

THINGS LEFT BEHIND

WALTER CLASSROOM RESOURCES

Printable pupil pack

Eight ready-to-print activities for history, English, maths and local-history enquiry.

Walter's Story | Upper KS2 / Lower KS3

Claire Greensit | Beyond the Story Shelf

Designed to sit alongside the young-readers edition. Use one activity, a short sequence or the full enquiry.

Worksheet 1: Archive Detective

Use one photograph, document or newspaper source. Start with what you can prove.

WHAT CAN I SEE OR READ DIRECTLY?

WHAT CAN I REASONABLY INFER?

WHAT CAN I NOT KNOW FROM THIS SOURCE ALONE?

WHAT SOURCE WOULD I LOOK FOR NEXT?

Worksheet 2: Evidence, Inference or Imagination?

Choose six statements from Walter's Story. Sort each one, then justify your decision.

EVIDENCE	REASONABLE INFERENCE	IMAGINED / RECONSTRUCTED

Sentence stems

- The source directly shows/says...
- This may suggest...
- A plausible possibility is...
- We cannot prove this because...

Worksheet 3: Walter's Delivery Challenge

Use Walter's two customer orders from Chapter Three.

Mrs Taylor, No. 3	Mrs North, No. 5
2 oz ham ½ lb sugar 2 oz tea 6 oz Cheddar	1 lb flour ½ lb sugar 6 oz butter 4 oz currants

1. Convert each order to ounces. 2. Find the combined weight. 3. How would you pack the bicycle safely?

Modern challenge: approximately how many grams is 3 oz of cheese?

Worksheet 4: Reading the Reference

Use these verified phrases from Walter's headmaster's reference.

“very well behaved and trustworthy lad”

“perfectly honest and trustworthy”

did not want to “remain in the one groove”

What does each phrase suggest?

Why was the reference written, and how might that purpose shape the language?

Write one claim about Walter supported by a quotation.

Worksheet 5: From Cudworth to Ripon

Create Walter's journey as a four-stop route: Cudworth → Leeds → Harrogate → Ripon.

CUDWORTH

What happened here?	What evidence supports this?

LEEDS

What happened here?	What evidence supports this?

HARROGATE

What happened here?	What evidence supports this?

RIPON

What happened here?	What evidence supports this?

Which detail shows that Walter was travelling in wartime Britain?

Worksheet 6: Ration Shop Challenge

Imagine your group is running Walter's shop during rationing. You have fewer goods than customers want. Your job is to make a fair plan.

Customer / household	What they ask for	What you can supply	Reason
Family A			
Family B			
Family C			
Family D			

What qualities would customers need from a shopkeeper when goods were scarce?

Worksheet 7: Change Over Time

Compare Walter's early grocery work with the shop world he retired from in 1983.

Early career	Later career	What stayed the same?

Think about: packaging, weighing, tills, money, self-service, customer relationships and working clothes.

Worksheet 8: Museum Label - The Things Walter Left Behind

Choose one object or source connected with Walter. Write a museum label that separates evidence from interpretation.

OBJECT / SOURCE:

WHAT IS IT?

WHAT DOES IT TELL US ABOUT WALTER'S LIFE?

WHAT CAN'T IT TELL US?

FINAL 80-WORD MUSEUM LABEL:

Teacher Answers & Notes

Delivery challenge: Mrs Taylor's order = 18 oz (1 lb 2 oz). Mrs North's order = 34 oz (2 lb 2 oz). Combined = 52 oz = 3 lb 4 oz, approximately 1.47 kg.

Reference activity: acceptable answers should recognise that the headmaster praises trustworthiness and willingness to work, while also noting that a reference was written to recommend Walter for employment and therefore has a positive purpose.

Journey activity: pupils should sequence Cudworth, Leeds, Harrogate and Ripon. The gas mask is a strong contextual clue to wartime Britain.

Change over time: strong answers should identify both change and continuity. Examples of change include pre-packed goods, self-service, tills and decimal money. Continuities include customer service, responsibility, stock knowledge and the importance of trust.

Archive activities: reward cautious language. A pupil who says 'this may suggest' and explains why is thinking more historically than one who makes a confident but unsupported claim.