



ABOUT YOU

Answer the questions and talk about your ideas.

- 1 Why do people living in cities want to spend time in the countryside?
- 2 What kinds of things can young people do in the countryside that they can't do in the city?
- 3 What kinds of things can young people do in the city that they can't do in the countryside?

In the summer of 1902, five children and their mother leave London to stay in a house in the countryside. They go by train to a town and someone drives them to the house.

1 Read the text. As you read, think about this question.

How excited do the children feel about arriving at the house?

Five Children and It (1902)

Edith Nesbit

The house was three miles from the station, but, after five minutes, the children began to put their heads out of the window and say, 'Aren't we nearly there?' And every time they passed a house, which was not very often, they all said, 'Oh, is this it?' But it was when they got to the top of the hill that they saw a white house with a green garden and an **orchard**, and mother said, 'Here we are!'

'How white the house is,' said Robert.

'Look at the lovely **roses**,' said Anthea.

10 'And the **plums**,' said Jane.

'It's nice,' agreed Cyril.

15 It was not really a pretty house; it was quite ordinary. But the house was in the countryside, and the children had been in London for two years, without going to the **seaside** even for a day.

20 Of course, London has shops and theatres, and **entertainments** and things, but if your family is poor you don't go to the theatres, and you can't buy things out of the shops; and London has none of those nice things that children may play with – such as trees and sand and woods and waters.



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The best was that here there were no **regulations** about not going to places and not doing things. In London almost everything said 'Don't touch'. The children explored the gardens and they saw they were certain to be happy at the White House. They thought so from the first moment, but when they found the back of the house they had no **doubts** at all ...

GLOSSARY

orchard	a piece of land where fruit trees are grown
roses	flowers with a nice smell
plums	soft, round fruits
seaside	an area or town next to the sea
entertainments	things people enjoy like films, shows or television
regulations	rules (instructions about what you must and must not do)
doubts	feelings of not being sure about something

2 Read the text again and answer the questions.

- 1 What do the children notice about the house when they first see it?

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- 2 What do we learn about their life in London?

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- 3 How is being in the countryside different from being in London?

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- 4 What do you think they found at 'the back of the house'?

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VOCABULARY

3 Complete the text with the words in the box.

orchard plums roses seaside

The town was near the ¹..... We were in a garden, looking at the boats. It was a lovely garden, full of ²..... and other flowers. There was an ³..... with lots of ⁴..... ready to eat!

4 Think of one example for each of these things.

- 1 a regulation/rule
- 2 something you can find at the seaside
- 3 entertainment
- 4 a doubt
- 5 the name of a seaside town

WRITING

5 In 1902 most people wrote postcards to family and friends when they were on holiday. Imagine you are one of the children. You decide to write a postcard to a schoolfriend in London. Tell them about the journey, the house, the garden and orchard and how you feel about being in the countryside.

[illegible]

SPEAKING

6 Is it better to be in the city or the countryside? Work in a group. You will either think of reasons why it is better to be in the city or the countryside. Both groups will talk about their ideas and decide which are the best.

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