactical genius, they played like the best Italian teams - world-class!”); and of course, Bob's moment of glory, knowing that he would go down forever in the history of Davingstock.

But of course, the story has not yet finished. Davingstock is about to wake up to some very unpleasant news, and we will have to look into what happened during those mad, wonderful hours of celebration.....



Activity 8: Complete these sentences with the superlative form of these adjectives:

SKILFUL CLUMSY QUICK

1. Bob is the _____ of the three players.
2. Ayaan is the _____ .
3. And Dean has the _____ reactions.

Now complete these sentences with the comparative:

SLIM CHUNKY AGILE

1. Bob is _____ than Ayaan.
2. Ayaan is a bit _____ than Dean.
3. Dean is _____ than Bob.

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Sunday: The Missing Trophy



Activity 9: Match the furniture and the objects. Where is each item?

1. There are some coins and a globe on the **desk**
2. There is some lipstick on the _____, and a doll leaning against it.
3. There is a _____ on the floor in front of the bed, with a sports bag on it.
4. There is a white _____ behind the bed.
5. The lamp is on the _____.
6. The switch is under the _____.
- 7a & b. There is a sewing machine on the _____ and a _____ in front of it.
8. There is a towel and two _____ on the chair.
9. There is a _____ attached to the ceiling, for when it's hot.
10. The _____ is between the boxes and the desk.

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"Ethel, Ethel!"

It took Aethelflaed a few seconds to disconnect her brother's voice from the rest of the dream she was enjoying.

"Ethel! Are you awake?"

"What's up, Stan? What time is it?"

"It's past ten. Ethel, the trophy's missing!"

"What trophy?" Past 10 o'clock? She felt like she had fallen asleep just five minutes ago.

"The trophy, the football trophy! Don't you remember?"

"Oh, it'll turn up⁴⁰. Leave me alone Stan – I'm knackered⁴¹!"

Aethelflaed tried to go back to sleep, putting her head under the pillow, but fifteen minutes later she had to accept she was fully awake. 'That twit³ Stan! Who cares about a stupid trophy?' She thought gloomily, as she got up.

When she got downstairs the animals were waiting for her – their dog Heidi, Squeaky the three-legged cat, and Budgie the parrot. No dad, no brother, just breakfast left on the worktop, ready to be heated in the microwave.

So she wandered into the lounge⁴² and heard some voices from outside. After putting on a vinyl record of her beloved Aretha Franklin, she drew the curtains to one side. Her dad and brother were in front of the house, together with their neighbour and Davingstock's police officer. PC⁷ Blake seemed to be asking Rodney some questions. Breakfast can wait! She went out in her pyjama, to see what was going on.

PC Blake divided the town into two bands – those who liked her 'softly, softly' approach⁴³, and others who would have preferred a stricter policing method. One of these, Bill the Butcher, held her personally responsible for all the town's problems. In front of his customers, he liked to deliver sermons on the decline of civil responsibilities, and the standards of the police service.

"Do you remember last year, the case of the garden gnomes⁴⁴? People used to wake up every day to find their gnome had been changed with their neighbours' one, night after night for weeks and weeks! Who was caught? Nobody! How can people feel safe in this town?"

"And then last Christmas Mrs Hollingworth and that newcomer Wendy what's-her-

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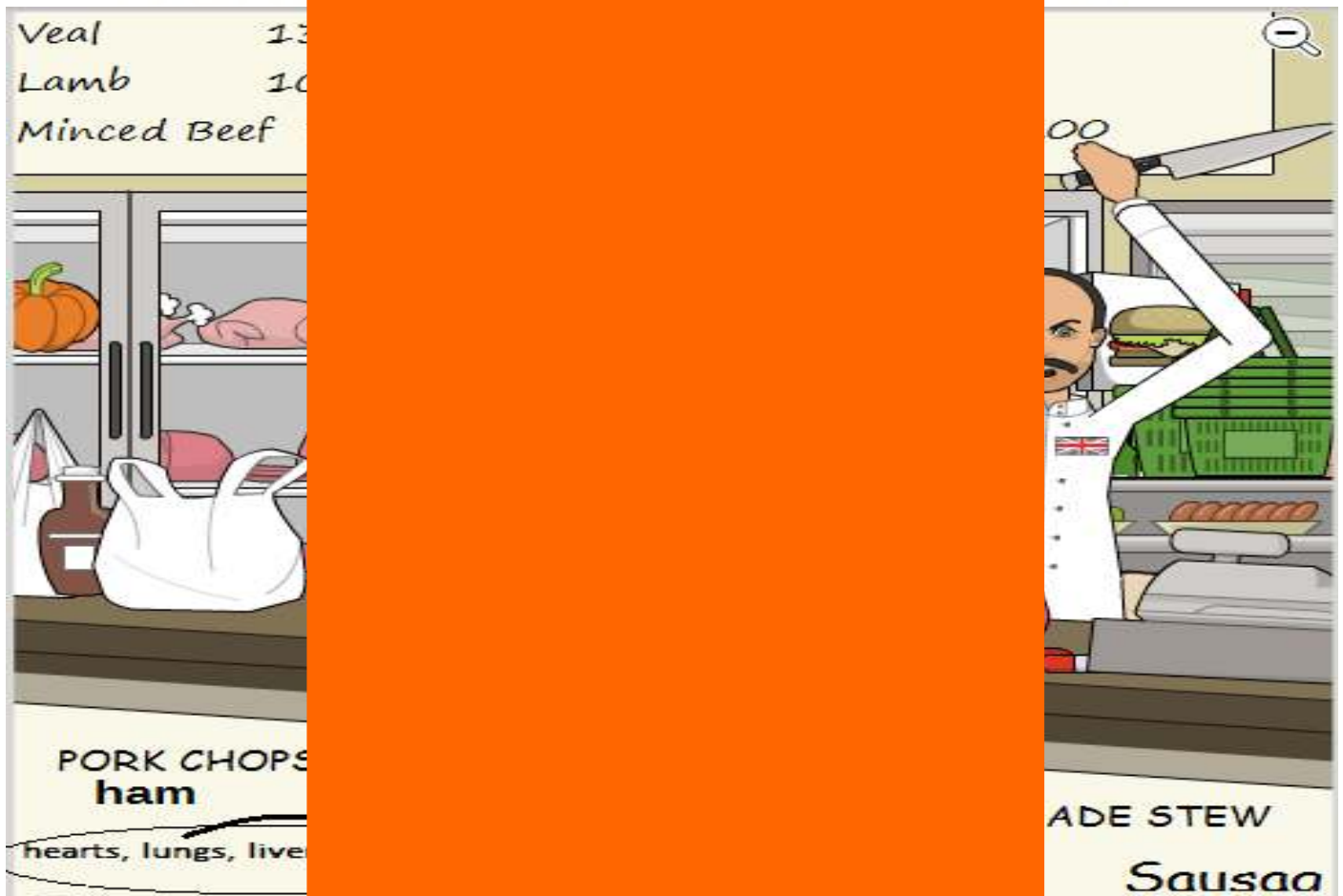
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42

43

44

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Activity 10: Name the items in the butcher's.

Example: 'Pumpkin'

name, fighting over the last turkey at the supermarket. Disgraceful! Mrs Hollingworth ended up with ketchup in her hair. That Wendy should have been sent back to London, but what did PC Blake do? Nothing! No wonder³ this town is going to the dogs!"

With speeches like this, the older generation started to murmur about whether PC Blake was 'up to it.'¹ "....Crime waves.....Things aren't like they used to be.....No respect.....Young people nowadays.....Do you remember PC Brown? He used to fine⁴⁵ you just for looking at him in a way he didn't like – They don't make police officers like that anymore!"

The fact was that Davingstock had the smiliest, happiest police officer in the county⁴⁶. Aethelflaed's father was an admirer of her approach⁴³ "She makes it her job to speak

⁴⁵

⁴⁶

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to everybody.” he explained “Someone hasn't returned their book to the library? I phone her and she goes and talks to them. If you park where you mustn't, shout when you can't, or do what you shouldn't, she'll be there on your doorstep with a smile, and it'll be sorted out⁴⁷.”

*Twenty-one pages and
eleven activities later.....*

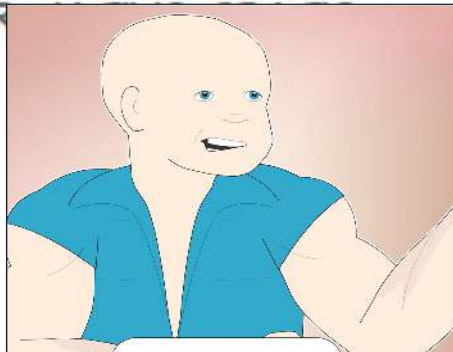
⁴⁷ Sort out – solve, find a solution

Characters 1

by Prof.NativoGratis



Aethelflaed (Ethel)



Rodney



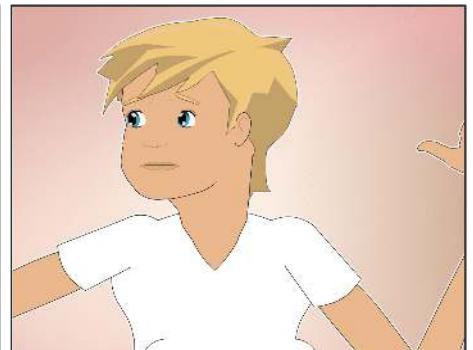
Gaz (Gary)



Natalia (Nat)



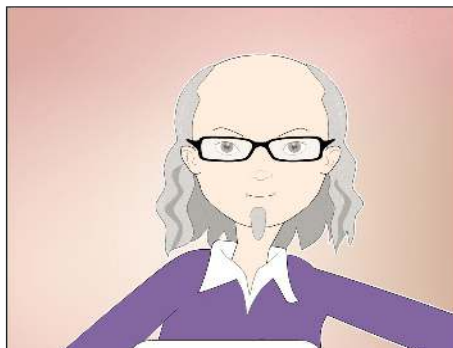
Samantha (Sam)



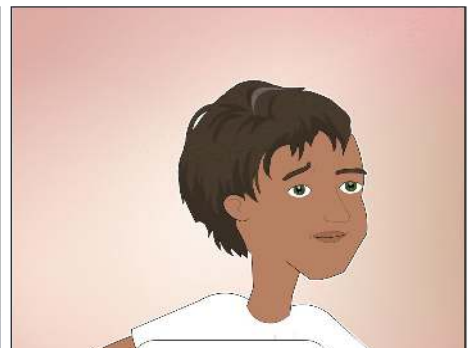
Dean



Athelstan (Stan)



Alfred



Ayaan



PC Blake



Scroogey



Bill the Butcher

Activity 21: Choose the right person.

Who.....?

1. is completely bald?
2. influences Aethelflaed's behaviour?
3. gets people's backs up⁵¹?
4. doesn't feel part of the community?
5. is very opinionated?
6. is not up-to-date with current affairs?
7. is popular, but perhaps not very bright?
8. does not have a very good academic record?
9. puts himself at risk to help others?
10. ...is studying to enter a field of medicine?

Whose.....?

- 11work is not appreciated in the same way by everybody?
12. ...reputation is not an accurate reflection of his personality?
13. ...parents were born abroad?

All the answers to the activities and exercises, go to:

Understanding Language (1)

1) In the first paragraph, with what word could you replace 'it'?

- a) something
- b) nothing
- c) anything
- d) everything

2) There is a difference between 'rob' and 'steal'. Look at these examples at the start of chapter 2:

“.....Bob phoned PC Blake to tell her he'd been robbed.”

“Stolen? The trophy's been stolen?”

Which would you use in the sentence below?

- You _____ something (money, a wallet, jewels....) .
- You _____ the victim (a bank, a person, a jeweller's...)

3) On activity 17 (question 8), I have used the word 'regard'. Then in the story you can read the word 'face':

“(Vases) are regarded as decorative ornaments.”

“(Aethelflaed) turned to face Scroogey.”

What's the difference between these words and others like 'look', 'watch' and 'see'?

- Regard =
- Face =

4) You have seen an example of an inversion early in the story (footnote 7): “**No sooner had she** stepped out of the front door when she bumped into her next-door neighbour.”

Inversions are a stylistic device used for formal writing. You don't often hear it in spoken English (except a politician reading a speech, for example). Basically, after certain expressions (let's call them 'negative' or 'limiting' expressions) the structure of the sentences resembles a question. Technically speaking, the verb/auxiliar and subject are 'inverted':

- SPOKEN: I'm not often as surprised as today.

but we had a great time too! (*or 'just' =

learn a lot, **but** they also enjoyed the

expressions:

economic immigrant.

sent or sedition.

ered a glass of wine.

tent of the damage.

sk.

ne piano wonderfully!

gers.

cle: 'Saxon Kings and Queens:

', 'find out' and 'work out'. All three
difference between them?

C Blake will sort it out."

6) Find the word 'bitter' (p.13) and 'sour' (p.29). Which of these foods are bitter, and which are sour?

- Coffee, beer...
- Lemon, lime...

Understanding Language 2: In Depth

• Might vs. Could

There is often some confusion in many situations where you can use the present first:

Footnotes 83-84: "Gary might

- You can replace 'might' with 'could' change.

32-33: "We could be four or five

- Here you cannot change 'could' to 'might' expresses possibility. It could be by or four or five goals. It didn't happen.

Now it's your turn. Look at the

12-13: "She could have hooked up

- Can you change 'could' to 'might'?

53-54: "He could have been very

- Can you change 'could' to 'might'?

58-59: "Bob might not have had

- Can you change 'might' to 'could'?

• Should have vs. Must have

We all know the difference between 'should' and 'must' in the present tense – the first is advice or opinion, the second an order. In the past, though, there is a difference.

74-75: "You shouldn't have left it all to the last minute."

- This is a piece of advice when it is too late.

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79-80: "He

- This i
- supp

53-54: "It c

- This i
- sure

Now it's yo
these sent

"Ayaan ____

- 'Shou

"Bob ____

- 'Shou

"Rodney ____

Gary when

- 'Shou

• **Passive**

There is a tendency to believe that passive is used mostly in formal English, and that it is not so common in everyday conversation. This is not correct. Look at this example from the story:

59-60: "(The trophy) was stolen. I was pushed in."

These are passive sentences. It is not logical to use a normal active question here, such as 'Ayaan stole the trophy.' or 'Rodney pushed me in.' simply because this might not be true.

In other languages there are different techniques for this. In French, for example, the impersonal 'on' is used: 'On a volé...'. In Spanish it is more common to see an impersonal 'ellos' or 'se': 'Robaron' or 'Se robó'.

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Now it's your turn. Which sentence would be more logical? Answer Active (A), Passive (P).

1a) Dav

1b) The

2a) Pec

2b) It is

3a) Pec

3b) It is

4a) Sar

4b) The

5a) Gar

5b) The

6a) Pec

6b) The

6c) A d

7a) Bot

7b) A p

- **Now let's look at another aspect of the passive:**

Footnotes 19-20: "In one match the rival team had a perfectly decent goal disallowed by the referee..... the rival team got two players sent off."

This type of passive is normally used when a third person does the action in benefit (or detriment) of the subject. In this case the referee sent off a rival player in favour of Davingstock FC. In other cases you pay somebody to do something.

You use: **get/have + object + participle**. Typical examples are:

'I'm getting my hair cut tomorrow.' (The hairdresser)

• Past Perfect

Generally speaking, it is not hard to understand the Past Perfect, but non-native speakers do not tend to use this as much as they should. Let's look at the story. When Ayaan tells Aethelflaed and Athelstan about helping Bob out of the creek he says:

(footnotes 55-56) "He

Imagine if he had said
they go back to the pu
eliminate that doubt –

Let's use a different ex

1. When Aethelflaed a

- No problem! Wh
was her brother

2. When Aethelflaed a

3. When Aethelflaed a

- This is more cor
guess that Athel
arrived, but num
- Number 3 mean
arrived. If you us
about an order c

Your turn. Which of t

1. At the beginning
2. Aethelflaed kne

3.

4.

5.

- **As and Like**

When Davingstock Town FC won the final, Bill the butcher emotionally declared that they had played '*like* the best Italian teams'. Would it be grammatically incorrect to say '*as* the best Italian teams'?

Vocabulary Builder 1: Synonyms

Find synonyms (or near-synonyms) in the story for these words.

Example: (Between Activities 14 & 15) Look = STARE

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------|
| 1. (Between activities 4 -5) | Smile = |
| 2. (Act. 4 – 5) | Laugh = |
| 3. (Act. 16 – 17) | Jump = |
| 4. (Act. 7 – 8) | Throw = |

Vocabulary Builder 2: Definitions

Read these definitions and find the words in the story:

Example: (Between activities. 1 – 2)

When there isn't much space to move = CRAMPED

(Act. 3 – 4) So beautiful it leaves you breathless.

(Act. 4 – 5) A nicer way of saying 'fat'.

(Act. 6 – 7) Hold something firmly.

(Act. 7 – 8) A person without a good physical coordination.



Vocabulary Builder 3: Expressions and Phrasal Verbs

Alfred m_____ a p_____ of not keeping up-to-date.

Aethelflaed had planned to m_____ u_____ with Samantha.

Aethelflaed wasn't b_____ about leaving early.

In a small town, oddballs s_____ o_____ from the rest.

of Gary.

h Sam and Natalia.

ly well.

_____ football.

at half-time.

n: 'S_____ o_____!'

t_____ u_____ .

g_____ the g_____ .

had been pushed?

_____ to visit Samantha's.

_____ what had happened.

because she hadn't called.

_____ of r_____ .

the b_____ .

ull glass, you should d_____ u_____

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MUESTRA GRATUITA

The Saxon Kings and Queens: Alfred, Aethelflaed and Athelstan.

Reading the story, the names of Aethelflaed and Athelstan would have stood out. I am quite sure that you have not heard of them before. They are not at all common – practically non-existent- in modern Britain.

Alfred is a librarian, and a keen amateur historian. After being told that he was expecting a daughter, what better name could there be, than the daughter of the Saxon king, Alfred the Great; Aethelflaed, 'Lady of the Mercians'?



Alfred the Great

Every English schoolchild knows the story of how King Alfred burnt the cakes.

Alfred the Great was the youngest of five brothers, all of who died during a period of unending war with Viking invaders. In this way he became King of Wessex, a kingdom which covered the south of England.

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Statue of Alfred the Great



keen historian. What better name could he give to his daughter than Aethelflaed? She was the first child of Alfred the Great, the 'Lady of the Mercians', and one of the England's very few female monarchs before the sixteenth century.

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Aethelflaed

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Statue of Aethelflaed in Tamworth

It is not known when she was born, but almost certainly it was in the period of instability, when her father was fighting the Vikings for the survival of his kingdom. At an early age Aethelflaed married Aethelred, Lord of the Mercians. Mercia was a kingdom that extended from modern-day Manchester/Liverpool to London.

was much more than a quiet and her decision to repair the walls of the city more fortresses.

The council named Aethelflaed 'Lady of the' her reign was short, due to her death a few leader during that time. She continued fight that only with her help was her remaining Vikings in the south of

preparing to give the city to her in return

Athelstan – was brought up in her court. a statue of Aethelflaed where she is st King of England.

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Athelstan

A portrait of King Athelstan.

When Alfred (Alfred the Great) had been more logical than his son, Aethelflaed's brother, and had not unified England.

But Athelstan was the first to be given 'the Great' as a title, a figure more significant than Edward the Elder.

As heir to both his father and grandfather, Athelstan inherited the work of Aethelflaed and his father, and so became the first king of a unified England.

An alliance between Athelstan and his father, but his rule, but his kings were killed, and his kingdom was divided.

According to texts, many historians have written about his churches and encouraged his people to build churches and encourage his people to build churches.

A legal code was enacted by Athelstan, a concern for religious unity in his kingdom.

He never married a woman, but his half-brother, Edmund, was his heir. His influence. Finally, in 940, he was one of the Anglo-Saxon kings.

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Comprehension Questions.

1. The original inhabitants of England are called B_____
2. The Anglo-Saxons came from an area we now know as G_____
3. Although King Alfred existed, the story of the burnt cakes is a l_____
4. Although Alfred defeated the Vikings, his kingdom was still t_____ by them.
5. Aethelflaed became ruler as the wife, and when he died, the w_____ of Athelred, Lord of the Mercians.
6. Due to her unexpected death, Aethelflaed's r_____ was short.
7. Athelstan was Alfred's g_____.
8. Athelstan defeated an a_____ of five kings.
9. Athelstan died c_____.
10. Athelstan h_____ his brother named successor after his death.

All the answers to the activities and exercises:

The Royal National Lifeboat Institution



It's no wonder that when Aethelstan suspected Ayaan of stealing the trophy, neither Aethelflaed nor Samantha or Natalia could believe that he would do such a thing.

Ayaan's volunteer work for the Royal National Lifeboat Institution has automatically gained him a place as one of Davingstock's most respected young citizens. More than 600 RNLI lifeguards have lost their lives out to sea, and Ayaan puts his life at risk every time he answers the call to the lifeboat or helicopter. What's more, as the RNLI

[Why don't you continue reading, and practise your English with an article from the Guardian, explaining the daily life of a RNLI volunteer?](#)

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