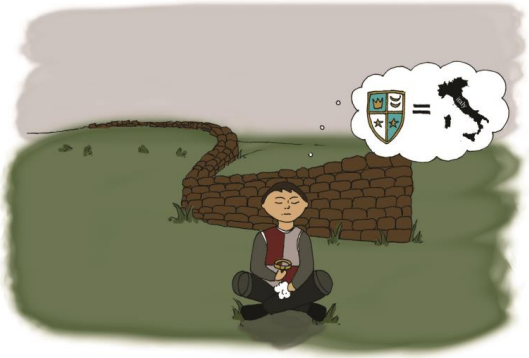
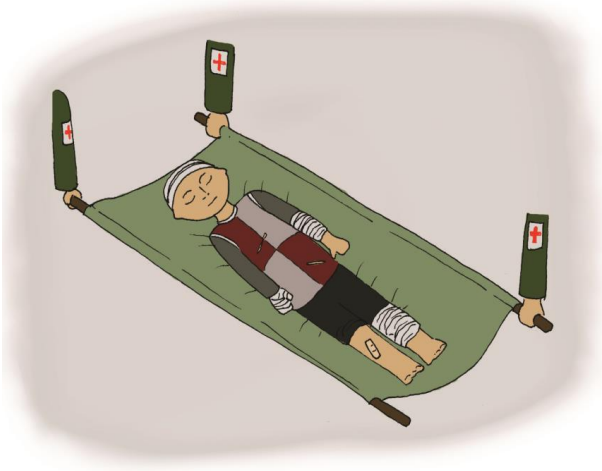
The Ring

A biting wind whistled and the sky was leaden. It was starting to sleet and Lucius could no longer feel his fingers, it was so cold. As he was used to the balmy climate of his home in Southern Italy, being posted to the desolate wild countryside around Hadrian's Wall had been a huge shock. When Lucius arrived at the fort where he was stationed, he felt that he was at the edge of all civilisation. Soldiers based in the South of Britain could go to shops and theatres, but there was nothing like that in the bleak area in which he found himself.



Lucius snatched up a rag and polished his special gold ring showing his family crest. He gazed at it wistfully as it reminded him of home. Suddenly, there was a loud shout of warning outside. A tribe had been seen approaching from the North. They looked fearsome and ready for battle!

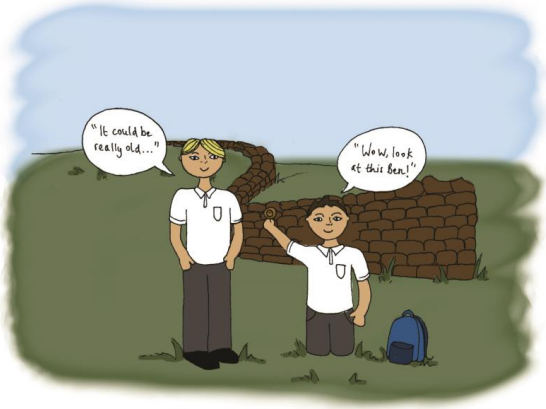
Hastily, Lucius buried his precious ring in the soil by his feet. He wanted to ensure that it would not be stolen from him in the ensuing battle. Putting on his helmet, Lucius grabbed his javelin and sword before heading out.



Barbarian troops repeatedly charged at the Roman troops inflicting many injuries. Although the Roman troops were eventually victorious because of their careful organisation, Lucius was badly injured and had to be taken to the fort's hospital. Unfortunately, his wounds were too severe for him to recover and he died the next day.

Almost two thousand years later, two children were playing in the sunshine after their visit to the museum at Hadrian's Wall. They had been excited to learn what had gone in that very same location so many years ago. John was scuffing his feet in the grass beneath his feet when, all of a sudden, something gleaming caught his eye. After digging around in the mud, John pulled out a gold ring! "Wow, look at this , Ben!"

Ben peered at the ring. "It could be really old....."



© Classroom Secrets Limited 2015
classroomsecrets.com
The Ring – 2a – Text
© Classroom Secrets Limited 2015

Oral Teacher Questions – The Ring

How was Hadrian's Wall different from where Lucius came from? (AF2) Weather was much colder and less sunny.

What adjective might describe how Lucius felt about the Roman troops posted to the South of Britain? (AF3/AF7) Jealous, envious

Which words used by the author show us what the weather was like at Hadrian's Wall? (AF5) Biting wind, cold, leaden sky, desolate, bleak.

What possession did Lucius have to remind him of home? (AF2) Family ring.

What possession of yours would you take away with you to remind you of home? (AF6) Any acceptable response.

Why did Lucius bury the ring? (AF2/AF3) So it would not be lost or stolen in the battle.

Do you think it was a good idea? Why? (AF2/AF3) Accept answers backed up by a reason.

What happened to Lucius in the battle? (AF2/AF7) He was badly injured in the fighting.

Where did he die? (AF2/AF7) He was taken to the fort hospital where he died.

In what way is the final paragraph different from the rest of the text? (AF5/AF7) It takes place in the present day rather than Roman times.

How do you think the children felt when they found the ring? (AF3) Excited, happy

If you had been one of the children finding the ring, what would you have done next? (AF6/AF7) Go into the museum, show an adult etc.

Do you think Lucius would have been pleased to know that the ring had been found? Why? (AF3) Accept any sensible answer backed up by a reason.

© Classroom Secrets Limited 2015

The Ring – Follow-Up Work 1

How was Hadrian's Wall different from where Lucius came from? (AF2)

What adjective might describe how Lucius felt about the Roman troops posted to the South of Britain? (AF3/AF7)

Which words used by the author show us what the weather was like at Hadrian's Wall? (AF5)

What possession did Lucius have to remind him of home? (AF2)

What possession of yours would you take away with you to remind you of home? (AF6)

Why did Lucius bury the ring? (AF2/AF3)

Do you think it was a good idea? Why? (AF2/AF3)

© Classroom Secrets Limited 2015

The Ring – Follow-Up Work 2

What happened to Lucius in the battle? (AF2/AF7)

_____

Where did he die? (AF2/AF7)

_____

In what way is the final paragraph different from the rest of the text? (AF5/AF7)

_____

_____

How do you think the children felt when they found the ring? (AF3)

_____

If you had been one of the children finding the ring, what would you have done next? (AF6/AF7)

_____

Do you think Lucius would have been pleased to know that the ring had been found? Why? (AF3)

_____

_____

© Classroom Secrets Limited 2015

The Ring – Vocab 1

Write down the meanings of these words which were in purple in the text.

Use a dictionary or Thesaurus to help you.

biting _____

leaden _____

balmy _____

desolate _____

scuffing _____

civilisation _____

bleak _____

wistfully _____

fearsome _____

victorious _____

hastily _____

ensuing _____

barbarian _____

repeatedly _____

inflicting _____

© Classroom Secrets Limited 2015