# The Wartime Diary of Eliza Beale

## Second World War Evacuee

Dear Diary,

**Thursday 31st August 1939**

Today has been horrible.

Mum told me that the government is worried about the threat of war so they don't think that London is safe anymore. We're going to be evacuated to the countryside.

At first, I was excited about the idea of a family holiday. However, Mum explained that she can't come with us. George and I have packed a pillowcase each with clothes and a few biscuits for the train. He's too young to understand what's happening; lucky George.

I can't sleep at the moment. Mum couldn't answer any of my questions. I wanted to find out how long we are going away for or where we are going. All I know is that we must go to Waterloo Station tomorrow morning.

Eliza



my mum

Dear Diary,

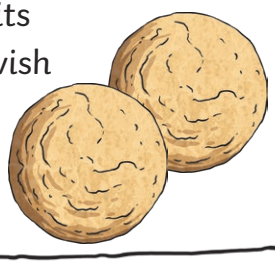
**Friday 1st September 1939 – morning**

I'm writing from the train station. I've got a big tag dangling around my neck as if I'm about to be posted somewhere. It even says my full name on it: 'Elizabeth Beale'. I tried explaining that everyone calls me Eliza but I just got shooed away. I've decided to hide it underneath my gas mask box because then people will have to ask me for my name.

Our teachers from school are sitting with us but our parents weren't allowed any farther than the station barrier. It was so hard saying goodbye.

Our school is getting on the next train but we don't know how long we will have to wait. I'm so hungry. I gave George my biscuits earlier because he looked like he needed cheering up. Now, I wish that I had saved one for myself.

Eliza





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Dear Diary,

## Friday 1st September 1939 – evening

The train journey was not fun. There were so many of us that there was no room to move. Whenever I've been on a train before, I've felt ill but this time was so much worse.

After a really long time, we arrived in a small town. We were taken to the town hall and adults started coming in and choosing children to take home. The lady who picked George and I is called Mrs Farthing and she lives in a large house. By the time we had walked there, it was very dark. Poor George was finding it difficult to stay awake.


Mrs Farthing

When we arrived, Mrs Farthing told us all about her two sons and her husband, Mr Farthing, who was outside making sure that the animals were OK. It turns out that Mr and Mrs Farthing live on a farm! They've got cows, sheep, pigs, chickens, two horses and a donkey! We've been told that we can help with the animals tomorrow.


Mr Farthing

I'm curled up in bed trying to get to sleep at the moment. George is asleep in the bed next to me. We both had a little cry when we realised that Mum couldn't tuck us in; it's really sad being away from her but I'm glad that we have each other.

Eliza



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# Questions

1. Why did Eliza give her biscuits to George? Tick one.

   - ○ he was hungry
   - ○ he needed cheering up
   - ○ he asked for them
   - ○ she didn't like them

2. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order in which they appear in the text.

   - ☐ Eliza felt ill while she was on the train.
   - ☐ Eliza and George met Mrs Farthing.
   - ☐ Eliza found out that she was going to be evacuated.
   - ☐ Eliza waited for the next train to arrive.

3. What is Eliza's full name?

   _____

4. Look at the paragraph beginning **I'm writing from the train station.**
   Find and copy one phrase that means the same as 'told to go away'.

   _____

5. Fill in the missing words.

   George and I have packed a _____ each with clothes and a few

   _____ for the train.

6. Do you think that Eliza is a kind person? Explain your answer.

   _____

   _____

   _____

7. Look at the first entry for **Friday 1st September 1939**.
   How do you think Eliza was feeling when she wrote this? Explain your answer.

   _____

   _____

   _____



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8. What do you think will happen next to Eliza and George?



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# Answers

1. Why did Eliza give her biscuits to George? Tick one.

   ○ he was hungry

   ☑ **he needed cheering up**

   ○ he asked for them

   ○ she didn't like them

2. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order in which they appear in the text.

   **3** Eliza felt ill while she was on the train.

   **4** Eliza and George met Mrs Farthing.

   **1** Eliza found out that she was going to be evacuated.

   **2** Eliza waited for the next train to arrive.

3. What is Eliza's full name?

   **Eliza's full name is Elizabeth Beale.**

4. Look at the paragraph beginning **I'm writing from the train station.**
   Find and copy one phrase that means the same as 'told to go away'.

   **shooed away**

5. Fill in the missing words.

   George and I have packed a **pillowcase** each with clothes and a few **biscuits** for the train.

6. Do you think that Eliza is a kind person? Explain your answer.

   **Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that Eliza is a kind person because she gave her biscuits to George when he was feeling sad. She also says that she's glad that they have each other which means that she's probably looking after George.**

7. Look at the first entry for **Friday 1st September 1939**.
   How do you think Eliza was feeling when she wrote this? Explain your answer.

   **Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that Eliza was feeling annoyed when she wrote this because she doesn't like having to wear a label with her full name on it. I also think she's feeling frightened because she doesn't know what will happen next.**

8. What do you think will happen next to Eliza and George?

   **Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that Eliza and George will wake up and help to feed the animals as I think they will need to help out. I also think that they will meet the two sons mentioned earlier who will show them around the farm.**

# The Wartime Diary of Eliza Beale

## Second World War Evacuee

Dear Diary,

**Thursday 31st August 1939**

Today has been horrible.

This afternoon, Mum told me that the government is worried about the threat of war so they have issued an evacuation notice. London is no longer safe so we need to move to the countryside. Can you believe it, Diary? I can't.

At first, I thought that we would all be going together and I got excited about the idea of a family holiday. However, one look at Mum made me realise that I was wrong. George and I have packed a pillowcase each that we've filled with clothes and a few biscuits for the train. He's too young to understand what's happening and is getting excited about the 'adventure' that Mum told him we were going on. Lucky George.

My mind is spinning and I can't sleep. I tried to get more information from Mum (like how long we are going away for or where we are going) but my questions were met with a sad silence. All I know is that we must go to Waterloo Station tomorrow morning.

Eliza



my mum

Dear Diary,

**Friday 1st September 1939 – morning**

I'm writing from the train station. It feels as though my world has been turned upside down. I've got a big tag dangling around my neck as if I'm a piece of luggage. The tag even says my full name on it: 'Elizabeth Beale'. I tried explaining to the woman who put it around my neck that everyone calls me Eliza but she just looked at me sympathetically and shooed me away. I've decided to hide it underneath my gas mask box because then people will have to ask me for my name instead of reading it from a label.

There are hundreds of us here. Our teachers from school are sitting with us but our parents weren't allowed any farther than the station barrier. It was so difficult saying goodbye.





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Apparently, our school will be getting on the next train but we don't know how long we will have to wait. I'm so hungry. I'm regretting giving George my biscuits now but he looked like he needed cheering up. At least he's stopped telling me that he doesn't want to go on an adventure any more.

Eliza

Dear Diary,

## Friday 1st September 1939 – evening

I can't believe that it was only this morning when we last spoke.

The train journey was horrible. We were all packed in so tightly. Whenever I've been on a train before, I've felt ill but this time was so much worse. At one point, I thought I was going to be sick into my pillowcase.

After many hours, we arrived in a small town. We were taken to the town hall and given a drink. Then, adults started coming in and picking children to take home. Luckily, George and I were picked together. The lady who took us with her is called Mrs Farthing. By the time we had walked to her house, it was very dark; poor George was struggling to stay awake.


Mrs Farthing

When we arrived, Mrs Farthing told us all about her two sons and her husband (Mr Farthing) who was outside tending to the animals. It turns out that Mr and Mrs Farthing live on a farm! They've got cows, sheep, pigs, chickens, two horses and a donkey! She says that we can help with the animals tomorrow.


Mr Farthing

I'm curled up in bed trying to sleep at the moment. George is asleep in the bed next to me. We both had a little cry when we realised that Mum couldn't tuck us in; it's really difficult being away from her but at least we have each other. I've promised George that I will look after him.



Eliza

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# Questions

1. Where did Eliza and George catch the train from? Tick one.

   ○ Paddington Station
   ○ Waterloo Station
   ○ Victoria Station
   ○ Marylebone Station

2. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order in which they appear in the text.

   ☐ Eliza and George arrived at a large farmhouse.
   ☐ Eliza had a label put around her neck.
   ☐ Eliza asked her Mum where they were going.
   ☐ Eliza and George were taken to a town hall.

3. Look at the paragraph beginning **When we arrived, Mrs Farthing...**
   Find and copy one phrase that means the same as 'looking after'.

   _____

4. Why does Eliza hide the tag underneath her gas mask box?

   _____

5. Why did Eliza give her biscuits to George?

   _____

6. Look at the second diary entry for **Friday 1st September 1939**.
   How do you think Eliza was feeling when she wrote this entry? Explain your answer.

   _____

   _____

   _____

7. Explain why you think that Eliza chose to write **lucky George**.

   _____

   _____

   _____


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8. Summarise the events that happened to Eliza on Friday 1st September 1939 in 30 words or fewer.

9. Give **two** reasons why Eliza is brave. Explain your answer using evidence from the text.



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# Answers

1. Where did Eliza and George catch the train from? Tick one.

   ○ Paddington Station

   ✓ **Waterloo Station**

   ○ Victoria Station

   ○ Marylebone Station

2. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order in which they appear in the text.

   [4] Eliza and George arrived at a large farmhouse.

   [2] Eliza had a label put around her neck.

   [1] Eliza asked her Mum where they were going.

   [3] Eliza and George were taken to a town hall.

3. Look at the paragraph beginning **When we arrived, Mrs Farthing...**
   Find and copy one phrase that means the same as 'looking after'.
   **tending to**

4. Why does Eliza hide the tag underneath her gas mask box?
   **Eliza hides her tag underneath her gas mask box because she wants people to ask her for her name instead of reading it on her label.**

5. Why did Eliza give her biscuits to George?
   **Eliza gave her biscuits to George because he looked like he needed cheering up.**

6. Look at the second diary entry for **Friday 1st September 1939**.
   What can you infer about how Eliza was feeling when she wrote this entry? Explain your answer.
   **Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that Eliza was feeling homesick because she says that her mum couldn't tuck her into bed. I also think that she's feeling hopeful that she's in a nice home.**

7. Explain why you think that Eliza chose to write **lucky George**.
   **Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that Eliza wrote 'lucky George' because he is too young to understand what is happening but she is worried about what is going to happen. She might be worried about having to look after George when they're away from their mum and she wishes that someone could look after her instead.**



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8. Summarise the events that happened to Eliza on Friday 1st September 1939 in 30 words or fewer.

   **Pupils' own responses, such as: Eliza and George got on a train that went to a small town. They were picked by a lady called Mrs Farthing who took them to her large farmhouse.**

9. Give two reasons why Eliza is brave. Explain your answer using evidence from the text.

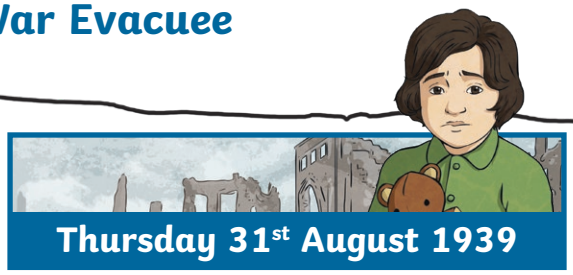
   **Pupils' own responses, such as: Eliza is brave because she is seeing the positives about going to live with people she doesn't know, such as helping with the animals. She also shows she is brave by telling George that she will look after him.**



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## Second World War Evacuee



**Thursday 31st August 1939**

Dear Diary,

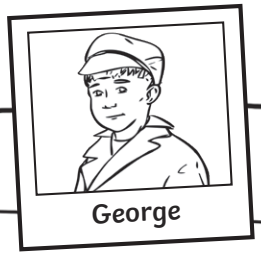
Today has been simply awful.

This afternoon, Mum told me that the government is becoming increasingly concerned about the threat of war and that they have served an evacuation notice. London is no longer considered safe so we need to move to the countryside. Can you believe it, Diary? I can't.

At first, I thought that we would all be going together and I even got excited about the idea of a family holiday (I started imagining days on the beach). However, one look at Mum's tear-filled eyes made me realise how wrong I was. We don't own two suitcases so George and I have a pillowcase each that we've filled with clothes and a few biscuits for the train. He doesn't understand what's happening and is getting excited about the 'adventure' that Mum told him we were going on: I wish that I were George.

As I lie here trying to sleep, my mind is spinning. I tried my best to get more information from Mum (like how long we are going away for or where we are going) but my multitude of questions were met with a sad silence. All I know is that we must get up early tomorrow morning to go to Waterloo Station.

Eliza



George



my mum

Dear Diary,

**Friday 1st September 1939 – morning**



I'm writing to you from the train station. It feels as though my world has been turned upside down. Last week, I was worrying about needlework classes and now I'm here with an uncomfortable tag dangling around my neck as if I'm a piece of luggage. The tag even says my full name on it: 'Elizabeth Beale'. I tried explaining to the woman who labelled me that everyone calls me Eliza but she just looked at me with pity and briskly shouted for the next child. I've decided to hide it underneath my gas mask box; that way, people will have to ask me for my name instead of reading it from a label.

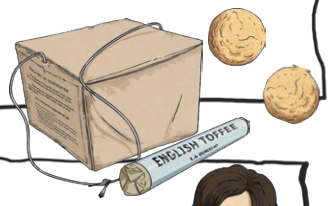


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There are hundreds of us here. All of the teachers from school are with us but our parents weren't allowed any farther than the station barrier. It was heartbreaking saying goodbye.

We've been told that our school will be getting on the next train but we don't know how long that will be. I'm so hungry. I'm regretting giving George my biscuits but he looked so sad at the time that it felt like the right thing to do. At least he's stopped telling me that he doesn't want to go on an adventure any more.

Eliza






Dear Diary,

## Friday 1st September 1939 – evening

Was it only this morning when we last spoke?

The train journey was horrible. We were all packed in so tightly that I could scarcely breathe. Whenever I've been on a train before, I've felt queasy but this time was so much worse. At one point, I thought I was going to be sick into my pillowcase.

After what felt like hours, we arrived in a small town. All of the children were shepherded to the town hall and given a drink. Before long, adults started coming in and picking children. Luckily, George and I were picked together. The lady who took us with her is called Mrs Farthing and she lives in a grand house on the outskirts of the town. By the time we had walked there, it was very dark; I carried George most of the way because he was struggling to stay awake.

When we arrived, Mrs Farthing explained that she had two sons who were already in bed and that her husband (Mr Farthing) was out tending to the animals. It turns out that Mr and Mrs Farthing live on a farm! They've got cows, sheep, pigs, chickens, two horses and a donkey! She says that we can even go and help to take care of the animals tomorrow.

Currently, I'm curled up in bed trying to sleep. George is snoring softly in the bed next to me. We both wept a little when we realised that Mum couldn't tuck us in; it's terribly difficult being away from her but at least we have each other. I've promised him that I would look after him just as a big sister should.

Eliza

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# Questions

1. **... the government is becoming increasingly concerned...**
   Which of the following is closest in meaning to the word 'concerned'? Tick one.
   - ○ angry
   - ○ fed up
   - ○ frightened
   - ○ worried
2. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order in which they appear in the text.
   - ☐ Eliza tried explaining that nobody calls her Elizabeth.
   - ☐ Eliza and George packed up their pillowcases.
   - ☐ Eliza wrote the diary entry for Friday 1st September 1939 – morning.
   - ☐ Eliza thought that she was going on holiday.
3. Look at the paragraph beginning **I'm writing to you from the train station...**
   Find and copy one word which means the same as 'quickly'.

   _____
4. Why did Eliza and George have to pack their possessions into pillowcases?

   _____
5. On which day did Eliza give her biscuits to George?

   _____
6. Compare how Eliza is feeling as she's writing her first diary entry to how Eliza is feeling as she's writing her last diary entry.

   _____

   _____

   _____
7. Explain why you think that the author has chosen to use diary entries to tell the story of Eliza.

   _____

   _____

   _____



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8. **Before long, adults started coming in and picking children.**
   How do you think the children were feeling at this point? Explain your answer.

9. **All of the children were shepherded to the town hall...**
   What impression does this give you of the events following the arrival of the train?

10. Describe **two** ways that the text gives the impression that the evacuation was a large-scale event. Use evidence from the text to support your answer.



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# Answers

1. **... the government is becoming increasingly concerned...**
   Which of the following is closest in meaning to the word 'concerned'? Tick one.
   - ○ angry
   - ○ fed up
   - ○ frightened
   - ☑ **worried**

2. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order in which they appear in the text.
   - **3** Eliza tried explaining that nobody calls her Elizabeth.
   - **2** Eliza and George packed up their pillowcases.
   - **4** Eliza wrote the diary entry for Friday 1st September 1939 – morning.
   - **1** Eliza thought that she was going on holiday.

3. Look at the paragraph beginning **I'm writing to you from the train station...**
   Find and copy one word which means the same as 'quickly'.
   **briskly**

4. Why did Eliza and George have to pack their possessions into pillowcases?
   **Eliza and George had to pack their possessions into pillowcases because they didn't own two suitcases.**

5. On which day did Eliza give her biscuits to George?
   **Eliza gave her biscuits to George on Friday.**

6. Compare how Eliza is feeling as she's writing her first diary entry to how Eliza is feeling as she's writing her last diary entry.
   **Pupils' own responses, such as: When she is writing her first diary entry, Eliza is feeling worried and unsure about what is going to happen the next day. When she is writing her last diary entry, she is feeling sad about not being with her mum but is feeling hopeful about the next day.**

7. Explain why you think that the author has chosen to use diary entries to tell the story of Eliza.
   **Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that the author has chosen to use diary entries to tell the story of Eliza because they show you exactly how Eliza is feeling. With a diary, you can put yourself in the shoes of another character and empathise with them.**


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8. **Before long, adults started coming in and picking children.**
   How do you think the children were feeling at this point? Explain your answer.
   **Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that the children were probably feeling really worried that they weren't going to be picked by anyone. They might have also been worried that the person who picked them wasn't going to be very nice.**

9. **All of the children were shepherded to the town hall...**
   What impression does this give you of the events following the arrival of the train?
   **Pupils' own responses, such as: The word 'shepherded' gives us the impression that there were lots of children walking to the town hall and that it was difficult to keep them together and walking in the same direction.**

10. Describe **two** ways that the text gives the impression that the evacuation was a large-scale event. Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

**Acceptable points:**

**AP1. Children had to wear identity tags.**
**AP2. Hundreds of children were evacuated.**
**AP3. More than one train was needed.**
**AP4. The train ride was crowded.**
**AP5. Use of the word 'shepherded'.**

**Award 3 marks for two acceptable points, at least one with evidence, e.g.**

- **The evacuation was a large-scale event because Eliza had to wear an identity label which shows that there were so many children, they needed to be labelled to keep track of them. Later on, the author uses the word 'shepherded' when the children arrive at the town hall which implies that there were a lot of children to be moved around. [AP1 + evidence and AP5 + evidence]**
- **Eliza and her brother had to wear identity tags so they didn't get lost and Eliza said that the train ride was horrible and very crowded which made her feel sicker than usual. [AP 1 and AP4 + evidence]**

**Award 2 marks for either two acceptable points or one acceptable point with evidence, e.g.**

- **The children had to wear identity labels and were very squashed on the train. [AP1 and AP4]**
- **The evacuation must have involved a lot of children because Eliza says that her whole school will be getting on the next train. [AP3 + evidence]**

**Award 1 mark for one acceptable point, e.g.**

- **There were lots of children at the train station. [AP2]**
- **Children had to wear identity labels. [AP1]**


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