

THINGS LEFT BEHIND

WALTER TEACHER PACK

Premium classroom edition

A source-led teaching pack about work, family, rationing, money, local history and change over time.

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.

How to Use the Pack

Teaching approach. Walter's Story works best as an enquiry into an ordinary life. The central habit is to separate what a source directly tells us from what we can reasonably infer and what the storyteller has reconstructed.

Evidence

What the source directly shows, records or says.

Inference

A reasoned conclusion supported by evidence.

Imagination

A plausible reconstruction used to turn evidence into narrative.

At a glance

Lesson	Enquiry	Key question
1	A Boy Expected to Go Down the Pit	How did family, place and work shape expectations for a fourteen-year-old?
2	Learning the Grocery Trade	What can weights, measures, money and deliveries tell us about everyday work?
3	The Headmaster's Reference	What can a reference reveal about character, work and opportunity?
4	From Cudworth to Ripon	How can maps, objects and narrative help reconstruct a journey and a move away from home?
5	Rationing and the Wartime Shop	How did war reach ordinary customers and shopkeepers?
6	A Lifetime of Change	How did shopping, money and work change across Walter's fifty-year career?

Curriculum links

History: local history, change over time, interpreting sources, everyday life and the Home Front. English: retrieval, inference, discussion, explanation, biography and writing from sources. Maths: imperial measures, pre-decimal money and conversion. Geography: place, route and settlement. PSHE/Citizenship: work, responsibility, family expectations and community.

Lesson 1: A Boy Expected to Go Down the Pit

Key question: How did family, place and work shape expectations for a fourteen-year-old?

Learning objectives	• Identify evidence about Cudworth and Walter's family context. • Distinguish expectation from certainty. • Explain how place and family can shape choices without determining them.
Curriculum + vocabulary	mining village • expectation • occupation • evidence • inference • opportunity
Resources	Walter's Story, Archive Detective worksheet, opening chapters.

STARTER - 10 min

List what pupils think a mining village might offer a school-leaver in the 1930s. Mark each idea fact, inference or question.

TEACHER INPUT - 10 min

Read the opening chapter. Model careful language: 'Walter's family had a mining tradition' is evidence from the story; 'therefore he had no choice' is too strong.

MAIN ACTIVITY - 25 min

Pairs create a two-column evidence chart: pressures towards the pit / evidence of alternatives. Add a third column for things the story does not prove.

PLENARY - 10 min

Which mattered more: where Walter lived, what his family did, or his mother's intervention? Require evidence for every answer.

ASSESS

Look for qualified claims and use of evidence rather than deterministic statements.

EXTEND

Write a short museum panel titled 'Growing up in Cudworth'.

Lesson 2: Learning the Grocery Trade

Key question: What can weights, measures, money and deliveries tell us about everyday work?

Learning objectives	• Use historical measures in a practical problem. • Infer skills needed by a shop assistant. • Compare delivery work then and now.
Curriculum + vocabulary	ounce • pound • provisions • delivery • balance scale • pre-decimal
Resources	Walter's Story, Weights & Measures worksheet, bicycle-delivery challenge.

STARTER - 10 min

Handle or display a modern 100 g package. Ask: what would '3 oz of cheese' mean to a shopper?

TEACHER INPUT - 10 min

Explain that goods were often weighed, cut and wrapped to order. Accuracy affected customers, money and trust.

MAIN ACTIVITY - 25 min

Recreate Mrs Taylor's and Mrs North's orders with labelled weighted parcels. Calculate total ounces and pounds; then plan how to distribute the load safely on a bicycle.

PLENARY - 10 min

Which job skills were mathematical? Which were social? Which were physical?

ASSESS Accurate measures, explanation of packing choices and historically grounded comparison.	EXTEND Compare doorstep grocery delivery in Walter's day with online supermarket delivery.
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Lesson 3: The Headmaster's Reference

Key question: What can a reference reveal about character, work and opportunity?

Learning objectives	• Analyse language in a written source. • Identify what a reference can and cannot prove. • Use quotations as evidence.
Curriculum + vocabulary	reference • trustworthy • employer • recommendation • corroborate • bias
Resources	Reference source sheet, quotation analysis worksheet, Walter's Story.

STARTER - 10 min

What would a future employer want to know about a seventeen-year-old applicant?

TEACHER INPUT - 10 min

Use the manuscript's verified phrases: 'very well behaved and trustworthy lad', 'perfectly honest and trustworthy', and the wish not to 'remain in the one groove'.

MAIN ACTIVITY - 25 min

Pupils annotate the wording. What qualities are praised? What might the headmaster leave out? Why was the letter written?

PLENARY - 10 min

Is a positive reference neutral evidence? Why is it still useful?

ASSESS Evidence-based source evaluation with attention to purpose.	EXTEND Write a historically plausible reference for Walter using only qualities supported by evidence.
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Lesson 4: From Cudworth to Ripon

Key question: How can maps, objects and narrative help reconstruct a journey and a move away from home?

Learning objectives	• Sequence a journey using place evidence. • Explain how wartime context affected ordinary travel. • Separate known route points from reconstructed detail.
Curriculum + vocabulary	route • railway • gas mask • wartime • reconstruction • chronology
Resources	Journey worksheet, atlas/map, Walter's Story.

STARTER - 10 min

Locate Cudworth, Leeds, Harrogate and Ripon. What can a map tell us? What can it not tell us about Walter's feelings?

TEACHER INPUT - 10 min

Discuss his suitcase, gas mask and changing trains as clues to time, place and circumstance.

MAIN ACTIVITY - 25 min

Pupils build an annotated route. Use three labels: known from story/source, reasonable reconstruction, still uncertain.

PLENARY - 10 min

Which single object best shows that this was not an ordinary work journey?

ASSESS

Accurate sequencing and clear distinction between evidence and reconstruction.

EXTEND

Write a station postcard from Walter, signalling one imagined feeling clearly rather than presenting it as fact.

Lesson 5: Rationing and the Wartime Shop

Key question: How did war reach ordinary customers and shopkeepers?

Learning objectives	• Explain why rationing affected shops and families. • Use an archive shop image as evidence. • Consider fairness, scarcity and record-keeping.
Curriculum + vocabulary	rationing • allowance • scarcity • register • customer • Home Front
Resources	Rationing shopping challenge, archive shop source, Walter's Story.

STARTER - 10 min

Give a fictional weekly allowance and a shopping list. What happens when demand is greater than supply?

TEACHER INPUT - 10 min

Explain that rationing required shopkeepers to manage limited goods and records, not simply sell whatever customers requested.

MAIN ACTIVITY - 25 min

Groups complete a ration-shop problem: serve households fairly, record allocations and justify decisions.

PLENARY - 10 min

Why might trust in a local shopkeeper matter more during shortages?

ASSESS

Historically sensible reasoning about scarcity and fairness.

EXTEND

Compare rationing with a modern situation in which supply is temporarily restricted.

Lesson 6: A Lifetime of Change

Key question: How did shopping, money and work change across Walter's fifty-year career?

Learning objectives	• Identify continuity and change across a working life. • Use photographs to compare shop environments. • Explain significance using evidence.
Curriculum + vocabulary	continuity • change • decimalisation • self-service • retirement • significance
Resources	Archive counter photograph, retirement cutting, Change Over Time worksheet.

STARTER - 10 min

Place these in likely order: weighing loose goods, ration books, self-service shelves, decimal money, retirement.

TEACHER INPUT - 10 min

Model change and continuity: packaging and tills changed; serving customers and responsibility remained.

MAIN ACTIVITY - 25 min

Pupils use the archive shop photograph and retirement cutting to create a 'then / later / stayed the same' comparison.

PLENARY - 10 min

Which change would Walter have noticed most strongly? Support with evidence.

ASSESS Explanations that go beyond listing differences.	EXTEND Write a 150-word 'Fifty Years Behind the Counter' museum label.
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Assessment & Progression

The pack is designed to reward careful historical thinking rather than recall alone.

Developing	Identifies obvious details but may mix observation and inference.
Secure	Uses sources accurately, qualifies inferences and explains change with examples.
Advanced	Evaluates source purpose and limitation, corroborates across sources and preserves uncertainty.

Teacher source notes

Do not turn an illustration into evidence simply because it looks realistic. The archive pack below uses only material already identified in the user's supplied layout maps as family/archive material. Where an original document scan is not available, use a transcript or quoted phrase rather than a simulated facsimile.

Particularly useful verified phrases from Walter's 1936 headmaster's reference are: very well behaved and trustworthy lad; perfectly honest and trustworthy; and the wish not to remain in the one groove. Treat the reference as a source written to recommend Walter for employment, not as a neutral assessment.

Suggested website structure

- Walter Teacher Pack - the full premium teaching sequence.
- Walter Archive Source Pack - genuine family/archive images and source notes.
- Walter Classroom Resources - printable pupil worksheets.
- Link the book's QR code to the permanent Walter resources landing page rather than directly to one PDF, so the downloads can be updated later.